

OFFICIAL JOURNAL
OF THE
HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE
STATE OF LOUISIANA

FIRST DAY'S PROCEEDINGS

**Fifty-first Extraordinary Session of the Legislature
Under the Adoption of the
Constitution of 1974**

House of Representatives
State Capitol
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Monday, January 15, 2024

The House of Representatives was called to order at 4:01 P.M.,
by the Honorable Phillip DeVillier, Speaker of the House of
Representatives.

Morning Hour

ROLL CALL

The roll being called, the following members answered to their
names:

PRESENT

Mr. Speaker	Edmonston	McMahan
Adams	Egan	McMakin
Amedee	Emerson	Melerine
Bacala	Farnum	Mena
Bagley	Firment	Miller
Bamburg	Fisher	Moore
Bayham	Fontenot	Muscarello
Beaullieu	Freeman	Myers
Berault	Freiberg	Newell
Billings	Gadberry	Orgeron
Bourriaque	Galle	Owen
Boyd	Geymann	Phelps
Boyer	Glorioso	Riser
Brass	Green	Romero
Braud	Hebert	Schamerhorn
Brown	Henry	Schlegel
Bryant	Hilferty	Selders
Butler	Horton	St. Blanc
Carlson	Hughes	Stagni
Carpenter	Illg	Tarver
Carrier	Jackson	Taylor
Carter, R.	Johnson, M.	Thomas
Carter, W.	Johnson, T.	Thompson
Carver	Jordan	Turner
Chassion	Kerner	Ventrella
Chenevert	Knox	Villio
Coates	LaFleur	Walters
Cox	Landry, J.	Wilder
Crews	Landry, M.	Wiley
Davis	Larvadain	Willard
Deshotel	Lyons	Wright

Dewitt	Mack	Wyble
Dickerson	Marcelle	Young
Domangue	McCormick	Zeringue
Echols	McFarland	
Total - 104		

The Speaker announced that there were 104 members present
and a quorum.

Prayer

Prayer was offered by Rep. Amedee.

Pledge of Allegiance

Rep. Knox led the House in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to
the Flag of the United States of America.

**Petitions, Memorials, and
Communications**

The following petitions, memorials, and communications were
received and read:

**STATE OF LOUISIANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Baton Rouge, Louisiana**

PROCLAMATION NUMBER 01 JML 2024

By virtue of the authority vested in me by Louisiana
Constitution Article III, Section 2(B), I, Jeff Landry, Governor of the
State of Louisiana, HEREBY CALL AND CONVENE THE
LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA INTO EXTRAORDINARY
SESSION to convene at the State Capital, in the city of Baton Rouge,
Louisiana, during eight calendar days, beginning at 4:00 o'clock p.m.
on the 15th day of January, 2024, and ending no later than 6:00 o'
clock p.m. on the 23rd day of January 2024. The power to legislate
at this session shall be limited, under penalty of nullity, to the
consideration of the following enumerated objects.

- ITEM 1:** To legislate relative to the redistricting of the
Congressional districts of Louisiana;
- ITEM 2:** To legislate relative to amendments to the election
code needed for implementation of the redistricting of
the Congressional districts of Louisiana;
- ITEM 3:** To legislate relative to the redistricting and elections
of the Supreme Court;
- ITEM 4:** To legislate relative to amendments to the
Constitution relative to the Supreme Court:
- a) composition;
 - b) number of justices;
 - c) number of districts;
 - d) method of electing justices to the Supreme
Court; and
 - e) method of selecting the chief justice;
- ITEM 5:** To legislate relative to amendments to the election
code needed for implementation of the redistricting of
the Supreme Court;
- ITEM 6:** To legislate to provide funding, including the use of
excess state general fund dollars, for the
implementation of changes made to the Supreme
Court;
- ITEM 7:** To legislate relative to the creation of a party primary
system for elections;
- ITEM 8:** To legislate relative to campaign finance laws;

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- ITEM 9:** To legislate relative to campaign qualifying fees for Presidential and Congressional elections;
- ITEM 10:** To legislate relative to amendments to the election code needed for the implementation of elections;
- ITEM 11:** To legislate to provide funding, including the use of excess state general fund dollars, for the implementation of the party primary system for elections and corresponding changes to the election laws;
- ITEM 12:** To legislate relative to amendments to the Constitution relative to the implementation of elections;
- ITEM 13:** To legislate relative to calling a special statewide election for the purposes of allowing all voters, registered and qualified, to vote on the Constitutional amendments; and
- ITEM 14:** To legislate to provide funding, including the use of excess state general fund dollars, for purposes of calling and holding a special election on the Constitutional amendments.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 8th day of January, 2024.

JEFF LANDRY
Governor of Louisiana

ATTEST BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE

NANCY LANDRY
Secretary of State

Motion

On motion of Rep. Michael Johnson, the Speaker appointed the following special committee to notify the Governor that the House is convened and prepared to transact business: Reps. Bayham, Emerson, LaFleur, Moore and Owen.

Motion

On motion of Rep. Michael Johnson, the Speaker appointed the following special committee to notify the Senate that the House is convened and prepared to transact business: Reps. Billings, Echols, Larvadain, Ventrella and Willard.

Reports of Special Committees

The special committee appointed to notify the Governor that the House had convened and was prepared to transact business reported that it had performed that duty.

The special committee appointed to notify the Senate that the House had convened and was prepared to transact business reported that it had performed that duty.

The Speaker thanked and discharged the committees.

Committee from the Senate

A special committee from the Senate notified the House that the Senate has convened and is prepared to transact business.

The Speaker thanked and dismissed the committee.

Introduction of Resolutions, House and House Concurrent

The following members introduced the following entitled House and House Concurrent Resolutions, which were read the first time by their titles and placed upon the calendar for their second reading:

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1—

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILLARD

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To create a task force to study reforms to Louisiana's process of redistricting and methods of elections to promote efficiency and ensure eligible Louisiana voters can effectively participate in the political process and to submit a written report of the task force findings and recommendations to the Legislature of Louisiana no later than February 14, 2025.

Read by title.

On motion of Rep. Michael Johnson, and under a suspension of the rules, the above resolution was referred to the Committee on House and Governmental Affairs, under the rules.

Introduction of House Bills and Joint Resolutions

The following named members introduced the following entitled House Bills and Joint Resolutions, which were read the first time by their titles and placed upon the calendar for their second reading and, under a suspension of the rules, were referred to committee as follows:

HOUSE BILL NO. 1—

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILFORD CARTER

A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing to amend Article V, Sections 3 and 4 of the Constitution of Louisiana, to change the composition of the supreme court; to change the districts of the supreme court; to provide for submission of the proposed amendment to the electors; and to provide for related matters.

Read by title.

Under the rules, the above bill was referred to the Committee on House and Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2—

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILFORD CARTER

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 18:1276.1 and to repeal R.S. 18:1276, relative to congressional districts; to provide for the redistricting of Louisiana's congressional districts; to provide with respect to positions and offices, other than congressional, which are based upon congressional districts; to provide for effectiveness; and to provide for related matters.

Read by title.

Under the rules, the above bill was referred to the Committee on House and Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE BILL NO. 3—

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILFORD CARTER

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 13:101.2 and 101.3 and to repeal R.S. 13:101, 101.1, and 312.4, relative to the supreme court; to provide relative to redistricting supreme court justice districts into nine districts; to

provide for the filling of vacancies; to eliminate statutory provisions for a temporary additional judgeship for the Court of Appeal for the Fourth Circuit and such judge's appointment to the supreme court; and to provide for related matters.

Read by title.

Under the rules, the above bill was referred to the Committee on House and Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE BILL NO. 4—
BY REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 18:1505.4(A)(2)(a)(ii) and (iii), relative to campaign finance; to provide relative to the assessment of penalties; and to provide for related matters.

Read by title.

Under the rules, the above bill was referred to the Committee on House and Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE BILL NO. 5—
BY REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE
AN ACT

To enact R.S. 18:1276.1 and to repeal R.S. 18:1276, relative to congressional districts; to provide for the redistricting of Louisiana's congressional districts; to provide with respect to positions and offices, other than congressional, which are based upon congressional districts; to provide for effectiveness; and to provide for related matters.

Read by title.

Under the rules, the above bill was referred to the Committee on House and Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE BILL NO. 6—
BY REPRESENTATIVE MANDIE LANDRY
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 18:551(D) and to enact R.S. 18:401.5 and 464(C)(5) and (D)(3), relative to elections; to provide for the nature of judicial elections; to exempt candidates for judicial office from additional fees imposed by political party committees at qualifying; to provide relative to the designation of political party affiliation for candidates for judicial office on ballots; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Read by title.

Under the rules, the above bill was referred to the Committee on House and Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE BILL NO. 7—
BY REPRESENTATIVE MELERINE
AN ACT

To enact R.S. 13:101.2 and 101.3 and to repeal R.S. 13:101, 101.1, and 312.4, relative to the supreme court; to provide relative to redistricting supreme court justice districts into nine districts; to provide for the filling of vacancies; to eliminate statutory provisions for a temporary additional judgeship for the Court of Appeal for the Fourth Circuit and such judge's appointment to the supreme court; and to provide for related matters.

Read by title.

Under the rules, the above bill was referred to the Committee on House and Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE BILL NO. 8—
BY REPRESENTATIVES MIKE JOHNSON, BEAULLIEU, AND WRIGHT
AN ACT

To enact R.S. 13:101.2 and 101.3 and to repeal R.S. 13:101, 101.1, and 312.4, relative to the supreme court; to provide relative to redistricting supreme court justice districts; to provide for the filling of vacancies; to eliminate statutory provisions for a temporary additional judgeship for the Court of Appeal for the Fourth Circuit and such judge's appointment to the supreme court; and to provide for related matters.

Read by title.

Under the rules, the above bill was referred to the Committee on House and Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE BILL NO. 9—
BY REPRESENTATIVE MANDIE LANDRY
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 18:1301, 1302(introductory paragraph), (2), and (6), 1303(A) and (B), 1305, 1306(A)(1) and (4), (B)(1) and (2), (C), (D), and (E)(1)(introductory paragraph), 1307(A) and (D) through (H), 1307.1, 1307.2, 1308(A)(1)(a), (c)(i), and (d)(i) and (2)(a) and (c) and (B)(2)(introductory paragraph), (a), and (b), 1308.1 (Section heading), 1308.2, 1309(F)(3) and (H), 1310(A), (B)(2) and (3), and (C)(1), 1311(A)(1) and (2), (B), (C), (D)(1), (2), (4)(a), and (5)(a) and (c), and (E), and 1319 and to repeal R.S. 18:1303(C) through (L) and 1307(A)(7), (8), and (9) and (I), relative to voting by mail; to provide for the distribution of vote by mail ballots; to provide for application for vote by mail ballot; and to provide for related matters.

Read by title.

Under the rules, the above bill was referred to the Committee on House and Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE BILL NO. 10—
BY REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 18:1495.7(A)(1), relative to financial disclosure statements; to provide for the filing of a financial disclosure statement after qualifying for office; and to provide for related matters.

Read by title.

Under the rules, the above bill was referred to the Committee on House and Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE BILL NO. 11—
BY REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 18:1505.2(H)(1)(a)(introductory paragraph) and (c) and (2)(a)(introductory paragraph), (b)(introductory paragraph), (e), and (f), relative to campaign contribution limits; to provide for the application of campaign contribution limits per calendar year; and to provide for related matters.

Read by title.

Under the rules, the above bill was referred to the Committee on House and Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE BILL NO. 12—
BY REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 18:401(B) and to enact R.S. 18:401(C) and (D), relative to party primary elections; to provide for the nature of primary elections; to mandate the legislature to

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provide for party primary elections for certain offices; and to provide for related matters.

Read by title.

Under the rules, the above bill was referred to the Committee on House and Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE BILL NO. 13—

BY REPRESENTATIVE MELERINE

A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing to amend Article V, Section 3 of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative to the supreme court; to provide for the number of justices of the supreme court; to provide for the number of justices required to concur in order to render judgment; to provide for submission of the proposed amendment to the electors; and to provide for related matters.

Read by title.

Under the rules, the above bill was referred to the Committee on House and Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE BILL NO. 14—

BY REPRESENTATIVE ECHOLS

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 18:1276.1 and to repeal R.S. 18:1276, relative to congressional districts; to provide for the redistricting of Louisiana's congressional districts; to provide with respect to positions and offices, other than congressional, which are based upon congressional districts; to provide for effectiveness; and to provide for related matters.

Read by title.

Under the rules, the above bill was referred to the Committee on House and Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE BILL NO. 15—

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILFORD CARTER

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 13:101.2 and 101.3 and to repeal R.S. 13:101, 101.1, and 312.4, relative to the supreme court; to provide relative to redistricting supreme court justice districts; to provide for the filling of vacancies; to eliminate statutory provisions for a temporary additional judgeship for the Court of Appeal for the Fourth Circuit and such judge's appointment to the supreme court; and to provide for related matters.

Read by title.

Under the rules, the above bill was referred to the Committee on House and Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE BILL NO. 16—

BY REPRESENTATIVE MCFARLAND

AN ACT

To appropriate funds and to make certain reductions from certain sources to be allocated to the designated agencies and purposes in specific amounts for the making of supplemental appropriations and reductions for said agencies and purposes for Fiscal Year 2023-2024; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Read by title.

Under the rules, the above bill was referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

Recess

On motion of Rep. Michael Johnson, the Speaker declared the House at recess upon the call of the House.

Suspension of the Rules

On motion of Rep. Michael Johnson, the rules were suspended in order to take up and consider Petitions, Memorials, and Communications at this time.

Petitions, Memorials, and Communications

The following petitions, memorials, and communications were received and read:

Message from the Senate

ASKING CONCURRENCE IN SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS

January 15, 2024

To the Honorable Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives:

I am directed to inform your honorable body that the Senate has adopted and asks your concurrence in the following Senate Concurrent Resolutions:

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1

Respectfully submitted,

YOLANDA J. DIXON
Secretary of the Senate

House and House Concurrent Resolutions Lying Over

The following House and House Concurrent Resolutions lying over were taken up and acted upon as follows:

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1—

BY SENATOR BARROW

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To invite the Honorable Jeff Landry, Governor of Louisiana, to address a joint session of the legislature.

Read by title.

On motion of Rep. Marcelle, and under a suspension of the rules, the resolution was concurred in.

Joint Session of the Legislature

The joint session of the legislature was called to order at 4:37 P.M. by the Honorable Cameron Henry, President of the Senate.

On motion of Sen. Barrow, the calling of the roll on the part of the Senate was dispensed with.

On motion of Rep. Michael Johnson, the calling of the roll on the part of the House was dispensed with.

The President of the Senate appointed the following special committee to escort the Honorable Jeff Landry, Governor of the State of Louisiana, to the joint session.

On the part of the Senate: Senators Harris, Jenkins, Owen, Pressly and Talbot.

On the part of the House: Representatives Bayham, Emerson, LaFleur, Moore and Owen.

Prayer

Prayer was offered by Rep. Hughes.

Pledge of Allegiance

Sen. Henry led the joint session in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

The President of the Senate introduced the Honorable Jeff Landry, who addressed the joint session of the legislature.

On motion of Sen. Barrow, the Senate retired to its own chamber.

House Business Resumed

Suspension of the Rules

On motion of Rep. Emerson, the rules were suspended in order to take up and consider Introduction of House Bills and Joint Resolutions at this time.

Introduction of House Bills and Joint Resolutions

The following named members introduced the following entitled House Bills and Joint Resolutions, which were read the first time by their titles and placed upon the calendar for their second reading and, under a suspension of the rules, were referred to committee as follows:

HOUSE BILL NO. 17—

BY REPRESENTATIVES EMERSON, AMEDEE, AND BEAULLIEU
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 18:2(12), 401(B), 423(E), 441(C)(1), 467(introductory paragraph), 481, 511(A) and (B), 521(A), 1254(A), 1272(A), 1278(B), 1280.22(A), 1401(A), 1461(A)(1) and to enact R.S. 18:2(12) and (13), 401(C), Part I-A of Chapter 5 of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 18:410.1 through 410.10, and Part I-B of Chapter 5 of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 18:411.1 through 411.3, relative to elections; to provide for a party primary system of elections for certain offices, including provisions to provide for nomination of candidates for general elections by party primary elections; to provide for qualification of candidates unaffiliated with a recognized political party in the general election; to provide for voting by voters registered as affiliated with the party in the party primary election and for voting by voters unaffiliated with a recognized political party if allowed by the party central committee; to provide for election dates; to provide relative to certain qualifying fees; to provide relative to the compensation of boards of elections supervisors; and to provide for related matters.

Read by title.

Under the rules, the above bill was referred to the Committee on House and Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE BILL NO. 18—

BY REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT

A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing to amend Article V, Section 3 of the Constitution of Louisiana and to repeal Article V, Section 4 of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative to supreme court elections; to provide for statewide election of supreme court justices; to provide for the elimination of supreme court districts; to provide for submission of the proposed amendment to the electors; and to provide for related matters.

Read by title.

Under the rules, the above bill was referred to the Committee on House and Governmental Affairs.

Suspension of the Rules

On motion of Rep. McFarland, the rules were suspended to permit the Committee on Appropriations to meet on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at 8:30 a.m., without giving the notice required by House Rule 14.24(A) and consider the following legislative instruments that were not listed on the weekly committee schedule as required by House Rule 14.23:

House Bill No. 16

Suspension of the Rules

On motion of Rep. Beaulieu, the rules were suspended to permit the Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to meet on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., without giving the notice required by House Rule 14.24(A) and consider the following legislative instruments that were not listed on the weekly committee schedule as required by House Rule 14.23:

House Bill Nos. 6, 8, 9, and 17

Leave of Absence

Rep. LaCombe - 5 days

Adjournment

On motion of Rep. Thompson, at 5:32 P.M., the House agreed to adjourn until Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at 3:00 P.M.

The Speaker of the House declared the House adjourned until 3:00 P.M., Tuesday, January 16, 2024.

MICHELLE D. FONTENOT
Clerk of the House

ANGELA S. SMITH
Assistant Clerk of the House / Journal Clerk

