

House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
April 17, 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 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
Frank Meyer, IV, clerk
Caroline Vanhooose, clerk

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Vivian Hurst, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 48 by Representative Bacala**

Representative Bacala presented House Bill No. 48, a constitutional amendment that provides relative to requirements for enactment of appropriations.

Vice Chair Lyons in the chair.

Chair Beaulieu in the chair.

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

Representative Thomas offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 48, to which Representative Marcelle objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 7 yeas and 8 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Bayham, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, and Schamerhorn voted nay.

Representative Schamerhorn offered a motion to report House Bill No. 48 favorably, to which Representative Thomas objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 48 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 6 nays. Representatives Bayham, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, and Schamerhorn voted yea. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Domangue, Gadberry, Thomas, and Wyble voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support, and 2 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 49 by Representative Bacala

Representative Bacala presented House Bill No. 49, a constitutional amendment that provides for the limited extension of regular sessions for specific purposes.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 49 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 49 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, and 6 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 888 by Representative Stagni

Representative Stagni presented House Bill No. 888, which provides relative to the Social Work Licensure Compact.

Representative Newell offered technical amendments to House Bill No. 888. 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, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Vice Chair Lyons in the chair.

Stephen Wright, National Association of Social Workers, Louisiana Chapter, 2270 Beaumont Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in support of House Bill No. 888.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 888 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 888 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 273 by Representative Schamerhorn

Chair Beaulieu in the chair.

Representative Schamerhorn presented House Bill No. 273, a constitutional amendment that provides for term limits for certain parish and municipal officials.

Representative Bayham offered amendments to apply term limits to only members of a police jury, only. Representative Bayham 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, Bayham, Billings, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Guy Cormier, Police Jury Association of Louisiana, 707 North Seventh Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 273.

Tania Nyman, 4669 Bennett Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 273.

Representative Schamerhorn voluntarily deferred House Bill No. 273.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support, and 9 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 273 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 157 by Representative Green

Representative Green presented House Bill No. 157, a constitutional amendment that provides for a term limitation on all statewide elected officials.

Representative Bayham offered amendments to place a three-term limit on statewide elected officials and maintain the two-term limit applicable to the governor. Representative Bayham offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Thomas objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 3 nays. Representatives Bayham, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, and Schamerhorn voted yea. Representatives Billings, Gadberry, and Thomas voted nay.

Tania Nyman, 4699 Bennett Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 157.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 157. No vote was taken.

Vice Chair Lyons in the chair.

Representative Marcelle offered a substitute motion to report House Bill No. 157 with amendments, to which Representative Thomas objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 7 yeas and 9 nays. Representatives Bayham, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, and Newell voted yea. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted nay.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 157. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 157 was voluntarily deferred 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.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Chair Beaulieu in the chair.

House Bill No. 692 by Representative Wilford Carter

Representative Wilford Carter presented House Bill No. 692, which establishes election sections for the election of judges to the City Court of Lake Charles.

Representative Beaulieu offered technical amendments to House Bill No. 692. 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, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Larvadain offered a motion to report House Bill No. 692 with amendments, to which Representative Farnum objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 6 yeas and 8 nays. Representatives Boyd, Wilford Carter, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, and Newell voted yea. Representatives Beaulieu, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted nay.

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

House Bill No. 926 by Representative Lyons

Representative Lyons presented House Bill No. 926, which provides for the election of judges of the first district of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal.

Representative Beaulieu offered technical amendments to House Bill No.926. 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, Bayham, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Wright in the chair.

Glenn Ansardi, CCAJ, 314 Woodvine Avenue, Metairie, LA 70005, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 926.

Chair Beaulieu in the chair.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 926 with amendments, to which Representative Thomas objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 926 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Bayham, Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Wright, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Schamerhorn, and Thomas voted nay.

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

House Bill No. 442 by Representative Robby Carter

Representative Robby Carter presented House Bill No. 442, which creates an additional judgeship for the 21st Judicial District Court, and provided a handout, "Plan Statistics", which is labeled Exhibit A and is included in the committee records.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to provide the specific boundaries of two election sections. Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to provide an effective date. 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, Wilford Carter,

Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Jennifer Bollinger, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 442.

Melvin McGary, 10496 Mahogany Road, Independence, LA 70443, spoke in support of House Bill No. 442.

Michael A. Showers, Greater Tangipahoa NAACP, no address provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 442.

Vanessa Williams, P.O. Box 354, Amite, LA 70422, spoke in support of House Bill No. 442.

Judge Jeffery Oglesbee, 21st Judicial District Court, Amite, LA 70422, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 442.

Representative Larvadain offered a motion to report House Bill No. 442 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 442 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 800 by Representative Beaulieu

Chair Beaulieu presented House Bill No. 800 which provides for calling a limited constitutional convention, and allowed witnesses to testify as follows:

Sarah Harbison, Pelican Institute, 400 Poydras Street, Suite 900, New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke in support of House Bill No. 800.

Jacqueline Lindle Germany, 767 North Thirty-Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 800.

Barry Ivey, P.O. Box 78010, Baton Rouge, LA 70837, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 800. (reading a statement)

Vice Chair Lyons in the chair.

Tania Nyman, 4669 Bennett Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 800.

Quintle Slaughter, 3888 South Sherwood Forest Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 800.

Mary Anne Mushatt, 10,000 Women, 6030 South Robertson Street, New Orleans, LA 70118, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 800.

Corhonda Corley, Louisiana Families of Individuals with Disabilities, 8815 Wilmore Drive, Zachary, LA 70791, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 800.

Bruce Reilly, 4930 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 800.

Melissa Flournoy, 10,000 Women, 680 North Sixth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 800.

Peter Robins-Brown, Louisiana Progress, 650 North Sixth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 800.

Chair Beaulieu announced that action on House Bill No. 800, which provides for calling a limited constitutional convention, was deferred.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, 40 in opposition, and 1 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.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Beaulieu announced that action on House Bill No. 111, a constitutional amendment that provides for gubernatorial term limits, was deferred.

Vice Chair Lyons announced that House Bill 248, a constitutional amendment that creates a compensation commission to provide for the salary and other compensation of elected officials and further provides for an automatic adjustment at the beginning of each new term of office based upon increases in the consumer price index, was deferred.

Vice Chair Lyons announced that House Bill 249, which provides for the establishment and powers, functions, and duties of the compensation commission, was deferred.

Vice Chair Lyons announced that House Bill 250, a constitutional amendment that provides that the timing and duration of regular sessions of the legislature may be set by joint rule of the legislature, was deferred.

Vice Chair Lyons announced that House Bill 251, a constitutional amendment that provides relative to the time at which certain officials are elected, was deferred.

Vice Chair Lyons announced that House Bill 275, a constitutional amendment that provides that the governor and lieutenant governor are elected jointly, was deferred.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Newell offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: