

House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
April 16, 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 9:37 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 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
Natayveon Howard-Williams, committee assistant
Caroline Vanhoose, clerk

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 856 by Representative Mike Johnson**

Representative Mike Johnson presented House Bill No. 856, which provides that the secretary of state shall be responsible for voting system maintenance and repair.

Representative Farnum offered a motion to report House Bill No. 856 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 856 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 756 by Representative McMakin

Representative McMakin presented House Bill No. 756, which provides relative to state capitol complex and the allocation of space in the state capitol.

Representative Beaulieu offered technical amendments. Representative Beaulieu 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, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Thomas offered amendments to:

1. Provide that at least one floor shall be allocated to the secretary of state and that at least one floor shall be allocated to the attorney general rather than those officials sharing a floor.

2. Remove a specific reference to the State Bond Commission relative to use of space on a floor allocated to the treasurer.

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, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

John Singuefield, as the designee of Attorney General Liz Murrill, 1885 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 756.

Catherine Newsome, as the designee of Secretary of State Nancy Landry, 8585 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 756, and read a letter on behalf of Secretary Landry, labeled Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 756 with amendments, to which Representative Beaulieu objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 756 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Boyd, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Farnum, Larvadain, Marcelle, Newell, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Gadberry, and Schamerhorn voted nay.

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 Concurrent Resolution No. 33 by Representative McMakin

Representative McMakin presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 33, which provides relative to the allocation of legislative space in the state capitol.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 33 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 33 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 443 by Representative Coates

Representative Coates presented House Bill No. 443, which provides relative to confidentiality of records in cases involving certain protected persons.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to add a reference in the Public Record Law to the public records exception established in proposed law. Representative Beaulieu 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, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Wyble offered a motion to report House Bill No. 443 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 443 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support, and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 800 by Representative Beaulieu

Representative Gadberry in the chair.

Representative Beaulieu presented House Bill No. 800, which provides for calling a limited constitutional convention.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to:

1. Limit actions of the proposed constitutional convention on specified provisions of the Declaration of Rights contained in Article I of Constitution of Louisiana;
2. Add a duty for the constitutional convention to determine whether additional requirements on the proposal and adoption of future constitutional amendments are necessary or desirable;
3. Specify the vote requirement necessary for action of the constitutional convention; and
4. Change the deadline for the constitutional convention to complete a draft of a proposed new constitution

Representative Beaulieu 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, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Loulan Pitre, governor's transition team, 400 Poydras Street, Suite 1812, New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke in support of House Bill No. 800.

Jim Tucker, governor's transition team, 405 Gainesway, Madisonville, LA 70447, spoke in support of House Bill No. 800.

Neil Abramson, 701 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70139, spoke in support of House Bill No. 800.

Chair Beaulieu in the chair.

Melissa Flournoy, 10,000 Women, 650 North Sixth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 800.

Checo Yancy, VOTE, 251 Florida Street, #201, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 800.

Emily Posner, 8922 Birch Street, New Orleans, LA 70118, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 800.

Renée Slajda, 1125 North Prieur Street, New Orleans, LA 70116, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 800.

Steven Procopio, PAR, 415 Laurel Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 800.

Chair Beaulieu announced that action on House Bill No. 800 would be deferred.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support, 52 in opposition, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 800 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 743 by Representative Carpenter

Representative Carpenter presented House Bill No. 743, which provides for absentee voting by mail by qualified incarcerated voters.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to authorize a correctional officer acting in the course and scope of his official duties to witness and deliver more than one application or ballot of a registered voter under the control and custody of the correctional officer. Representative Beaulieu

offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Thomas objected. Representative Beaulieu withdrew his motion to offer the amendments.

Will Harrell, Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office, 2800 Perdido Street, New Orleans, LA 70116, spoke in support of House Bill No. 743.

Emily Posner, Voice of the Experienced, 4930 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in support of House Bill No. 743, and provided a handout, "A Common Sense Bill for Equity and Access", which is labeled Exhibit B and included in the committee records.

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

Charles Amos, 2100 Painters Street, New Orleans, LA 70117, spoke in support of House Bill No. 743.

Amelia Herrera, 2914 Lexington Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in support of House Bill No. 743.

Shana Sassoon, 933 Wilson Drive, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in support of House Bill No. 743.

Emily Ratner, 8428 Sycamore Street, New Orleans, LA 70118, spoke in support of House Bill No. 743.

Devin Davis, 2616 North Villere Street, New Orleans, LA 70117, spoke in support of House Bill No. 743.

Kerry Williams, no address provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 743.

Bruce Riley, 4930 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in support of House Bill No. 743.

Tammy Jones, VOTE, 9522 West Coronado Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70815, spoke in support of House Bill No. 743.

Checo Yancy, VOTE, 251 Florida Street, #201, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of House Bill No. 743.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 743 favorably, to which Representative Thomas objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 743 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 7 nays. Representatives Boyd, Wilford

Carter, Domangue, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, and Newell voted yea. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Farnum, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 21 in support, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Beaulieu announced that action on House Bill No. 680, which provides for an alternate official journal of the state and alternate official journals of political subdivisions, was deferred.

Chair Beaulieu announced that action on House Bill No. 888, which provides relative to the Social Work Licensure Compact, was deferred.

Chair Beaulieu announced that action on House Bill No. 890, which provides relative to mandatory annual mental health response training and individual counseling requirements for statewide elected officials and legislators, was deferred.

Chair Beaulieu announced that action on House Bill No. 898, which provides for disclosure of contributions and expenditures for electioneering communications, was deferred.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Newell offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: