

House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2024 First Extraordinary Session
January 16, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Gerald "Beau" Beaulieu, IV, chair of the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. in Room 5, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Gerald "Beau" Beaulieu, IV, chair
Representative Beth Anne Billings
Representative Josh Carlson
Representative Wilford Dan Carter, Sr.
Representative Christopher Kim Carver
Representative Les Farnum
Representative Foy Bryan Gadberry
Representative Michael T. Johnson
Representative Ed Larvadain, III
Representative Rodney Lyons, vice chair
Representative C. Denise Marcelle
Representative Candace N. Newell
Representative Rodney Wayne Schamerhorn
Representative Polly Thomas
Representative Mark Wright
Representative John E. Wyble

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Delisha Boyd

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Patricia Lowrey-Dufour, legislative analyst
Annie Smith, attorney
Sarah Baker, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 8 by Representative Mike Johnson**

Representative Mike Johnson presented House Bill No. 8, which provides for the districts for election of the justices of the Supreme Court (Item #3).

Justice Will Crain, Louisiana Supreme Court, spoke in support of House Bill No. 8.

Chief Judge John Michael Guidry, P.O. Box 386, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 8.

Representative Mike Johnson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 8 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 8 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Carlson, Carver, Farnum, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, and Wyble voted yea.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 8 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 17 by Representative Emerson

Representative Emerson presented House Bill No. 17, which provides for closed party primary elections for certain offices (Items #7, #8, and #10).

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to House Bill No. 17 which:

1. Remove the requirement that the qualifying period for a party primary election reopen after the death of a candidate.
2. Specify that if only one candidate remains after withdrawal or disqualification after the close of the qualifying period for candidates for congressional office, the candidate is declared elected by the people at the close of polls on general election day.
3. Change the 2024 congressional party primary election date from the last Saturday in August to the third Saturday in August and the qualifying period for said election from June 26-28, 2024, to June 5-7, 2024.

4. Remove a proposed restriction on dates in 2024 for proposition elections.
5. Make technical changes.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Carlson, Carver, Farnum, Gadberry, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Nancy Landry, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 17.

Sherri Hadskey, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 17.

Representative Mike Johnson in the chair.

Chair Beaulieu in the chair.

Chair Beaulieu announced that the committee would observe a three-minute rule for presenters and speakers on ensuing instruments.

Steven Procopio, PAR, 450 Laurel Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 17.

John Couvillon, JMC Analytics and Polling, 1025 Chippenham Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 17.

Charlie Buckels, Louisiana Republican Party, 202 Sommerset Drive, Lafayette, LA 70506, spoke in favor of House Bill No. 17.

Erin Bendily, Pelican Institute for Public Policy, 400 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke in favor of House Bill No. 17, on behalf of Daniel Erspamer, Pelican Institute for Public Policy, 400 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70130. A prepared statement is included in the committee records and labeled Exhibit A.

Barry Ivey, P.O. Box 78010, Baton Rouge, LA 70837, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 17.

William Bryan, Independent Party in Louisiana, 4744 Jamestown Avenue Suite 200, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 17.

Charles Jagneaux, St. Landry Parish, P.O. Box 237, Opelousas, LA 70571, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 17.

Representative Newell offered amendments to House Bill No. 17 to remove judicial offices from the definition of "party primary office". Representative Newell offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Wright objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 4 yeas and 11 nays. Representatives Wilford Carter, Larvadain, Lyons, and Newell voted yea. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Carlson, Carver, Farnum, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted nay.

Representative Wyble offered a motion to report House Bill No. 17 with amendments, to which Representative Newell objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 17 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Carlson, Carver, Farnum, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Wilford Carter, Larvadain, Lyons, and Newell voted nay.

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.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 17 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 6 by Representative Mandie Landry

Representative Mandie Landry presented House Bill No. 6, which provides for the nature of elections for judicial offices (Items #7 and #10).

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 6 favorably, to which Representative Carlson objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 4 yeas and 11 nays. Representatives Wilford Carter, Larvadain, Lyons, and Newell voted yea. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Carlson, Carver, Farnum, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in opposition, and 3 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 6 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 9 by Representative Mandie Landry

Representative Mandie Landry presented House Bill No. 9, which allows all registered voters to utilize voting by mail (Item #10).

Representative Mike Johnson in the chair.

Sherri Wharton Hadskey, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 9.

Nancy Landry, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 9.

Representative Mandie Landry announced that action on House Bill No. 9, was voluntarily deferred.

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

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 9 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Thomas offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Carlson, Wilford Carter, Carver, Farnum, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Chair Gerald "Beau" Beaulieu, IV
House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Date adopted: