

House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
April 24, 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 9:13 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 John E. Wyble

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Wilford Dan Carter, Sr.
Representative Mark Wright

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Vivian Hurst, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 898 by Representative Mandie Landry**

Representative Mandie Landry presented House Bill No. 898, which provides for disclosure of contributions and expenditures for electioneering communications.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 898 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 898 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Boyd, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Schamerhorn, and Wyble voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 680 by Representative Carlson

Representative Carlson presented House Bill No. 680, which provides for an alternate official journal of the state and alternate official journals of political subdivisions.

Vice Chair Lyons in the chair.

Representative Marcelle offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Marcelle 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, Billings, Boyd, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, 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 for information only on House Bill No. 680.

Sam Hanna, Hanna Newspapers and Louisiana Press Association (LPA), 4423 Cypress Street, West Monroe, LA 71291, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 680.

Scott Sternberg, LPA, no address provided, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 680.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 680 by substitute, to which Representative Thomas objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 680 was reported by substitute by a vote of 7 yeas and 6 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Domangue, Farnum, Larvadain, Marcelle, Schamerhorn, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Bayham, Billings, Boyd, Gadberry, Lyons, and Thomas voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support, 2 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 800 by Representative Beaulieu

Chair Beaulieu in the chair.

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

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to:

1. Provide a specific vote requirement for action by the convention.
2. Require the convention to retain without affecting the effect of Articles I, II, III, and IV of the Constitution of Louisiana.
3. Change the deadline to submit proposed constitution to the governor from July 15 to June 3, 2024, and allow extension of deadline but not beyond July 15, 2024.
4. Authorize the convention to address duplicative and redundant provisions and to determine if additional requirements on the proposal and adoption of future constitutional amendments is necessary or desirable.
5. Provide that the attorney general or her designee is the legal advisor to the convention.
6. Provide that service by a judge as a delegate shall not be construed as grounds for recusal.
7. Make technical changes.

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

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

Vice Chair Lyons in the chair.

Chair Beaulieu in the chair.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to adopt a three- minute rule for member questions and witness testimony on House Bill No. 800. Without objection, adoption of the 3 minute rule by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, Domangue, Lyons, Marcelle, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Daniel Erspamer, Pelican Institute, 400 Poydras Street, Ninth Floor, New Orleans, LA 70118, spoke in support of House Bill No. 800.

Carson DeLarue, Associated Builders and Contractors, 19251 Highland Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in support of House Bill No. 800.

Jim Patterson, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, 500 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of House Bill No. 800.

Alfreda Tillman Bester, 4014 Salem Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70814, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 800.

Steve Gunn, P.O. Box 229, Montgomery, LA 71454, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 800.

Devin Davis, Voters Organized to Educate, 2616 North Villere Street, New Orleans, LA 70117, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 800.

Kisha Edwards, Step Up Louisiana, 15055 Emory Road, New Orleans, LA 70129, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 800.

Kaitlyn Joshua, The Power Coalition, 12296 Oak Colony Drive, Geismar, LA 70734, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 800.

Wesley Bishop, 7001 Cove Drive, New Orleans, LA 70126, as the designee of New Orleans City Councilman Oliver Thomas, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 800.

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

Tania Nyman, 4669 Bennett Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, 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.

Eva Williams, 7121 Dyer Road, Baker, LA 70714, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 800.

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

Vice Chair Lyons in the chair.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report House Bill No. 800 with amendments, to which Representative Boyd objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 800 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Boyd, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, and Newell voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 19 in support, 76 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

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Thomas offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Boyd, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: