

House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
April 30, 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 9:50 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 Beth Anne Billings
Representative Delisha Boyd
Representative Jessica Domangue
Representative Les Farnum
Representative Foy Bryan Gadberry
Representative Ed Larvadain, III
Representative C. Denise Marcelle
Representative Candace N. Newell
Representative Rodney Wayne Schamerhorn
Representative Polly Thomas
Representative John E. Wyble
Representative Michael T. Johnson, ex officio

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Michael Robert "Mike" Bayham, Jr.
Representative Wilford Dan Carter, Sr.
Representative Rodney Lyons, vice chair
Representative Mark Wright

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Cheryl Domino, sergeant at arms
Vivian Hurst, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 925 by Representative Mack**

Representative Mack presented House Bill No. 925, which provides relative to reporting requirements for political subdivisions associated with outstanding judgments.

Representative Thomas offered amendments to:

1. Remove requirement that the political subdivision report no later than September 30th, with the first one due on September 30th, 2024, and provide instead that the information be included in its required reporting to the auditor in accordance with present law beginning in 2025.
2. Make technical changes.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Debbie Henton, Police Jury Association of Louisiana, 707 North Seventh Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 925.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Bill No. 925 with amendments, to which Representative Farnum objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 925 was reported with amendments by a vote of 7 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Domangue, Gadberry, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Farnum and Newell voted nay.

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

House Concurrent Resolution No. 41 by Representative Horton

On behalf of Representative Horton, Representative DeWitt presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 41, which requests a joint subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations and Senate Committee on Finance to study and make recommendations relative to state supplemental pay.

Bruce Reilly, VOTE, 4950 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 41.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 41 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 41 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, 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.

Senate Bill No. 101 by Senator Miguez

Senator Miguez presented Senate Bill No. 101, which provides relative to ranked-choice voting and instant runoff voting.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to:

1. Remove an exception in the definition of "ranked-choice voting" and "instant runoff voting" to exclude absentee voting by military and overseas voters pursuant to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.
2. Specify that votes cast by military and overseas voters by special absentee by mail ballots in accordance with the Uniformed Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act and Title 18 shall be counted in accordance with the provisions of Title 18.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Nancy Landry, office of the secretary of state, 8585 Archives Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 101.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 101 with amendments, to which Representative Newell objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 101 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 1 nay. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wyble, and Mike Johnson voted yea. Representative Newell voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 16 in support, 4 in opposition, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 101 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 65 by Representative McMakin

Representative McMakin presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 65, which establishes the Young Republican Caucus of the Legislature of Louisiana.

Representative Beaulieu offered technical amendments to House Bill No. 65. Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wyble, and Mike Johnson voted yea.

Mary-Alizabeth Beaulieu, The Louisiana Young Republicans Federation, 419 Walnut Drive, New Iberia, LA 70563, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 65.

Nathan Sanders, Louisiana Young Republican Federation, 12166 Village Drive, Walker, LA 70785, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 65.

Representative Wyble offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 65 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 65 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 133 by Senator Pressly

Senator Pressly presented Senate Bill No. 133, which provides relative to certain international organizations.

Representative Gadberry in the chair.

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 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Julie Sandifer, Convention of States Action, 6649 LaSalle Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 133.

Dale Clary, Convention of States Action, 18688 Manchac Highlands Drive, Prarieville, LA 70769, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 133.

Chair Beaulieu in the chair.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 133 with amendments, to which Representative Newell objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 133 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Marcelle and Newell voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 24 in support, and 2 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 133 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 900 by Representative Wyble

Representative Wyble presented House Bill No. 900, which provides relative to the disclosure of certain information related to candidates for U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives.

Representative Wyble offered amendments to remove provisions about ballot disclosures and change the effective date from the signature of the governor to February 1, 2025. Representative Wyble offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Wyble offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 900. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 900 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

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

House Concurrent Resolution No. 39 by Representative Zeringue

Representative Zeringue presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 39, which provides for the continuation of the Judicial Structure Task Force as established by House Resolution No. 30 of the 2022 Regular Session.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 39 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 39 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

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

House Concurrent Resolution No. 66 by Representative Melerine

The committee stood at ease at 11:17 a.m. The committee reconvened at 11:22 a.m.

On behalf of Representative Melerine, Representative Wyble presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 66, which provides for a joint legislative committee to study regulations regarding artificial intelligence.

Representative Wyble offered amendments to change the study from a special joint legislative committee to a study by the Joint Legislative Committee on Technology and Cybersecurity. Representative Wyble offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Wyble offered amendments to change the study from a special joint legislative committee to a study by the Joint Legislative Committee on Technology and Cybersecurity. Representative Wyble offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 66 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 66 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 226 by Senator Cloud

Representative Gadberry in the chair.

On behalf of Senator Cloud, Chair Beaulieu presented Senate Bill No. 226, which provides relative to absentee by mail ballots.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to:

1. Provide that indication that the voter's mother's maiden name is unknown is not grounds to deem a ballot challenged.
2. Make technical changes.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Nancy Landry, office of the secretary of state, 8585 Archives Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 226.

Bruce Reilly, VOTE, 4950 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 226.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 226 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 226 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 10 in support, 7 in opposition, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 226 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Resolution No. 94 by Representative Walters

Chair Beaulieu in the chair.

On behalf of Representative Walters, Representative Newell presented House Resolution No. 94, which allows the child of a legislator to be on the floor in the House Chamber or in committee if the child is in the care of the legislator.

Representative Ventrella, no witness card provided, spoke in support of House Resolution No. 94.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 94 favorably, to which Representative Billings objected. Representative Newell withdrew her motion. Chair Beaulieu announced that House Resolution, which allows the child of a legislator to be on the floor in the House Chamber or in committee if the child is in the care of the legislator, was deferred.

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 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Newell, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: