

## **House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs**

Minutes of Meeting  
2024 Regular Session  
May 15, 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 10:03 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 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:**

Representative Delisha Boyd  
Representative Wilford Dan Carter, Sr.

#### **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  
Cheryl Domino, sergeant at arms

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION****Senate Bill No. 68 by Senator Pressly**

Senator Pressly presented Senate Bill No. 68, which provides for appointment of an ad hoc judge for election contests and challenges.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to:

1. Limit a requirement to appoint an ad hoc judge to matters involving a local or municipal office and non-statewide proposition elections.
2. Make proposed law effective upon signature of the governor.
3. Make technical changes.

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

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 68 with amendments, to which Representative Newell objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 68 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Larvadain and Newell voted nay.

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

**Senate Bill No. 407 by Senator Pressly**

Senator Pressly presented Senate Bill No. 407, which changes the definition of "expenditure" in the Election Code.

Amanda Maloy, Guidry-Maloy Group, P.O. Box 1701, Prarieville, LA 70769, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 407.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 407 favorably. No vote was taken.

Kathleen M. Allen, Louisiana Board of Ethics, P.O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 407.

Chair Beaulieu announced that action on Senate Bill No. 407 was voluntarily deferred.

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

### **Senate Bill No. 129 by Senator Owen**

Senator Owen presented Senate Bill No. 129, which provides relative to confidentiality of certain personnel records.

Debbie Henton, Police Jury Association of Louisiana, 707 North Seventh Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 129.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 129 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 129 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

### **Senate Bill No. 181 by Senator Morris**

Senator Morris presented Senate Bill No. 181, a constitutional amendment which provides for membership of the State Civil Service Commission.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to enact a three-minute rule for member questions and witness testimony. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to:

1. Limit the service of members of the commission to two full terms;
2. Require the governor to assign initial terms of office to each of the members of the commission in office on January 1, 2025, to provide for staggered terms;

3. Specify that if a member of the commission in office has served more than eight years, the member is not eligible to continue to serve and the governor shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy;
4. Make technical changes; and
5. Rewrite the ballot language accordingly.

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

Chris Deer, State Civil Service, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 181.

Sherri Gregoire, State Civil Service, 1201 North Third, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 181.

Barry Erwin, CABL, P.O. Box 4308, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 181.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on Senate Bill No. 181. Representative Thomas withdrew her motion.

Adrienne Bordelon, 8489 Beechwood Drive, Denham Springs, LA 70706, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 181.

Andrew Monteverde, New Orleans Civil Service Commission, 4431 Loyola Avenue, #A, New Orleans, LA 70115, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 181.

Christina Carroll, New Orleans Civil Service Commission, 1340 Poydras Street, Suite 900, New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 181.

Quintle Slaughter, AFSCME, 3888 South Sherwood Forest Boulevard, J2, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 181.

Chair Beaulieu announced that Senate Bill No. 181 was deferred.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 181 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

The committee stood at ease at 11:07 a.m. The committee reconvened at 11:15 a.m.

### **Senate Bill No. 70 by Mizell**

Senator Mizell presented Senate Bill No. 70, which provides for parish overdose fatality review panels.

Andre Gavoin, Jr., office of Orleans District Attorney, 619 South White Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 70.

Chair Beaulieu announced that Senate Bill No. 70 was deferred.

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

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 70 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

### **Senate Bill No. 488 by Senator Cathey**

Senator Cathey presented Senate Bill No. 488, which prohibits making false statements in elections regarding candidates.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to:

1. Provide a definition for "political committee".
2. Exclude "other persons" from the prohibition against false statements.

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

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 488 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 488 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, 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: 2 in support, 2 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**Senate Bill No. 145 by Senator Barrow**

Senator Barrow presented Senate Bill No. 145, which provides relative to the state child ombudsman.

Kathleen Stewart Richey, LLA Child Ombudsman, 1600 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 145.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 145 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 145 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, 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: 6 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**Senate Bill No. 153 by Senator Barrow**

Senator Barrow presented Senate Bill No. 153, which authorizes the use of campaign funds for certain childcare expenses.

Morgan Lamandre, 3014 Woodgrove Way, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 153.

Kathleen M. Allen, Louisiana Board of Ethics, P.O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 153.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 153 favorably. Representative Marcelle withdrew her motion.

Chair Beaulieu announced that Senate Bill No. 153 was deferred.

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

**IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

## **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Beaulieu announced that action on Senate Bill No. 146, which provides relative to the authority of the legislative auditor, was deferred.

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Thomas offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Domangue, Farnum, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: