

## House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting  
2024 Regular Session  
May 8, 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 9:34 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 Candace N. Newell  
Representative Rodney Wayne Schamerhorn  
Representative Polly Thomas  
Representative John E. Wyble

#### MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Wilford Dan Carter, Sr.  
Representative C. Denise Marcelle  
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:**

Rebecca Marshall, sergeant at arms

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION****Senate Bill No. 258 by Senator Fesi**

Senator Fesi presented Senate Bill No. 258, which provides relative to early or absentee by mail voting and the passing of that voter before election day.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 258 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 258 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Boyd, Domangue, Larvadain, Lyons, 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.

**Senate Bill No. 436 by Senator Fesi**

Senator Fesi presented Senate Bill No. 436, which provides relative to voter registration.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to:

1. Require proof of United States citizenship, rather than American citizenship
2. Require proof of citizenship be attached to a voter registration application, rather than require a space on the registration form for proof of citizenship
3. Make technical changes

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Boyd, Domangue, Larvadain, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Bruce Reilly, VOTE, 4930 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 436.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 436 with amendments, to which Representative Larvadain objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 436 was reported with amendments by a vote of 7 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Beaulieu,

Bayham, Billings, Domangue, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Larvadain and Newell voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 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. 436 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

### **Senate Bill No. 96 by Senator Jenkins**

Senator Jenkins presented Senate Bill No. 96, which provides relative to voter registration.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 96 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 96 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Boyd, Domangue, Larvadain, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

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

### **Senate Bill No. 30 by Senator Miller**

Senator Miller presented Senate Bill No. 30, which provides relative to annual financial disclosure statements by certain elected officials and public servants.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to make the proposed law effective January 1, 2025. 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, Boyd, Domangue, Larvadain, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 30 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 30 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Boyd, Domangue, Larvadain, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

### **Senate Bill No. 52 by Senator Miller**

Senator Miller presented Senate Bill No. 52, which provides relative to filing financial disclosure statements after qualifying for office.

Representative Boyd offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 52 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 52 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives

Beaullieu, Bayham, Billings, Boyd, Domangue, Larvadain, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

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

**Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 21 by Senator Hodges**

Senator Hodges presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 21, which memorializes Congress to support the nation of Israel in the wake of the October 7, 2023, terror attacks and Israel's ongoing efforts to root out Hamas.

Bruce Reilly, VOTE, 4930 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in opposition to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 21.

Dr. Hakm Murad, 3416 Louise Street, Harvey, LA 70058, spoke in opposition to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 21.

Lana Murad, 1505 Rosette Drive, Harvey, LA 70058, spoke in opposition to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 21.

Ariel Moyal, 840 Taft Place, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in opposition to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 21.

Fionn Hunter-Green, 1208 Piety Street, New Orleans, LA 70117, spoke in opposition to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 21.

Adam Murad, 1505 Rosette Drive, Harvey, LA 70058, spoke in opposition to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 21.

Anisha Shetty, 1234 Henriette Delille Street, New Orleans, LA 70116, spoke in opposition to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 21.

Lama Hantash, 2235 West George Street, Zachary, LA 70791, spoke in opposition to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 21.

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

Emad Nofal, 3732 Partridge Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in opposition to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 21.

Melissa Flournoy, 650 North Sixth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 21.

Israel Heller, New Orleans Stop Helping Israel's Ports, Jewish Voice for Peace, 2144 Esplanade Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in opposition to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 21.

Representative Charles Owen, Louisiana House District 30, spoke in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 21.

Representative Bayham offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 21 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 21 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support, and 16 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

### **Senate Bill No. 388 by Senator Hodges**

*Representative Thomas in the chair.*

*Chair Beaulieu in the chair.*

Senator Hodges presented Senate Bill No. 388, which creates the crime of unlawful entry or reentry into the state of Louisiana by an alien.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to:

1. Add the definition of "unlawfully present in this state" or "unlawful presence in this state".
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, Bayham, Billings, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Hughey Fischer García, Southern Poverty Law Center Action Fund, 201 St. Charles Avenue, Suite 2000, New Orleans, LA 70170, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 388.

Tatiana Sofia Begault, The Greater American Leadership, 630 Ridgewood Loop, Mandeville, LA 70471, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 388.

Cristina Casas, Louisiana Organization for Refugees and Immigrants, 25316 Plantation Avenue, Denham Springs, LA 70726, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 388.

Tom Costanza, Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2431 South Acadian Thruway, Suite 250, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 388.

Bruce Reilly, VOTE, 4930 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 388.

Representative Wyble offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 388 with amendments, to which Representative Larvadain objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 388 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 3 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Boyd, Larvadain, and Newell voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, and 25 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 388 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

### **Senate Bill No. 261 by Senator Hodges**

Senator Hodges presented Senate Bill No. 261, which provides for additional poll watchers at polling places for elections.

Nancy Landry, no witness card provided, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 261.

Sherri Hadskey, office of the secretary of state, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 261.

Representative Bayham offered amendments to authorize the parish executive committee, rather than the state central committee, of certain recognized political parties to select super watchers for election day and watchers in each parish during early voting. Representative Bayham withdrew the amendment.

Chair Beaulieu announced that Senate Bill No. 261 was deferred.

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

**House Bill No. 116 by Representative McMakin**

Representative McMakin presented House Bill No. 116, which provides relative to the disclosure of personnel records of public employees.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to:

1. Remove the exceptions that allow the home address of an employee of a city or parish school board and members of the Firefighters' Retirement System to be made available to certain persons.
2. Prohibit a custodian from referring to a court decision as the basis to exempt a personnel record from a public record request.
3. Provide that an employee's expectation of privacy shall be construed liberally, rather than providing that an employee has no reasonable expectation of privacy as it relates to his personnel records.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Thomas offered amendments to add opinions contained in evaluation reports as an item in the personnel records of a public employee that shall be confidential.

Representative Thomas 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, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Wyble offered a motion to report House Bill No. 116 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 116 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

**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 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: