

House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2024 First Extraordinary Session
January 18, 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 10:00 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 Delisha Boyd
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:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms
Alexandra Cravins, committee assistant

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

The committee stood at ease at 10:02 a.m. The committee reconvened at 3:18 p.m.

Senate Bill No. 8 by Senator Womack

Senator Womack presented Senate Bill No. 8, which provides for redistricting of Louisiana congressional districts (Item #1).

Victoria Wenger, Legal Defense Fund, 40 Rector Street, New York, NY 10006, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 8.

Jared Evans, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, 700 14th Street Northwest, Washington, D.C. 20005, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 8.

Representative Mike Johnson in the chair.

Chair Beaulieu in the chair.

Representative Farnum offered amendments to change the composition of the districts. Representative Farnum offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, Carlson, Carver, Farnum, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Marcelle offered amendments to change the composition of the districts. Representative Marcelle offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Farnum objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas and 11 nays. Representatives Boyd, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, and Newell voted yea. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Carlson, Carver, Farnum, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted nay.

Chris Alexander, Louisiana Citizen Advocacy Group, P.O. Box 64952, Baton Rouge, LA 70896, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 8.

Mary S. "Susie" Labry, 40128 #B Emerald Drive, Ponchatoula, LA 70454, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 8.

Bert Callais, Chris Alexander and Louisiana Citizen Advocacy Group, 363 East Saint Francis Street, Brusly, LA 70719, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 8.

Paul Loy Hurd, 1896 Hudson Circle, Suite 5, Monroe, LA 71201, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 8, and provided, handouts: Exhibit A, entitled "Comparison Between SB8 and Balanced Plan", and Exhibit B, entitled "Hays v. Louisiana", which are included in the committee records.

Representative Phelps, House District No. 3, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 8.

Representative Farnum offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 8 with amendments, to which Representative Marcelle objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 8 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 1 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, Carlson, Carver, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea. Representative Marcelle voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 14 in support, 3 in opposition, and 4 in support of the amendment offered by Representative Marcelle, which did not pass.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 8 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 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, Carlson, Carver, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Gerald "Beau" Beaulieu, IV

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Date adopted: