

## House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting  
2021 Regular Session  
May 5, 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 9:07 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 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

#### MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Wilford Dan Carter, Sr.  
Representative Malinda B. White

#### STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Vivian Hurst, sergeant at arms  
John Harrington, clerk

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION****House Bill No. 446 by Representative Butler**

Representative Butler presented House Bill No. 446, which creates and provides for the office of the state Americans with Disabilities Act coordinator within the division of administration.

Bambi Polotzola, Governor's Office of Disability Affairs, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (337) 945-0979, spoke in support of House Bill No. 446.

Jay Isch, Deaf Focus, 4332 Rhoda Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, (225) 341-6337, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 446.

Jimmy Challis Gore, Louisiana Association of the Deaf, 464 East Boyd Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in support of House Bill No. 446.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 446 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 446 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, and Newell voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support. 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. 286 by Representative Jones**

Representative Jones presented House Bill No. 286, which extends the period for early voting prior to election day.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments to limit the proposed law extension of early voting to presidential elections. Representative Stefanski 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, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Hodges, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, and Newell voted yea.

R. Kyle Ardoin, secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 922-2880, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 286.

Sherri Hadskey, office of the Louisiana secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 922-2880, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 286.

John Couvillon, JMC Analytics and Polling, 1025 Chippenham Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 802-9756, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 286.

Representative Duplessis offered a motion to report House Bill No. 286 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 286 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Hodges, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, LaCombe, and Newell voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 11 in support, 3 in opposition, and 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: 3 in support, and 1 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

### **House Bill No. 470 by Representative Lyons**

On behalf of Representative Lyons, Sheriff Joseph Lopinto, Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, 1233 Westbank Expressway, Harvey, LA 70056, presented House Bill No. 470, which provides relative to body camera footage.

*Vice Chairman Duplessis in the chair.*

*Chairman Stefanski in the chair.*

Representative Stefanski offered amendments to:

- (1) Provide for the mandatory award of attorney fees and costs of litigation if the judge determines there was no reasonable basis for the denial by the custodian.

- (2) Remove "potentially violate" from the exception allowing a custodian not to disclose video or audio recordings generated by law enforcement that violate an individual's reasonable expectation of privacy.

Karen White, Louisiana Municipal Association, 700 North Tenth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 344-5001, spoke in support of House Bill No. 470.

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, LaCombe, and Newell voted yea.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 470 with amendments. No vote was taken on the motion.

*Representative Magee in the chair.*

Morgan Lamandre, Sexual Trauma Awareness and Response, 5615 Corporate Boulevard, Suite 200, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 615-7093, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 470.

Scott L. Sternberg, Louisiana Press Association, 935 Gravier Street, Suite 2020, New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 470.

Representative Ivey offered a substitute motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 470, to which Representative Lyons objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 6 yeas and 8 nays. Representatives Duplessis, Gadberry, Ivey, Jenkins, LaCombe, and Magee voted yea. Representatives Stefanski, Deshotel, Farnum, Hodges, Horton, Lyons, Newell, and Thomas voted nay.

The original motion to report House Bill No. 470 with amendments was considered. Without objection, House Bill No. 470 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, LaCombe, Lyons, Magee, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support, and 7 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 opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

*Chairman Stefanski in the chair.*

**House Bill No. 599 by Representative Hodges**

Representative Hodges presented House Bill No. 599, which provides relative to elections.

Representative Hodges offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Hodges 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, Hodges, Horton, Ivey, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

R. Kyle Ardoin, secretary of state, 8585 Archives Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 922-2880, spoke in support of House Bill No. 599.

Nicholas Meyers, office of the Louisiana secretary of state, 17108 Sills Drive, Prairieville, LA 70769, (225) 362-5118, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 599.

Sherri Hadskey, office of the Louisiana secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 922-2880, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 599.

*Representative Ivey in the chair.*

Michael Lunsford, Citizens for a New Louisiana, 100 East Vermilion Street, Suite 150, Lafayette, LA 70501, (337) 873-1221, spoke in support of House Bill No. 599.

Dale Clary, Convention of States Action, 18688 Manchac Highlands, Prairieville, LA 70769, spoke in support of House Bill No. 599.

Lenar Whitney, 300 Wilson Avenue, Houma, LA 70364, (985) 232-6022, spoke in support of House Bill No. 599.

*Chairman Stefanski in the chair.*

Christy Haik, East Baton Rouge Republican Women, 1377 Steele Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 803-4746, spoke in support of House Bill No. 599.

Woody Jenkins, 910 North Foster Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 921-1433, spoke in support of House Bill No. 599.

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to invoke the three-minute rule. Without objection, the three-minute rule was invoked by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Ivey, LaCombe, Lyons, and Thomas voted yea.

Mari H. Presedo, 4916 Parkhollow Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, (225) 802-7030, spoke in support of House Bill No. 599.

Craig Schiro, 11196 Rolling Hills Boulevard, Folsom, LA 70437, (713) 504-9690, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 599.

Michael Barrett, Voting Integrity, 1324 East Stanwick Place, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 262-9822, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 599.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 599 by substitute, to which Representative Duplessis objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 599 was reported by substitute by a vote of 9 yeas and 3 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Ivey, LaCombe, and Thomas voted yea. Representatives Duplessis, Jenkins, and Lyons voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 20 in support, 1 in opposition, and 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: 49 in support, and 2 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

### **House Bill No. 557 by Representative Ivey**

Representative Ivey presented House Bill No. 557, which provides for the dates of congressional elections and elections held at the same time as congressional elections and for the certification of candidates elected at such elections.

R. Kyle Ardoin, secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 922-2880, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 557.

Representative Ivey offered amendments to:

- (1) Change dates for congressional primary elections and for qualifying for such elections.
- (2) Distinguish dates of primary congressional elections and of qualifying held in a year that is not a presidential election year from elections held in a year that is a presidential election year.
- (3) Add provisions changing deadlines for notices of proposition elections and proclamations of recall elections held in November of presidential election years.

Representative Ivey 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, Hodges, Ivey, LaCombe, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Ivey offered a motion to report House Bill No. 557 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 557 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Ivey, LaCombe, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

### **House Bill No. 653 by Representative Ivey**

Representative Ivey presented House Bill No. 653, which provides for voting and voting processes and procedures, including provisions relative to the standards, requirement, and acquisition of voting machines and systems.

*Vice Chairman Duplessis in the chair.*

Representative Ivey offered amendments to:

- (1) Limit the requirement of approval by the legislative governmental affairs committees prior to the implementation of a voting or election process or procedure that is not explicitly provided in the election code or promulgated rule, to those processes and procedures that affect the manner in which a voter casts a vote or the manner in which votes are tabulated.
- (2) Change definitions for "official ballot", "protective counter", "public counter", "voting machine", and "voting system" and add definitions for "vote-capture device" and "voter-verified paper record".
- (3) Provide additional certification requirements for voting systems relative to updates and access to ports on voting machines.
- (4) Restore ability for the secretary of state to procure parts, supplies, and maintenance directly from the manufacturer.
- (5) Increase the proposed amount authorized for expenses related to experts to assist the secretary of state in examining voting systems from not to exceed a total of \$2,000 to not to exceed \$5,000.

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

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 653 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 653 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support, and 3 for information only. Witness cards 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 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: