

House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
March 27, 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 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 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:

Representative Wilford Dan Carter, Sr.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Cheryl Domino, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 89 by Representative Bagley**

Representative Bagley presented House Bill No. 89, which provides relative to the number of employees in the registrar of voters office in certain parishes.

Amanda Raynes, DeSoto Parish Registrar of Voters, 104 Crosby Street, Mansfield, LA 71052, spoke in support of House Bill No. 89.

Shanika Olinde, Point Coupee Registrar of Voters, 1919 Hospital Road, New Roads, LA 70760, spoke in support of House Bill No. 89.

Representative Larvadain offered a motion to report House Bill No. 89 favorably, to which Representative Schamerhorn objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 89 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 1 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Domangue, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea. Representative Schamerhorn voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 for information only.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 89 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 582 by Representative Walters

Representative Walters presented House Bill No. 582, which provides for eligibility to vote for certain offices beginning at age seventeen, and narrated a PowerPoint presentation, Exhibit A, entitled "HB 582", which is included in the committee records.

Nancy Landry, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 582.

Bruce Reilly, VOTE, 4950 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in support of House Bill No. 582.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 582 favorably.

Representative Marcelle withdrew her motion to report House Bill No. 582 favorably.

Representative Walters voluntarily deferred House Bill No. 582.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support, and 3 for information only.

House Bill No. 419 by Representative Riser

Representative Riser presented House Bill No. 419, which provides relative to compensation for parish board commissioners, election commissioners, and commissioners-in-charge.

Representative Larvadain offered a motion to report House Bill No. 419 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 419 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Boyd, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 14 in support, and 4 for information only.

House Bill No. 154 by Representative Mandie Landry

Representative Mandie Landry presented House Bill No. 154, which provides for prohibited political materials and applicable criminal penalties. Representative Landry presented a video from NBCnews.com.

Peter Robins-Brown, Louisiana Progress Action, 650 North Sixth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 154.

Bruce Reilly, VOTE, 4950 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in support of House Bill No. 154.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 154 favorably, to which Representative Bayham objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 154 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 1 nay. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea. Representative Bayham voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 11 in support.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 154 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 217 by Representative Bayham

Representative Bayham presented House Bill No. 217, which increases the qualifying fees for certain state candidates.

Vice Chair Lyons in the chair.

Chair Beaulieu in the chair.

Nancy Landry, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 217.

Bruce Reilly, VOTE, 4950 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 217.

Representative Wright offered a motion to report House Bill No. 217 favorably, to which Representative Lyons objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas and 10 nays. Representatives Bayham, Billings, Schamerhorn, Wright, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Beaulieu, Boyd, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, and Thomas voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support, and 7 in opposition.

House Bill No. 324 by Representative Boyd

Representative Boyd presented House Bill No. 324, which provides for early voting on Sundays.

Nancy Landry, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 324.

Joel Watson, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 324.

Checo Yancy, VOTE, 251 Florida Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of House Bill No. 324.

Representative Boyd offered a motion to report House Bill No. 324 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 8 nays. Representatives Boyd, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, and Newell voted yea. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 14 in support, 1 in opposition, and 1 for information only.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 324 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 319 by Representative Newell

Representative Newell presented House Bill No. 319, which provides relative to notice of the reason for changes to polling places.

Representative Newell offered amendments to:

1. Authorize, rather than require, the parish registrars of voters or clerks of court that maintains a website to publish a list of polling place location changes.
2. Change the effective date.

Representative Newell 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, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, 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. 319.

Brad Harris, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 319.

Sherri Hadskey, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 319.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Bill No. 319 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 319 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, 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: 13 in support.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 319 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 664 by Representative Wyble

Representative Wyble presented House Bill No. 664, which increases the qualifications for United States senator and representative in congress.

Stephen M. Gelé, Smith and Fawer, LLC, 201 Saint Charles Avenue, Suite 3702, New Orleans, LA 70170, spoke in support of House Bill No. 664.

Representative Gadberry in the chair.

Chair Beaulieu in the chair.

Bruce Reilly, VOTE, 4950 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 664.

Representative Wyble offered a motion to report House Bill No. 664 favorably, to which Representative Marcelle objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 664 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Billings, Boyd, Larvadain, Marcelle, and Newell voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in opposition.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Beaulieu announced that action on House Bill No. 347, which extends the duration of the early voting period, was voluntarily deferred.

Chair Beaulieu announced that action on House Bill No. 220, which provides for publication of polling locations, was voluntarily deferred.

Chair Beaulieu announced that action on House Bill No. 710, which provides relative to the financial disclosure required of members of the Board of Ethics and the ethics administrator, was voluntarily deferred.

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, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, 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: