

House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
May 7, 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 9:33 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 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 Rodney Wayne Schamerhorn
Representative Polly Thomas
Representative Mark Wright
Representative John E. Wyble

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Delisha Boyd
Representative Candace N. Newell

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

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

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Resolution No. 119 by Representative Mike Johnson**

Representative Mike Johnson presented House Resolution No. 119, which authorizes and requests the chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture and Rural Development to appoint a subcommittee to study and address the devastation of the forest industry due to the infestation of beetles.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to:

1. Add Louisiana Arborist Association to the list of entities to be solicited for input, recommendations, and advice by the subcommittee.
2. Specify that the chairman of the subcommittee shall have all the rights and privileges of a standing committee member of the subcommittee.

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, Bayham, Billings, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Lyons, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 119 with amendments. Without objection, House Resolution No. 119 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 248 by Senator Womack

Senator Womack presented Senate Bill No. 248, which requires the legislative auditor to audit certain capital outlay procedures.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 248 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 248 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 2 by Senator Abraham

Senator Abraham presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 2, which memorializes Congress to call for a convention of states to amend the United States Constitution to establish a limitation on terms for the members of congress.

Representative Farnum offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 2 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 2 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Schamerhorn, Thomas, 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.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 2 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

Senate Bill No. 155 by Senator Kleinpeter

Senator Kleinpeter presented Senate Bill No. 155, which provides relative to marking absentee by mail ballots.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to:

1. Provide that employees of the registrar of voters or the election division of the Department of State are not prohibited from assisting with the certificate of more than one voter.
2. Specify that the prohibition applies to assisting with the certificate of multiple voters rather than multiple certificates of a single voter.

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, Bayham, Billings, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Bayham offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 155 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 155 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support, 1 in opposition, and 4 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 155 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

Senate Bill No. 218 by Senator Kleinpeter

Senator Kleinpeter presented Senate Bill No. 218, which provides relative to voting.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to:

1. Provide that the disclosures and signatures required when assistance is provided to a voter on election day or during early voting are provided on a voter assistance form rather than behind a tab for Assistance to Voters.
2. Provide that absentee by mail applications by disabled voters participating under the prior disability program and applications by senior citizens are valid until December 31st of the fourth year after the application is received by the registrar. Provide that applications for these voters received before January 1, 2025, shall expire December 31, 2029.
3. Specify that the election offense is for facilitating the distribution or collection of absentee by mail ballot applications and absentee by mail ballots in violation of the Election Code.
4. Provide for effective dates.

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, Bayham, Billings, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Nancy Landry, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 218.

Sherri Hadskey, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 218.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 218 with amendments, to which Representative Larvadain objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 218 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Beaulieu,

Bayham, Billings, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Larvadain and Lyons voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 218 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

Senate Bill No. 198 by Senator Kleinpeter

Senator Kleinpeter presented Senate Bill No. 198, which provides relative to prohibitions to dual candidacy.

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 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Vice Chair Lyons in the chair.

Checo Yancy, VOTE, no address provided, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 198.

Representative Wyble offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 198 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 198 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives 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: 3 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 140 by Senator Bass

On behalf of Senator Bass, Richard Nelson, Louisiana Department of Revenue, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, presented Senate Bill No. 140, which provides relative to objections to candidacy.

Representative Larvadain offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 140 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 140 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bayham, Billings, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

House Bill No. 111 by Representative Bayham

Representative Bayham presented House Bill No. 111, a constitutional amendment that provides for gubernatorial term limits.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 111, to which Representative Billings objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 4 yeas and 6 nays. Representatives Farnum, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Bayham, Billings, Domangue, Gadberry, Lyons, and Wright voted nay.

Representative Bayham voluntarily deferred House Bill No. 111.

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

House Resolution No. 61 by Representative Wright

Representative Wright presented House Resolution No. 61, which authorizes the House Committee on Ways and Means, or a subcommittee thereof, to study the state's tax structure and develop recommendations for tax system reforms.

Representative Farnum offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 61 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 61 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bayham, Billings, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Lyons, 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 Concurrent Resolution No. 64 by Representative Orgeron

Representative Orgeron presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 64, which creates the Clean Hydrogen Task Force.

Representative Lyons offered technical amendments to House Concurrent Resolution No. 64. Representative Lyons offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Billings, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 64 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 64 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Billings, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 11 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Gadberry offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Billings, Wilford Carter, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: