

House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
May 21, 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 9:32 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 Mark Wright
Representative John E. Wyble

MEMBERS ABSENT:

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

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Concurrent Resolution No. 81 by Representative Echols**

Representative Echols presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 81, which establishes a task force to study ways to increase the number of retirement communities in Louisiana.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to provide that the member from the retirement community appointed by the chair of the House Committee on Commerce shall serve as chair of the task force. 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, Boyd, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 81 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 81 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Boyd, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 70 by Senator Mizell

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

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to:

1. Provide for the appointment of certain members of a local panel by the chief executive of the parish governing authority.
2. Provide that the director, rather than a representative, of a local health department or his designee may serve on a local panel.
3. Clarify that district and regional members are from the district or region in which a local panel is located.
4. Provide that meetings of a panel are not subject to the Open Meetings Law.
5. Provide for timing of reports to be filed pursuant to proposed law.

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

Representative Newell offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 70 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 70 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Boyd, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 70 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.

Senate Bill No. 261 was amended at the May 14, 2024, meeting of the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to:

1. Delete a provision authorizing the state central committee of certain recognized political parties to have one watcher at every precinct on election day where a candidate affiliated with the party is on the ballot.
2. 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.
3. Authorize the chairman of the state central committee of certain recognized political parties to designate watchers and super watchers for any parish without a parish executive committee.

Representative Wyble offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 261 with amendments, to which Representative Newell objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 261 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 3 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Boyd, Larvadain, and Newell voted nay.

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

Senate Bill No. 462 by Senator Hodges

Senator Hodges presented Senate Bill No. 462, which provides for gubernatorial appointments.

Representative Wright offered amendments to:

1. Remove the provision that officers of any Louisiana public retirement or pension system, plan, or fund are not subject to serving at the pleasure of the governor.
2. Remove the provision that the terms of the members of all boards and commissions, except for the higher education boards and boards and commissions provided for in the constitution, shall be concurrent with the governor, notwithstanding any law to the contrary.
3. Remove the provision exempting post-secondary education boards and providing that the governor is not authorized to appoint any officer of any board or commission created in Louisiana Constitution Article VIII (Education).
4. Require the governor to submit the name of the person being selected as chairman or presiding member to the senate for confirmation and provide that such person, if confirmed, serves in the position at the pleasure of the governor.
5. Authorize a board or commission to select its chairman or presiding member in the manner otherwise provided by law or in its rules, regulations, or bylaws until the governor appoints a chairman.
6. Exempt boards and commissions that as of May 1, 2024, are chaired by a statewide elected official from the provisions allowing the governor to appoint the chair or presiding member.

Representative Wright offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Newell objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 3 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Boyd, Larvadain, and Newell voted nay.

Ryan Roberts, P.O. Box 94004, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, as the designee of Governor Jeff Landry, spoke in support of Senate Bill 462.

Representative Wright in the chair.

Chair Beaulieu in the chair.

Representative Farnum offered a motion to adopt 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, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Ellen Palmintier, 2121 Marengo Street, New Orleans, LA 70115, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 462.

Barry Erwin, Council for A Better Louisiana, P.O. Box 4308, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 462.

Steven Procopio, PAR, 450 Laurel Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 462.

Christopher Walters, P.O. Box 94004, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, deputy executive counsel and designee of Governor Jeff Landry, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 462.

Representative Farnum offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 462 with amendments, to which Representative Newell objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 462 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 3 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Larvadain, Marcelle, 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.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 462 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

Senate Bill No. 97 by Senator Duplessis

Senator Duplessis presented Senate Bill No. 97, which regulates the use of deep fakes and artificial intelligence technology in political advertising.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 97 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 97 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Boyd, 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. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 132 by Representative Bayham

Representative Bayham presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 132, which requests the Capitol Security Council to study the feasibility of updating the screening devices and related procedures at the state capitol.

Representative Bayham offered amendments to:

1. Change the request from a study of the feasibility of updating screening devices and related procedures to a request to update them.
2. Change from requesting a report of findings by February 1, 2025, to requesting a report of progress by April 1, 2025.

Representative Bayham 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, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 132 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 132 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Boyd, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS**Adoption of minutes for the 2023-2024 Interim meeting of the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs held on November 29, 2023**

Representative Lyons offered a motion to adopt. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Boyd, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Lyons offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Boyd, Domangue, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: