

House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
March 26, 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 9:39 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 Michael Robert "Mike" Bayham, Jr.
Representative Beth Anne Billings
Representative Delisha Boyd
Representative Wilford Dan Carter, Sr.
Representative Jessica Domangue
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:

Representative Les Farnum

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Patricia Lowrey-Dufour, legislative analyst
Annie Smith, attorney
Sarah Baker, committee administrative assistant
Natayveon Howard-Williams, clerk

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Cheryl Domino, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 476 by Representative Carlson**

Representative Carlson presented House Bill No. 476, which provides for the delivery of absentee ballots by a person other than the voter.

Representative Beullieu offered amendments to prohibit multiple submissions by any means, as opposed to by hand delivery. Representative Beullieu offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beullieu, Billings, Domangue, Gadberry, Larvadain, 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. 476.

Representative Gadberry in the chair.

Sherri Hadskey, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 476.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Bill No. 476 with amendments, to which Representative Marcelle objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 476 was reported with amendments by a vote of 6 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Billings, Domangue, Gadberry, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Boyd, Wilford Carter, Larvadain, Marcelle, and Newell voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support, 4 in opposition, and 1 for information only.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 476 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 503 by Representative Carlson

Representative Carlson presented House Bill No. 503, which provides relative to prohibited transactions with the agency of a legislator and of an appointed board or commission member.

Representative Wyble offered a motion to report House Bill No. 503 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 503 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Gadberry, Larvadain, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in opposition, and 1 for information only.

House Bill No. 285 by Representative Wright

On behalf of Representative Wright, Representative Wyble presented House Bill No. 285, which provides for the division of election integrity within the Department of State.

Nancy Landry, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 285.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 285 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 285 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Gadberry, Larvadain, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 for information only.

House Bill No. 412 by Representative Marcelle

Representative Marcelle presented House Bill No. 412, which requires publication of proposed recommendations of the State Board of Election Supervisors.

Representative Marcelle offered amendments to provide for the adoption of an annual report by the State Board of Election Supervisors and to require the secretary of state to post recommendations on the secretary of state's website. Representative Marcelle 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, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Gadberry, Larvadain, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Chair Beaulieu in the chair.

Nancy Landry, no witness card provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 412.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 412 with 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, Wilford Carter, Larvadain, Marcelle,

and Newell voted yea. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Domangue, Gadberry, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support, and 2 for information only.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 412 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 261 by Representative Willard

Representative Willard presented House Bill No. 261, which provides for permissible acts within the campaign-free zone at polling places.

Nancy Landry, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 261.

Sherri Hadskey, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 261.

Lani Boyd, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 261.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 261 favorably, to which Representative Thomas objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas and 9 nays. Representatives Boyd, Wilford Carter, Larvadain, Marcelle, and Newell voted yea. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Domangue, Gadberry, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 9 in support.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 261 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 411 by Representative Gadberry

Representative Gadberry presented House Bill No. 411, which provides for the procedure for returning excess campaign contributions.

Representative Gadberry offered technical amendments to House Bill No. 411. Representative Gadberry 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, Bayham, Billings, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Gadberry, Larvadain, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, 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. 411.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Bill No. 411 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 411 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Domangue, Gadberry, Larvadain, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

House Bill No. 570 by Representative Billings

Representative Billings presented House Bill No. 570, which provides for the change of party affiliation prior to the close of registration.

Representative Billings offered amendments to remove present law and proposed law regarding ineligibility to vote party committee candidates in the renounced or abandoned party after registration is timely changed. Representative Billings offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Domangue, Gadberry, Larvadain, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Billings offered a motion to report House Bill No. 570 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 570 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Domangue, Gadberry, Larvadain, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Witness cards who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, and 3 for information only.

House Bill No. 628 by Representative Domangue

Representative Domangue presented House Bill No. 628, which provides for reporting requirements and contribution limits applicable to candidates and political committees participating in an additional election following a tie vote or court ordered elections following an election contest.

Kathleen M. Allen, Louisiana Board of Ethics, P.O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 628.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Bill No. 628 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 628 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Domangue, Gadberry, Larvadain, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

House Bill No. 675 by Representative Wyble

Representative Wyble presented House Bill No. 675, which provides for filing of administrative proceedings before the Ethics Adjudicatory Board for enforcement of certain violations of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act.

Kathleen M. Allen, Louisiana Board of Ethics, P.O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 675.

Representative Wyble offered a motion to report House Bill No. 675 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 675 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Gadberry, Larvadain, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

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 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Gadberry, Larvadain, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: