

House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2021 Regular Session
May 18, 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 9:05 a.m. in Room 3, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative John M. Stefanski, chairman
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 Rodney Lyons
Representative Tanner D. Magee
Representative Candace N. Newell
Representative Polly Thomas

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Gerald "Beau" Beaulieu, IV
Representative Valarie Hodges
Representative Jeremy S. LaCombe
Representative Malinda B. White

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
Kylan Melancon, clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**Senate Bill No. 170 by Senator Johns**

Senator Johns presented Senate Bill No. 170, which provides relative to the creation of the office of human trafficking prevention.

Marketa Garner Walters, secretary, Department of Children and Family Services, 627 North 4th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-6930, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 170.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 170 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 170 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Magee, Newell, and Thomas 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.

Senate Bill No. 14 by Senator Fesi

Senator Fesi presented Senate Bill No. 14, which exempts certain unclaimed property information from the Public Records Law.

Tony Ligi, Louisiana Department of the Treasury, Louisiana State Capitol Building, 900 North Third Street, Third Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (504) 289-3023, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 14.

Kathleen Lobell, Louisiana Department of the Treasury, Louisiana State Capitol Building, 900 North Third Street, Third Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-9377, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 14.

Further action was taken by the committee on Senate Bill No. 14 at a later point in the meeting. Please check for the subsequent action to complete the record of discussion and motions on Senate Bill No. 14.

Senate Bill No. 105 by Senator Boudreaux

Senator Boudreaux presented Senate Bill No. 105, which provides for an African-American military service members monument in the Louisiana Veterans Memorial Park.

Colonel Joey Strickland, Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, 602 North 5th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-5000, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 105.

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 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Lyons, Magee, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Duplessis offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 105 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 105 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Lyons, Magee, and Newell 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. 81 by Representative Edmonds

On behalf of Representative Edmonds, Representative Magee presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 81, which directs the legislative auditor to include processes regarding elections in its upcoming performance audit of the Department of State.

R. Kyle Ardoin, secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 922-2880, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 81.

Representative Magee offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 81 favorably, to which Representative Jenkins objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Concurrent Resolution No. 81 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Mike Johnson, and Magee voted yea. Representatives Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Jenkins, Lyons, and Newell voted nay.

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

Senate Bill No. 14 by Senator Fesi

Senate Bill No. 14 exempts certain unclaimed property information from the Public Records Law.

This is a continuation of the discussion on Senate Bill No. 14 from earlier in the meeting. Please check for the prior action to complete the record of discussion and motions on Senate Bill No. 14.

Representative Jenkins offered amendments to provide that a judgement creditor or person who can demonstrate entitlement may obtain a claimant's information through a public records request. Representative Jenkins 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, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Lyons, and Newell voted yea.

Representative Jenkins offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 14 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 14 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Lyons, and Newell voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 163 by Senator McMath

Senator McMath presented Senate Bill No. 163, a constitutional amendment to increase the composition of the Louisiana Supreme Court from six to eight associate justices.

Representative Wilford Carter offered amendments to change the effective date from January 1, 2025, to January 1, 2023. Representative Wilford Carter offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Stefanski objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas and 8 nays. Representatives Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Jenkins, Lyons, and Newell voted yea. Representatives Stefanski, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Mike Johnson, and Thomas voted nay.

Representative Wilford Carter offered amendments to require that when redistricting the supreme court districts, every effort be made to ensure that the number of districts with a majority population of persons in a racial minority group reflects the racial demographics of the population of the state to the extent practicable. Representative Wilford Carter 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, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Lyons, Magee, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Wilford Carter offered amendments to remove a provision allowing the supreme court to redistrict itself if the legislature fails to do so. Representative Wilford Carter offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Stefanski objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas and 9 nays. Representatives Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Jenkins, Lyons, and Newell voted yea. Representatives Stefanski, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Mike Johnson, Magee, and Thomas voted nay.

Representative Wilford Carter offered amendments to remove requirements that the districts be substantially equal in population, specifically provide that there is no requirement that supreme court districts be substantially equal in population, and to reword the proposed ballot language. Representative Wilford Carter offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Stefanski objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas and 9 nays. Representatives Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Jenkins, Lyons, and Newell voted yea. Representatives Stefanski, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Mike Johnson, Magee, and Thomas voted nay.

Representative Wilford Carter offered amendments to remove a requirement that the districts be substantially equal in population and to reword the proposed ballot language. Representative Wilford Carter offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Stefanski objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 4 yeas and 10 nays. Representatives Wilford Carter, Jenkins, Lyons, and Newell voted yea. Representatives Stefanski, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Mike Johnson, Magee, and Thomas voted nay.

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 163 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 163 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Wilford Carter, 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: 2 in support, 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: 1 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 149 by Senator Harris

Senator Harris presented Senate Bill No. 149, which provides for a special election for submission of proposed constitutional amendments to the electors.

Vice Chairman Duplessis in the chair.

R. Kyle Ardoin, secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 922-2880, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 149.

Representative Wilford Carter offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 149 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 149 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Mike Johnson, Magee, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 309 by Representative Wilford Carter

House Bill No. 309 calls a special election on October 9, 2021, for submitting proposed constitutional amendments to the state's electors.

Representative Wilford Carter offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 309. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 309 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Mike Johnson, Magee, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

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

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 33 by Senator Luneau

On behalf of Senator Luneau, Representative Michael T. Johnson presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 33, which requests the federal Office of Management and Budget to maintain the current minimum population Standard for Delineating Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 33 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 33 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Mike Johnson, Magee, and Thomas voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 146 by Senator Pope

On behalf of Senator Pope, Catherine Newsome, office of the Louisiana secretary of state, 3851 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 362-5229, presented Senate Bill No. 146, which provides relative to the preservation of public records.

Representative Duplessis offered technical amendments. Representative Duplessis 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, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Mike Johnson, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 146 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 146 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Mike Johnson, 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.

Senate Bill No. 136 by Senator Fred Mills

On behalf of Senator Fred Mills, Representative Stefanski presented Senate Bill No. 136, which provides for promulgation of emergency rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

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 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Mike Johnson, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 136 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 136 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Mike Johnson, and Thomas voted yea.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Wilford Carter offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Mike Johnson, and Thomas voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: