

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

THIRD 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

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

The House of Representatives was called to order at 12:15 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
Beaulieu	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
Echols
Total - 104

McCormick
McFarland

Zeringue

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

Prayer

Prayer was offered by Rep. Bourriaque.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Reading of the Journal

On motion of Rep. Bacala, the reading of the Journal was dispensed with.

On motion of Rep. Bayham, and under a suspension of the rules, the Journal of January 16, 2024, was corrected to reflect him as being present.

On motion of Rep. Bacala, the Journal of January 16, 2024, was adopted.

Reports of Committees

The following reports of committees were received and read:

Report of the Committee on
House and Governmental Affairs

January 17, 2024

To the Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives:

I am directed by your Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to submit the following report:

House Bill No. 14, by Echols
Reported favorably. (11-6)

GERALD "BEAU" BEAULLIEU, IV
Chairman

Suspension of the Rules

On motion of Rep. Beaulieu, the rules were suspended in order to take up House Bills contained in the committee report at this time.

**House Bills and Joint Resolutions on
Second Reading Reported by Committee**

The following House Bills and Joint Resolutions on second reading reported by committee were taken up and acted upon as follows:

**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.

Reported favorably by the Committee on House and Governmental Affairs.

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Suspension of the Rules

On motion of Rep. McFarland, the rules were suspended to permit House Bill No. 14 to pass to its third reading without being recommitted to the House Committee on Appropriations, which motion was agreed to.

On motion of Rep. Beaulieu, the bill was ordered engrossed and passed to its third reading.

House Bills and Joint Resolutions on Third Reading and Final Passage

The following House Bills and Joint Resolutions on third reading and final passage were taken up and acted upon as follows:

HOUSE BILL NO. 8—

BY REPRESENTATIVES MIKE JOHNSON, BEAULLIEU, BILLINGS, CARLSON, CARVER, GADBERRY, LYONS, MARCELLE, NEWELL, SCHAMERHORN, WRIGHT, AND WYBLE

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.

Motion

On motion of Rep. Michael Johnson, the bill was returned to the calendar.

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.

Rep. McFarland sent up floor amendments which were read as follows:

HOUSE FLOOR AMENDMENTS

Amendments proposed by Representative McFarland to Engrossed House Bill No. 16 by Representative McFarland

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, at the end of line 21, delete "\$8,000,000" and insert "\$5,200,000"

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, between lines 21 and 22, insert the following:

"Payable out of the State General Fund (Direct) to the Elections Program for expenses related to Congressional redistricting mailings

\$1,400,000

Payable out of the State General Fund (Direct) to the Elections Program for expenses related to Louisiana Supreme Court redistricting mailings

\$1,400,000"

On motion of Rep. McFarland, the amendments were adopted.

Rep. McFarland moved the final passage of the bill, as amended.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called with the following result:

YEAS

Mr. Speaker	Echols	McCormick
Adams	Edmonston	McFarland
Amedee	Egan	McMahan
Bacala	Emerson	McMakin
Bagley	Farnum	Melerine
Bamburg	Firment	Mena
Bayham	Fisher	Miller
Beaulieu	Fontenot	Moore
Berault	Freeman	Muscarello
Billings	Freiberg	Myers
Bourriaque	Gadberrry	Newell
Boyd	Galle	Orgeron
Boyer	Geymann	Owen
Brass	Glorioso	Phelps
Braud	Green	Romero
Brown	Hebert	Schamerhorn
Bryant	Henry	Selders
Butler	Horton	St. Blanc
Carlson	Hughes	Tarver
Carpenter	Jackson	Taylor
Carrier	Johnson, M.	Thomas
Carter, R.	Johnson, T.	Thompson
Carver	Jordan	Turner
Chassion	Kerner	Ventrella
Chenevert	Knox	Villio
Coates	LaFleur	Walters
Cox	Landry, J.	Wilder
Crews	Landry, M.	Wiley
Deshotel	Larvadain	Willard
Dewitt	Lyons	Wright
Dickerson	Mack	Wyble
Domangue	Marcelle	Young
Total - 96		

NAYS

Carter, W.	Illg	Stagni
Davis	Riser	Zeringue
Hilferty	Schlegel	
Total - 8		

ABSENT

LaCombe
Total - 1

The Chair declared the above bill was finally passed.

The title of the above bill was read and adopted.

Rep. McFarland moved to reconsider the vote by which the above bill was finally passed, and, on his own motion, the motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HOUSE BILL NO. 8—

BY REPRESENTATIVES MIKE JOHNSON, BEAULLIEU, BILLINGS, CARLSON, CARVER, GADBERRY, LYONS, MARCELLE, NEWELL, SCHAMERHORN, WRIGHT, AND WYBLE

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.

Called from the calendar.

Read by title.

Rep. Michael Johnson moved the final passage of the bill.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called with the following result:

YEAS

Mr. Speaker	Edmonston	McFarland
Adams	Egan	McMahen
Amedee	Emerson	McMakin
Bacala	Farnum	Melerine
Bayham	Firment	Mena
Beaullieu	Fisher	Miller
Berault	Fontenot	Moore
Billings	Freeman	Muscarello
Bourriaque	Freiberg	Myers
Boyd	Gadberry	Newell
Boyer	Galle	Orgeron
Brass	Geymann	Owen
Braud	Glorioso	Phelps
Brown	Green	Riser
Bryant	Hebert	Romero
Butler	Henry	Schamerhorn
Carlson	Horton	Selders
Carpenter	Hughes	St. Blanc
Carrier	Jackson	Tarver
Carter, R.	Johnson, M.	Taylor
Carter, W.	Johnson, T.	Thompson
Carver	Jordan	Turner
Chassion	Kerner	Ventrella
Chenevert	Knox	Walters
Coates	LaFleur	Wilder
Cox	Landry, J.	Wiley
Crews	Landry, M.	Willard
Deshotel	Larvadain	Wright
Dewitt	Lyons	Wyble
Dickerson	Mack	Young
Domangue	Marcelle	
Echols	McCormick	
Total - 94		

NAYS

Bagley	Illg	Villio
Bamburg	Schlegel	Zeringue
Davis	Stagni	
Hilferty	Thomas	
Total - 10		

ABSENT

LaCombe
Total - 1

The Chair declared the above bill, having received a two-thirds vote of the elected members, was finally passed.

The title of the above bill was read and adopted.

Rep. Michael Johnson moved to reconsider the vote by which the above bill was finally passed, and, on his own motion, the motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HOUSE BILL NO. 17—

BY REPRESENTATIVES EMERSON, AMEDEE, BEAULLIEU, GALLE, GLORIOSO, SCHAMERHORN, AND WRIGHT
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), (13), and (14), 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.

Rep. Horton, on behalf of the Legislative Bureau, sent up floor amendments which were read as follows:

HOUSE FLOOR AMENDMENTS

Amendments proposed by Representative Horton on behalf of the Legislative Bureau to Engrossed House Bill No. 17 by Representative Emerson

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 2, line 26, following "Part" and before "of Chapter" change "I-A" to "I-A"

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 4, line 19, following "affiliated with" and before "same" insert "the"

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 5, line 19, following "Subsection A" and before "may" insert "of this Section"

AMENDMENT NO. 4

On page 7, line 1, following "calling" and before "special" insert "a" and following "fill" and before "newly" insert "a"

AMENDMENT NO. 5

On page 7, line 2, following "Section" and before "shall" delete "2"

AMENDMENT NO. 6

On page 8, line 8, following "Part" and before "and I-B" change "I-A" to "I-A"

On motion of Rep. Horton, the amendments were adopted.

Rep. Emerson sent up floor amendments which were read as follows:

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HOUSE FLOOR AMENDMENTS

Amendments proposed by Representative Emerson to Engrossed House Bill No. 17 by Representative Emerson

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 2, line 11, after "election for" delete the remainder of the line and delete line 12 and insert "a party primary office or an office other than a party primary office."

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, line 13, before "mean the" delete "shall"

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 3, line 15, after "provided in" change "the" to "this"

AMENDMENT NO. 4

On page 5, at the beginning of line 20, change "only be nominated" to "be nominated only"

AMENDMENT NO. 5

On page 6, line 5, after "candidates for" delete the remainder of the line and delete line 6 and insert "a party primary office, only one candidate"

AMENDMENT NO. 6

On page 6, line 18, after "congress" and before "in" insert and officers elected at the same time as members of congress

AMENDMENT NO. 7

On page 6, line 23, after "congress" delete the remainder of the line and delete line 24, and insert "shall be held on the"

AMENDMENT NO. 8

On page 6, line 26, after "general election for" delete the remainder of the line and insert "offices other than party primary offices that are to be"

On motion of Rep. Emerson, the amendments were adopted.

Rep. Freeman sent up floor amendments which were read as follows:

HOUSE FLOOR AMENDMENTS

Amendments proposed by Representative Freeman to Engrossed House Bill No. 17 by Representative Emerson

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 3, line 12, after "R.S." change "18:441(C)." to "18:441."

Rep. Freeman moved the adoption of the amendments.

Rep. Emerson objected.

By a vote of 35 yeas and 68 nays, the amendments were rejected.

Rep. Freeman sent up floor amendments which were read as follows:

HOUSE FLOOR AMENDMENTS

Amendments proposed by Representative Freeman to Engrossed House Bill No. 17 by Representative Emerson

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 3, line 24, between "with any" and "political party" insert "recognized"

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 4, between lines 3 and 4, insert the following:

"C.(1) A party that does not allow voters who are not affiliated with a recognized political party to vote in its party primary shall pay a fee to the state of Louisiana, which fee is hereby imposed.

(2) The amount of the fee shall be calculated as follows: the total cost of the election shall be multiplied by a percentage that equals the percentage of voters eligible to vote in the party primary who were excluded from the party primary by party bylaws. The product of the total cost of the election multiplied by the percentage of voters who were excluded from participation is the amount of the fee.

(3) It is hereby declared a ministerial duty of the secretary of state to perform the following functions on behalf of the state of Louisiana to facilitate collecting the fee imposed by Paragraph (1) of this Subsection: to calculate the amount of the fee owed by each party in each election, to notify the party of the amount owed, to collect the fee on behalf of the state of Louisiana, and to provide for the deposit of such funds into the treasury for credit to the state general fund."

Rep. Freeman moved the adoption of the amendments.

Rep. Emerson objected.

By a vote of 30 yeas and 73 nays, the amendments were rejected.

Rep. Newell sent up floor amendments which were read as follows:

HOUSE FLOOR AMENDMENTS

Amendments proposed by Representative Newell to Engrossed House Bill No. 17 by Representative Emerson

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 13, line 12, after "commission," and before "the office" insert "and"

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 13, line 13, after "Senate" delete the comma "," and delete the remainder of the line and delete line 14 and insert a period "."

Rep. Newell moved the adoption of the amendments.

Rep. Emerson objected.

By a vote of 37 yeas and 67 nays, the amendments were rejected.

Rep. Wilford Carter sent up floor amendments which were read as follows:

HOUSE FLOOR AMENDMENTS

Amendments proposed by Representative Wilford Carter to Engrossed House Bill No. 17 by Representative Emerson

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, line 2, after "reenact" delete "R.S. 18:2(12), 401(B)," and insert "R.S. 18:401(B),"

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, line 6, change "410.10," to "410.11,"

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 1, line 8, after "elections for" delete the remainder of the line and insert "congressional offices,"

AMENDMENT NO. 4

On page 2, at the beginning of line 3, change "410.10," to "410.11,"

AMENDMENT NO. 5

On page 6, between lines 14 and 15, insert the following:

"§410.11. Majority vote required

A candidate who receives a majority of the votes cast for a party primary office in a general election is elected. If no candidate receives a majority of votes, the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes are qualified as candidates in a subsequent election on the third Saturday after the date on which the results in the general election were promulgated."

AMENDMENT NO. 6

On page 13, delete lines 4 through 21 in their entirety and insert the following:

"Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval."

Rep. Wilford Carter moved the adoption of the amendments.

Rep. Emerson objected.

By a vote of 30 yeas and 73 nays, the amendments were rejected.

Rep. Jordan sent up floor amendments which were read as follows:

HOUSE FLOOR AMENDMENTS

Amendments proposed by Representative Jordan to Engrossed House Bill No. 17 by Representative Emerson

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, at the beginning of line 15, delete "qualifying"

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 4, between lines 16 and 17 insert the following:

"C. The Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure shall impose a fee of ten dollars on each candidate for a party primary office that is required to file reports pursuant to R.S. 18:1495.4 for the purpose of implementing necessary changes to the Computerized Data Management System and filing materials related to party primary elections."

Rep. Jordan moved the adoption of the amendments.

Rep. Emerson objected.

By a vote of 32 yeas and 72 nays, the amendments were rejected.

Rep. Jackson sent up floor amendments which were read as follows:

HOUSE FLOOR AMENDMENTS

Amendments proposed by Representative Jackson to Engrossed House Bill No. 17 by Representative Emerson

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, line 2, delete "R.S. 18:2(12), 401(B)," and insert "R.S. 18:401(B),"

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, line 6, after "through" delete the remainder of the line and delete line 7, and insert "410.11, relative"

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 2, delete lines 3 and 4, and insert "410.11, are hereby enacted to read as follows:"

AMENDMENT NO. 4

On page 6, delete lines 15 through 28, and on page 7, delete lines 1 through 10 and insert the following:

"§410.11. Majority vote required

A candidate who receives a majority of the votes cast for party primary office in a general election is elected. If no candidate receives a majority of votes, the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes are qualified as candidates in a subsequent election on the third Saturday after the date on which the results in the general election were promulgated."

AMENDMENT NO. 5

On page 13, delete lines 4 through 21 and insert the following:

"Section 2. This Act shall become effective January 1, 2025."

Rep. Jackson moved the adoption of the amendments.

Rep. Emerson objected.

By a vote of 31 yeas and 71 nays, the amendments were rejected.

Rep. Mandie Landry sent up floor amendments which were read as follows:

HOUSE FLOOR AMENDMENTS

Amendments proposed by Representative Mandie Landry to Engrossed House Bill No. 17 by Representative Emerson

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AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 13, line 13, after "Senate," and before "and the offices" insert "the offices of sheriff, assessor, clerk of court, coroner, and district attorney."

Rep. Mandie Landry moved the adoption of the amendments.

Rep. Emerson objected.

By a vote of 33 yeas and 69 nays, the amendments were rejected.

Rep. Emerson moved the final passage of the bill, as amended.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called with the following result:

YEAS

Mr. Speaker	Dickerson	McMahan
Amedee	Domangue	McMakin
Bacala	Echols	Melerine
Bamburg	Edmonston	Muscarello
Bayham	Egan	Myers
Beaullieu	Emerson	Orgeron
Berault	Farnum	Owen
Billings	Firment	Romero
Bourriaque	Fontenot	Schamernhorn
Boyer	Gadberry	St. Blanc
Braud	Galle	Tarver
Butler	Geymann	Thomas
Carlson	Glorioso	Thompson
Carrier	Hebert	Turner
Carter, R.	Henry	Ventrella
Carver	Horton	Villio
Chenevert	Johnson, M.	Wilder
Coates	Kerner	Wiley
Cox	Landry, J.	Wright
Crews	Mack	Wyble
Deshotel	McCormick	
Dewitt	McFarland	
Total - 64		

NAYS

Adams	Hilferty	Moore
Bagley	Hughes	Newell
Boyd	Illg	Phelps
Brass	Jackson	Riser
Brown	Johnson, T.	Schlegel
Bryant	Jordan	Selders
Carpenter	Knox	Stagni
Carter, W.	LaFleur	Taylor
Chassion	Landry, M.	Walters
Davis	Larvadain	Willard
Fisher	Lyons	Young
Freeman	Marcelle	Zeringue
Freiberg	Mena	
Green	Miller	
Total - 40		

ABSENT

LaCombe
Total - 1

The Chair declared the above bill was finally passed.

The title of the above bill was read and adopted.

Rep. Emerson moved to reconsider the vote by which the above bill was finally passed, and, on her own motion, the motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Suspension of the Rules

On motion of Rep. Beaullieu, 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. 19—

BY REPRESENTATIVE BEAULLIEU
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 the 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.

Suspension of the Rules

On motion of Rep. Myers, 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

SENATE BILLS

January 17, 2024

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

I am directed to inform your honorable body that the Senate has finally passed the following Senate Bills:

Senate Bill No. 8

Respectfully submitted,

YOLANDA J. DIXON
Secretary of the Senate

Senate Bills and Joint Resolutions on First Reading

The following Senate Bills and Joint Resolutions on first reading were taken up, read, and, under a suspension of the rules, referred to committees, as follows:

SENATE BILL NO. 8— BY SENATOR WOMACK

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 the 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.

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 Thursday, January 18, 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:

Senate Bill No. 8

Adjournment

On motion of Rep. Thompson, at 2:59 P.M., the House agreed to adjourn until Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 2:00 P.M.

The Speaker of the House declared the House adjourned until 2:00 P.M., Thursday, January 18, 2024.

MICHELLE D. FONTENOT
Clerk of the House

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

