

## House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting  
2021 Regular Session  
May 12, 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 Wilford Dan Carter, Sr.  
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 Valarie Hodges

#### STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Vivian Hurst, sergeant at arms  
John Harrington, clerk

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION****House Concurrent Resolution No. 14 by Representative Firment**

Representative Firment presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 14, which recognizes the Butte Tribe of Bayou Bourbeaux as an Indian tribe of the state.

Representative Firment emailed a presentation on behalf of the Butte Tribe, "Butte Tribe of Bayou Bourbeaux", which is labeled Exhibit A and is included in the committee records.

Belinda Brooks, Butte Tribe, 111 Airport Road, Oak Grove, LA 71263, (318) 428-7743, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 14.

Rodger Collum, chief, Butte Tribe, 1458 Highway 1226, Natchitoches, LA 71457, (318) 481-7313, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 14.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 14 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 14 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, LaCombe, Lyons, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 23 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 452 by Representative Davis**

Representative Davis presented House Bill No. 452, which creates a domestic violence fatality review team within the Louisiana Department of Health.

Mariah Wineski, Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence, P.O. Box 77308, Baton Rouge, LA 70879, (225) 993-1322, spoke in support of House Bill No. 452.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments to:

- (1) Remove a provision of proposed law relative to an additional public record exception pursuant to R.S. 44:4.1.

- (2) Authorize a review panel and local or regional panel or agent thereof to access documents and records in order to perform all its functions and duties.
- (3) Make technical changes.

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, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Horton, Ivey, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Bill No. 452 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 452 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Horton, Ivey, Lyons, Magee, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

#### **House Concurrent Resolution No. 3 by Representative Edmonds**

On behalf of Representative Edmonds, Representative Thomas presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 3, which authorizes a member of the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee to request the presiding officer of his house to designate another member to serve as his proxy at a meeting of the committee that the member is unable to attend.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 3 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 3 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Horton, Ivey, Lyons, Magee, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

#### **House Bill No. 607 by Representative Deshotel**

Representative Deshotel presented House Bill No. 607, which provides relative to the joint legislative committee on technology and cybersecurity.

Representative Deshotel offered amendments to:

- (1) Delete a provision regarding the specific recommendation of an agency or board to promulgate rules.
- (2) Delete language regarding submission of a statement that there are no relevant findings or suggestions to report.

- (3) Add effectiveness upon signature of the governor.
- (4) Add provision that repeals proposed law in its entirety on January 1, 2023.
- (5) Make technical changes.

Representative Deshotel 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, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Farnum, Horton, Ivey, LaCombe, Lyons, Magee, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Deshotel offered a motion to report House Bill No. 607 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 607 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Farnum, Horton, Ivey, LaCombe, Lyons, Magee, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

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

#### **House Concurrent Resolution No. 55 by Representative Zeringue**

Representative Zeringue presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 55, which creates the Outdoor Conservation Study Group to study conservation funding mechanisms and programs.

Karen Gautreaux, The Nature Conservancy, P.O. Box 4125, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 250-6982, provided a handout, "Louisiana Forever", which is included in the committee records and labeled Exhibit B.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments to:

- (1) Specify that the member appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives shall call the first meeting and at which meeting the study group shall select a chair and other officers it deems necessary.
- (2) Request the Louisiana office of The Nature Conservancy to provide any necessary staff support to the study group.

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, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Farnum, Horton, Ivey, LaCombe, Lyons, Magee, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Magee offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 55 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 55 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Farnum, Horton, Ivey, LaCombe, Lyons, Magee, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

*Representative Magee in the chair.*

### **House Concurrent Resolution No. 57 by Representative Ivey**

Representative Ivey presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 57, which requests the division of administration to provide electronic access to a synchronized copy of the data points in the LaGov Enterprise Resource Planning system to the legislative auditor.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 57 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 57 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, LaCombe, Lyons, Magee, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

### **House Concurrent Resolution No. 39 by Representative Mincey**

Representative Mincey presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 39, which creates a task force to study issues related to teacher shortages in Louisiana.

Representative Magee offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 39 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 39 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Farnum, Horton, Ivey, LaCombe, Lyons, Magee, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

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

### **House Concurrent Resolution No. 19 by Representative Brass**

Representative Brass presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 19, which creates a task force to study how to develop a more diverse group of candidates for head coach and athletic director positions at public postsecondary education institutions.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 19 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 19 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, LaCombe, Lyons, Magee, Newell, and White voted yea.

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. 113 by Representative Gadberry**

Representative Gadberry presented House Bill No. 113, which allows the spouse of a public servant to be employed by a person who has or who is seeking a business or financial relationship with the agency of the public servant under specified circumstances.

*Chairman Stefanski in the chair.*

Representative Stefanski offered amendments to:

- (1) Require that the spouse must have been continuously employed by the person for at least one year.
- (2) Require the spouse and the public servant to jointly file a written notice with the Board of Ethics.
- (3) Require the spouse to comply with specified disclosure requirements.

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, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Ivey, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Kristy F. Gary, deputy ethics administrator, Louisiana Board of Ethics, P.O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 219-5600, emailed a letter on behalf of the Board of Ethics in opposition to House Bill No. 113, which is included in the committee records and labeled Exhibit C.

Kathleen M. Allen, ethics administrator, Louisiana Board of Ethics, P.O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 219-5600, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 113.

Doreen Brasseaux, American Council of Engineering Companies of Louisiana, 9643 Brookline Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 485-9818, spoke in support of House Bill No. 113.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 113 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 113 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 17 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

#### **House Concurrent Resolution No. 10 by Representative Mike Johnson**

Representative Mike Johnson presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 10, which establishes and recognizes the Central Louisiana Delegation Caucus.

Representative Deshotel offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 10 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 10 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

#### **House Concurrent Resolution No. 60 by Representative Crews**

Representative Crews presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 60, which requests the secretary of state to study the implementation of a notification system to alert a voter regarding the status of his vote.

Brad Harris, Louisiana Department of State, 8585 Archives Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 362-5212, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 60.

Nancy Landry, office of the Louisiana secretary of state, 8585 Archives Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 922-2886, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 60.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 60 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 60 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, LaCombe, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

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

#### **House Bill No. 149 by Representative Frieman**

Representative Frieman presented House Bill No. 149, which provides relative to termination of emergency declarations.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments to change effective date to January 8, 2024. 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, Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, LaCombe, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments to add a provision requiring the public health specialist to have a degree from a school of public health that is accredited by an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education. 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, Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, LaCombe, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

*Vice Chairman Duplessis in the chair.*

*Chairman Stefanski in the chair.*

Representative Horton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 149 with amendments, to which Representative Newell objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 149 was reported with amendments by a vote of 7 yeas, 5 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Beaulieu, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, and Thomas voted yea. Representatives Wilford Carter, Duplessis, LaCombe, Lyons, and Newell voted nay. Representative Stefanski abstained.

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

### **House Bill No. 315 by Representative Goudeau**

Representative Goudeau presented House Bill No. 315, a constitutional amendment which provides for an exception to the prohibition on political activity by members of civil service systems.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments to exclude employees of the registrars of voters or employees of the elections division of the Department of State who are in the classified service from the exception. 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, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.



Dan Sullivan, Louisiana Civil Service League, 810 Union Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, (504) 522-3875, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 315 and presented to the committee resolutions in opposition to House Bill No. 315 from the New Orleans Civil Service Commission, Plaquemines Parish Civil Service Commission, and Opelousas Municipal Civil Service Commission, which are labeled in the committee records as Exhibit D.

Adrienne Bordelon, office of the state examiner, 8550 United Plaza Boulevard, Suite 901, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-4416, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 315.

Christina Carroll, New Orleans Civil Service Commission, 1340 Poydras Street, Suite 900, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 658-3510, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 315.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 315 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 315 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, LaCombe, Lyons, and Thomas voted yea.

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

*Vice Chairman Duplessis in the chair.*

#### **House Concurrent Resolution No. 51 by Representative Wright**

Representative Wright presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 51, which calls for a convention to amend the United States Constitution to establish a limitation on terms for members of congress.

Ken Clark, United States Term Limits, 10 Flamingo Street, Hilton Head Island, SC 29928, (307) 286-4776, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 51.

Robert Voitier, no address provided, spoke in opposition to House Concurrent Resolution No. 51.

Representative Ivey offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 51 favorably, to which Representative Thomas objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Concurrent Resolution No. 51 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas, 2 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Ivey, Mike Johnson, and Lyons voted yea. Representatives Gadberry and Thomas voted nay. Representative Stefanski abstained.

#### **IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: