

House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2021 Regular Session
April 27, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative John M. Stefanski, chairman of the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs, called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. in Room 3, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative John M. Stefanski, chairman
Representative Gerald "Beau" Beaulieu, IV
Representative Wilford Dan Carter, Sr.
Representative Royce Duplessis, vice chairman
Representative Les Farnum
Representative Foy Bryan Gadberry
Representative Valarie Hodges
Representative Dodie Horton
Representative Barry Ivey
Representative Sam L. Jenkins, Jr.
Representative Michael T. Johnson
Representative Jeremy S. LaCombe
Representative Rodney Lyons
Representative Tanner D. Magee
Representative Candace N. Newell
Representative Polly Thomas
Representative Malinda B. White

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Daryl Andrew Deshotel

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Patricia Lowrey-Dufour, legislative analyst
Lorriane Lucas, attorney
Rosalie Ammersbach, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Sharon Bourque, sergeant at arms
John Harrington, clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 20 by Representative Miguez**

Representative Miguez presented House Bill No. 20, which prohibits the use of private funds to pay election-related expenses.

Jeff Landry, attorney general, Louisiana Department of Justice, 1885 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 326-6000, spoke in support of House Bill No. 20.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to add a provision that proposed law does not apply to donations for use as a polling place or utilities at a precinct or polling place. Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Magee, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Angelique Freel, Louisiana Department of Justice, 1885 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 326-6000, spoke in support of House Bill No. 20.

Representative Newell stated that she was in opposition to House Bill No. 20. No vote was taken.

R. Kyle Ardoin, secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 922-2880, spoke in support of House Bill No. 20.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report House Bill No. 20 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 20 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Magee, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, 7 in opposition, and 3 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 1 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 86 by Representative Beaulieu

Representative Beaulieu presented House Bill No. 86, which provides relative to the composition of a parish executive committee of a recognized political party in Lafayette Parish.

Tim Breaux, Lafayette Republican Parish Executive Committee, 207 Energy Parkway, Lafayette, LA 70508, (337) 739-7504, spoke in support of House Bill No. 86.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Bill No. 86 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 86 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Magee, and Thomas voted yeas.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 1 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 168 by Representative Mike Johnson

Representative Mike Johnson presented House Bill No. 168, which provides relative to a district attorney's responsibility in an action objecting to the candidacy of a person who qualified as a candidate in a primary election.

Charles Riddle, III, 12th Judicial District Court, 417 North Monroe Street, Marksville, LA 71351, (318) 253-6587, spoke in support of House Bill No. 168.

Ricky L. Babin, 23rd Judicial District, 898 Railroad Street, Gonzales, LA, (225) 473-6777, spoke in support of House Bill No. 168.

Stephen Dwight, Calcasieu Parish district attorney, 901 Lakeshore Drive, Lake Charles, LA 70601, spoke in support of House Bill No. 168.

Representative Magee in the chair.

Representative Mike Johnson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 168 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 168 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Magee, Newell, and Thomas voted yeas.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support, and 4 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 1 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

Chairman Stefanski in the chair.

House Bill No. 285 by Representative James

On behalf of Representative James, Representative Duplessis presented House Bill No. 285, which provides relative to the amount of time a person may remain in a voting machine.

Representative Duplessis offered amendments to:

- (1) Remove proposed "unreasonable amount of time" limit standard for a voter to vote and remove provision that at least five minutes constituted a "reasonable amount of time".
- (2) Change the amount of time a voter may remain in the voting machines to no longer than six minutes, with an authorization for election officials to allocate additional time if the ballot is lengthy or contains complex propositions or constitutional amendments.

Representative Duplessis offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Jenkins, LaCombe, Magee, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments to change effective date from signature of the governor to January 1, 2022. Representative Stefanski offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Jenkins, LaCombe, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

Sherri Wharton Hadskey, office of the Louisiana secretary of state, 8585 Archives Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 922-2486, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 285.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Bill No. 285 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 285 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Jenkins, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 17 in support, and 3 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 4 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 378 by Representative Jenkins

Representative Jenkins presented House Bill No. 378, which provides relative to registration and voting by a person with a felony conviction.

Representative Jenkins offered amendments to add a specific effective date of February 1, 2022. Representative Jenkins offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Jenkins, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Bruce Riley, no witness card provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 378.

R. Kyle Ardoin, secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 922-2880, spoke in support of House Bill No. 378.

Checo Yancy, no witness card provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 378.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 378 with amendments, to which Representative Thomas objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 378 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, and White voted yea. Representatives Horton and Thomas voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 20 in support, and 3 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 6 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Newell offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman John M. Stefanski
House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Date adopted: