

House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
March 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 2, 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 Wilford Dan Carter, Sr.
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 John E. Wyble

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Michael Robert "Mike" Bayham, Jr.
Representative Mark Wright

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Patricia Lowrey-Dufour, legislative analyst
Annie Smith, attorney
Sarah Baker, committee administrative assistant
Frank Meyer, IV, clerk

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Vivian Hurst, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 72 by Representative Jackson**

Representative Jackson presented House Bill No. 72, which provides relative to filing financial disclosure statements after qualifying for office.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Bill No. 72 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 72 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

House Bill No. 106 by Representative Jackson

Representative Jackson presented House Bill No. 106, which provides relative to the assessment of penalties on lobbyists for failure to timely file required reports.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 106 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 106 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, 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: 1 in support.

House Bill No. 506 by Representative Thomas

Representative Thomas presented House Bill No. 506, which provides relative to voter registration applications collected through registration drives.

Representative Thomas offered amendments to:

1. Provide that an individual or entity that conducts voter registration drives may register with the secretary of state either directly or through a registrar of voters.
2. Change the proposed new deadline to submit a completed voter registration application from no later than the day prior to the close of registration records for the first election that occurs after the completed registration application is collected to

no later than the date provided in R.S. 18:135(A)(1) for the close of registration records prior to an election.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Vice Chair Lyons in the chair.

Chair Beaulieu in the chair.

Representative Newell offered amendments to provide that, in addition to registering directly with the secretary of state, persons who intend to conduct a voter registration drive are allowed to register through a registrar of voters in the manner prescribed by the secretary of state. Representative Newell offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Marcelle offered amendments to require the secretary of state to provide for training for persons conducting voter registration drives. Representative Marcelle offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Thomas objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas and 8 nays. Representatives Boyd, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, and Newell voted yea. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted nay.

Nancy Landry, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 506.

Sherri W. Hadskey, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 506.

Steve Raborn, Louisiana Registrar of Voters Association, P.O. Box 91006, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, spoke in favor of House Bill No. 506.

Checo Yancy, VOTE, 251 Florida Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 506.

Alice Grooms, 7601 Scottwood Drive, New Orleans, LA 70128, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 506.

Ronald Marshall, VOTE, 4930 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 506.

Sylvia Johnson, League of Women Voters, no address given, Mandeville, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 506, and provided a handout from the organization labeled Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Jacquelyn Lindle Germany, 767 North Thirty-Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 506.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Bill No. 506 with amendments, to which Representative Marcelle objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 506 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 6 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Boyd, Wilford Carter, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, and Newell voted nay.

Witnesses who did not speak are as follows: 5 in opposition, and 1 for information only.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 506 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 483 by Representative Thomas

Representative Thomas presented House Bill No. 483, which provides relative to qualifications of early voting election commissioners.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Bill No. 483 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 483 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Witnesses who did not speak are as follows: 1 in opposition, and 3 for information only.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 483 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 581 by Representative Thomas

Representative Thomas presented House Bill No. 581, which provides requirements and restrictions on the ability to witness election documents.

Representative Thomas offered amendments to change the effective date of the requirement that a witness be at least 18 years of age and the election offense of witnessing more than one certificate of a nonfamily member voter from upon signature of governor to July 1, 2025. Representative

Thomas offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, and Thomas 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. 581.

Sherri W. Hadskey, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 581.

Checo Yancy, VOTE, 251 Florida Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 581.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Bill No. 581 with amendments, to which Representative Wilford Carter objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 581 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 6 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Boyd, Wilford Carter, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, and Newell voted nay.

Witnesses who did not speak are as follows: 2 in favor, and 5 in opposition, and 1 for information only.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 581 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 316 by Representative Larvadain

Representative Larvadain presented House Bill No. 316, which provides relative to deadlines for financial disclosures required of members and certain employees of the Gaming Control Board, the Riverboat Gaming Commission, and the Louisiana Economic Development and Gaming Corporation.

Representative Larvadain offered technical amendments to House Bill No. 316. Representative Larvadain offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Kathleen M. Allen, Louisiana Board of Ethics, P.O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 316.

Representative Larvadain offered a motion to report House Bill No. 316 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 316 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Schamerhorn, and Wyble voted yea.

House Bill No. 697 by Representative Larvadain

Representative Larvadain presented House Bill No. 697, which provides relative to the authority of the Board of Ethics to object to the candidacy of candidates for certain offices.

Kathleen M. Allen, Louisiana Board of Ethics, P.O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 697.

Vice Chair Lyons in the chair.

Representative Larvadain offered a motion to report House Bill No. 697 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 697 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, and Thomas voted yea.

House Bill No. 114 by Representative Farnum

Chair Beaulieu in the chair.

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

Representative Farnum presented House Bill No. 114, which provides for a supplemental annual canvass of registered voters.

Nancy Landry, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 114.

Sherri W. Hadskey, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 114.

Kyle Ardoin, office of Governor Jeff Landry, P.O. Box 94004, 4th Floor Louisiana State Capitol Building, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 114.

Christy Haik, Convention of States Action and Louisiana Citizen for Election Integrity, 1377 Steele Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in support of House Bill No. 114.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Bill No. 114 favorably, to which Representative Marcelle objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 114 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 6 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Boyd, Wilford Carter, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, and Newell voted nay.

Witnesses who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support, 5 in opposition, and 1 for information only.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 114 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 90 by Representative Beaulieu

Vice Chair Lyons in the chair.

Representative Beaulieu presented House Bill No. 90, which provides relative to federal election guidance and funding.

Representative Thomas offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Thomas offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Farnum, Larvadain, Lyons, Newell, 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. 90.

Dale Clary, Convention of States Action, 18688 Manchac Highlands, Prarieville, LA 70789, spoke in support of House Bill No. 90.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Bill No. 90 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 90 was reported by substitute by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Witnesses who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support, 1 in opposition, and 1 for information only.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 90 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 677 by Representative Beaulieu

Representative Beaulieu presented House Bill No. 677, which makes revisions to the system of laws providing for elections.

Representative Beaulieu offered technical amendments to House Bill No. 677. Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to remove a provision imposing civil penalties on political committees for failure to file or timely file a statement of organization. Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report House Bill No. 677 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 677 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Witnesses who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support, and 3 for information only.

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 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: