

## House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting  
2021 Regular Session  
May 4, 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 9:03 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 Daryl Andrew Deshotel  
Representative Royce Duplessis, vice chairman  
Representative Les Farnum  
Representative Foy Bryan Gadberry  
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 Wilford Dan Carter, Sr.  
Representative Valarie Hodges

#### STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Vivian Hurst, sergeant at arms  
John Harrington, clerk

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION****House Bill No. 72 by Representative Coussan**

Representative Coussan presented House Bill No. 72, which authorizes the secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality to establish a voluntary environmental self-audit program.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to make technical changes. Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Mike Johnson, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Amber Litchfield, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, 602 North 5th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-3993, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 72.

Celena Cage, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 4312, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 219-3710, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 72.

Scott Sternberg, Louisiana Press Association, 935 Gravier Street, Suite 2020, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 331-0885, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 72.

Lady Carlson, Together Louisiana, 2019 Government Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (318) 880-7373, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 72.

Kathy Wascom, Louisiana Environmental Action Network, 1255 Aberdeen Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 344-4313, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 72.

*Vice Chairman Duplessis in the chair.*

*Chairman Stefanski in the chair.*

Kim Goodell, no address provided, Lafayette, LA, (337) 962-4462, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 72.

Bill Goodell, P.O. Box 52663, Lafayette, LA, (337) 412-2724, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 72.

Michelle Sorensen, Louisiana Reform, 5209 Brightside View Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70820, (281) 726-7327, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 72.

Representative Magee offered an amendment to limit the time period that information contained in self-audits may be held confidential to no more three years. No vote was taken.

Representative Ivey offered a substitute amendment to limit the time period that information contained in self-audits may be held confidential to no more two years. Representative Ivey offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, LaCombe, Lyons, Magee, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Representative Magee offered a motion to report House Bill No. 72 with amendments, to which Representative Thomas objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 72 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 6 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Deshotel, Farnum, Ivey, Lyons, Magee, and White voted yea. Representatives Duplessis, Gadberry, Horton, LaCombe, Newell, and Thomas voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support, and 10 in opposition. 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 opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

### **House Bill No. 128 by Representative Zeringue**

Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 128, which provides relative to the powers and duties of the Cash Management Review Board with respect to financial security and cybersecurity plans and procedures adopted by state agencies, including the assessment and deployment of such plans and procedures.

Scott Sternberg, Louisiana Press Association, 935 Gravier Street, Suite 2020, New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 128.

Representative Stefanski offered technical amendments. Representative Stefanski offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to report House Bill No. 128 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 128 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

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

*Vice Chairman Duplessis in the chair.*

### **House Bill No. 120 by Representative Newell**

Representative Newell presented House Bill No. 120, which provides that airport facility plans are confidential.

Paul Rainwater, New Orleans Airport, 5117 Cheneau Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 281-8126, spoke in support of House Bill No. 120.

Representative Newell offered amendments to:

- (1) Specifically add that blueprints, plans, or renderings of airport infrastructure are confidential.
- (2) Additionally allow disclosure of confidential information if necessary to provide or procure security, services, or concessions in and around the airport and its facilities, to accomplish maintenance, repairs, or development, or to facilitate interactions with governmental entities.

Representative Newell offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Duplessis, Beaulieu, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, and White voted yea.

Scott Sternberg, Louisiana Press Association, 935 Gravier Street, Suite 2020, New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 120.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Bill No. 120 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 120 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support, and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 438 by Representative Miguez**

Representative Miguez presented House Bill No. 438, which authorizes a custodian to require a requestor of a public record to provide sufficient proof of identity.

Representative Duplessis offered amendments to:

- (1) Limit a proposed requirement to persons electronically requesting public records.
- (2) Remove a requirement for the information to include the address of the person if not a legal entity.
- (3) Change a requirement from sufficient information to establish the person's identity to sufficient information to establish the age and identification of the person.

Representative Duplessis offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, and Thomas voted yea.

Scott Sternberg, Louisiana Press Association, 935 Gravier Street, Suite 2020, New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 438.

Michael Cahoon, The Promise of Justice Initiative, 1024 Elysian Fields Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70117, (504) 529-5959, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 438.

*Chairman Stefanski in the chair.*

Sarah Whittington, Justice and Accountability Center of Louisiana, 4035 Washington Avenue, Suite 203, New Orleans, LA 70125, (504) 322-4050, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 438.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Bill No. 438 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 438 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, LaCombe, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support, and 1 in opposition. 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: 2 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 456 by Representative Edmonds**

Representative Edmonds presented House Bill No. 456, which provides relative to protection of employee data submitted to Louisiana Economic Development as a condition of business incentive program verification.

David Zoller, Baton Rouge Area Chamber, 564 Laurel Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (504) 256-6401, spoke in support of House Bill No. 456.

Rhonda Reap-Curiel, Louisiana Industrial Development Executives Association, P.O. Box 66872, Baton Rouge, LA 70896, (318) 308-9921, spoke in support of House Bill No. 456.

Robert Travis Scott, Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana, 450 Laurel Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 926-8414, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 456.

Scott Sternberg, Louisiana Press Association, 935 Gravier Street, Suite 2020, New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 456.

Representative Ivey offered a motion to report House Bill No. 456 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 456 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Lyons, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support, and 1 in opposition. 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 support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 185 by Representative Charles Owen**

Representative Charles Owen presented House Bill No. 185, which provides relative to records maintained by the Louisiana State Analytical and Fusion Exchange.

*Vice Chairman Duplessis in the chair.*

Sergeant Huey McCartney, Louisiana State Police, 7919 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 925-4239, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 185.

Scott Sternberg, Louisiana Press Association, 935 Gravier Street, Suite 2020, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 331-0885, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 185.

Chris Kaiser, American Civil Liberties Union of Louisiana, 1340 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, (512) 740-1317, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 185.

*Chairman Stefanski in the chair.*

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 185. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 185 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Mike Johnson, Lyons, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

### **House Bill No. 648 by Representative Deshotel**

Representative Deshotel presented House Bill No. 648, which establishes a grant program to be administered by the office of broadband development and connectivity in the division of administration.

Representative Deshotel offered amendments to:

- (1) Remove a provision regarding the office treating non-publicly available information with an application as confidential.
- (2) Remove a provision specifying that information released to an applicant regarding locations or areas that are ineligible are confidential and not a public record.
- (3) Specify that all records related to the GUMBO program are public records as provided by the Public Records Law except a provider's trade secret and proprietary information; information regarding unserved coverage areas not yet awarded or announced; and applications pending evaluation and recognize the limitation in the Public Records Law.

Representative Deshotel 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, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Mike Johnson, Lyons, Magee, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

Curtis Heroman, 3970 Hundred Oaks Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 802-0952, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 648.

Representative Mike Johnson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 648 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 648 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Mike Johnson, Lyons, Magee, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support, 1 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

#### **IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

#### **V. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Magee offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Mike Johnson, Lyons, Magee, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: