

House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
April 10, 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 12:12 p.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 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:

Elizabeth Douglas, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 873 by Representative Emerson**

Representative Emerson presented House Bill No. 873, which provides relative to elections.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to:

1. Remove the proposed change to the period for early voting.
2. Provide for a public drawing of lots procedure in the case of a tie in a second party primary election.
3. Provide for the opening of the qualifying period for spring elections in a nongubernatorial, odd-numbered election year.
4. Change the opening of the qualifying period for spring elections, except in a presidential election year, from the last Wednesday in January to the second Wednesday in January.
5. Direct the Louisiana State Law Institute to remove a citation reference if provision is enacted by House Bill No. 677.
6. Make technical changes.

Representative Beaulieu 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, Domangue, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Lani Boyd, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 873.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report House Bill No. 873 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 873 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 767 by Representative Emerson

Representative Emerson presented House Bill No. 767, which provides a limited exception for the schedule of a statewide elected official.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 767 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 767 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 906 by Representative Wright

Representative Wright presented House Bill No. 906, which makes revisions to the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 906 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 906 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 599 by Representative Ventrella

Representative Ventrella presented House Bill No. 599, which provides relative to adjudications and judicial review of adjudications.

Representative Gadberry in the chair.

Laurie Adams, Pelican Institute, 342 Lafayette Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of House Bill No. 599.

Chair Beaulieu in the chair.

Representative Wright offered a motion to report House Bill No. 599 favorably, to which Representative Lyons objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 599 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Marcelle, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Lyons and Newell voted nay.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 599 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 221 by Representative Bayham

Representative Bayham presented House Bill No. 221, which provides relative to recall petitions.

Nancy Landry, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 221.

Lani Boyd, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 221.

Representative Bayham offered a motion to report House Bill No. 221 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 221 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 221 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Resolution No. 75 by Representative Beaulieu

Vice Chair Lyons in the chair.

Representative Beaulieu presented House Resolution No. 75, which provides that a request for legislation which is to be prefiled or introduced during a regular session must be received by House Legislative Services staff not later than 72 hours prior to the applicable deadline.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 75 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 75 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Beaulieu announced that action on House Bill No. 133, which provides for the manner of qualifying for a party primary office, was deferred.

Chair Beaulieu announced that action on House Bill No. 595, which provides that statewide elective offices and legislative offices are party primary offices, was deferred.

Chair Beaulieu announced that action on House Bill No. 743, which provides for absentee voting by mail by qualified incarcerated voters, was deferred.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Gadberry offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: