

House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Second Extraordinary Session
February 21, 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 9:30 a.m. in Room 3, 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 Jessica Domangue
Representative Les Farnum
Representative Foy Bryan Gadberry
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
Caroline Vanhooose, clerk

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 22 by Representative Mike Johnson**

Representative Mike Johnson presented House Bill No. 22, which provides relative to the districts of the supreme court (Item #14).

Attorney General Liz Murrill, Louisiana Department of Justice, 1885 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke in favor of House Bill No. 22.

Judge Don Johnson, 19th Judicial Court, no address provided, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke in favor of House Bill No. 22.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 22 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 22 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, Carlson, Wilford Carter, Carver, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 6 by Representative Muscarello

Representative Muscarello presented House Bill No. 6, which provides relative to the methods of execution and for confidentiality of records or information relating to the execution of a death sentence (Item #15).

Representative Beaulieu offered technical amendments to House Bill No. 6. Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, Carlson,

Wilford Carter, Carver, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Danna Lea Burton, 6511 Bayshore Road, Palmello, FL 34221, spoke in support of House Bill No. 6.

Sandra Riches, 3713 Green Acres Road, Metairie, LA 70003, spoke in support of House Bill No. 6.

Michael Riches, Saint John Court, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in support of House Bill No. 6.

Michael Cahoon, The Promise of Justice Initiative, 1024 Elysian Fields Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70117, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 6.

Vice chair Lyons in the chair

Stephanie L. Willis, American Civil Liberties Union of Louisiana, P.O. Box 56157, New Orleans, LA 70156, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 6.

Chair Beaulieu in the chair.

Peter Robins-Brown, Louisiana Progress Action, 650 North 6th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 6.

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

Gary P. Clements, 1304 Lowerline Street, New Orleans, LA 70118, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 6, and provided a handout, Exhibit A, "Executioner steps away after four lethal injections," which is included in the committee records.

Cecelia Kappel, The Capital Appeals Project, 1024 Elysian Fields Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70117, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 6.

Tom Costanza, Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2431 South Acadian Thruway, Suite 250, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 6.

Ashwini Velchamy, 4152 Iberville Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in opposition of House Bill No. 6. Ms. Velchamy read written testimony from William R. Kirchain, 121 Cheron Drive, Mandeville, LA 70448, in opposition to House Bill No. 6, which is included in committee records, labeled Exhibit B.

Zoe David-Lang, Avodan, 2011 General Pershing Street, New Orleans, LA 70115, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 6.

Samantha Bosalavage, National Council for Jewish Women, 1131 Marigny Street, New Orleans, LA 70117, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 6, and provided a handout, Exhibit C, "A Resolution Against the the [sic] Use of Gassing in State Executions", which is included in the committee records.

Bruce Reilly, 4930 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70111, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 6.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report House Bill No. 6 with amendments, to which Representative Larvadain objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 6 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Carlson, Carver, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Boyd, Wilford Carter, Larvadain, Lyons, and Marcelle voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support, and 12 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Lyons offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, Carlson, Wilford Carter, Carver, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: