

House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2014 Regular Session
March 12, 2014

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Tim Burns, chairman of the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs, called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. in Room 2, in the State Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The secretary called the roll.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Tim Burns, Chairman
Representative Michael E. Danahay, Vice Chair
Representative Taylor F. Barras
Representative John A. Berthelot
Representative Jared C. Brossett
Representative Randal L. Gaines
Representative Gregory A. Miller
Representative John M. Schroder, Sr.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Stephen E. Pugh

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Patricia Lowrey-Dufour, Committee Legislative Analyst
Mark Mahaffey, Committee Attorney
Shawn O'Brien, Committee Secretary
Candace Pointer, Sergeant at Arms
Andrew Hoz, Committee Clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 324 by Representative Leger

Representative Leger presented House Bill No. 324, which authorizes the secretary of state to disclose certain electronic mail addresses or short message service numbers to other governmental entities, agencies, officials, and employees.

Mr. Kyle Ardoin, first assistant secretary of state, 8585 Archives Ave., Baton Rouge, LA, answered questions on the bill.

Representative Miller offered a set of amendments prohibiting the governmental entity, agency, official, or employee that receives the information from disclosing it and requires the entity, agency, official, or employee to maintain the confidentiality of the information.

Representative Miller offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Danahay, Gaines, Miller, Schroder, and Burns voted yea.

Representative Miller offered a motion to report House Bill No. 324 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 324 was reported with amendments by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Danahay, Gaines, Miller, Schroder, and Burns voted yea.

House Bill No. 206 by Representative Danahay

Representative Danahay presented House Bill No. 206, which re-creates the Department of State Civil Service and the statutory entities made a part of the department by law.

Representative Burns offered a technical amendment to the bill and offered a motion to adopt the same. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Danahay, Gaines, Miller, Schroder, and Burns voted yea.

Representative Burns offered a motion to report House Bill No. 206 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 206 was reported with amendments by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Danahay, Gaines, Miller, Schroder, and Burns voted yea.

House Bill No. 226 by Representative Danahay

Representative Danahay presented House Bill No. 226, which removes the requirement to reopen qualifying when no candidate qualified for an office or when the number of candidates who qualified for an office is less than the number of positions to be filled.

Representative Miller offered a motion to report House Bill No. 226 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 226 was reported favorably by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Danahay, Gaines, Miller, and Burns voted yea.

House Bill No. 432 by Representative Tim Burns

Representative Tim Burns presented House Bill No. 432, which re-creates the Department of State and the statutory entities made a part of the department by law.

Mr. Joe R. Salter, Secretary of State's Office, P. O. Box, 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, submitted a card in support of the bill.

Ms. Merietta Norton, Secretary of State's Office, P. O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA, 225-922-0547, was present to provide information at the committee's request.

Representative Danahay offered a technical amendment and offered a motion to adopt the proposed technical amendment. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Danahay, Gaines, Miller, and Burns voted yea.

Representative Berthelot offered a motion to report House Bill No. 432 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 432 was reported with amendments by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Danahay, Gaines, Miller, and Burns voted yea.

House Bill No. 501 by Representative Wesley Bishop

House Bill No. 501 provides for voter registration at age sixteen.

There was no discussion on the bill.

At the request of the author, Representative Danahay offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 501. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 501 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Danahay, Gaines, Miller, and Burns voted yea.

House Bill No. 383 by Representative Tim Burns

Representative Tim Burns presented House Bill No. 383, which makes technical revisions to the La. Election Code.

Ms. Merietta Norton, Secretary of State's Office, P. O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA, 225-922-0547, was present to provide information at the committee's request.

Representative Danahay offered a set of technical amendments on behalf of the author as explained by staff. The amendments add provisions changing "absentee by mail and early voting commissioners" to "parish board commissioners" in present law provisions relative to the counting and tabulation of absentee by mail, early voting, and provisional ballots; and to make additional technical changes.

Representative Danahay offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Danahay, Gaines, Miller, and Burns voted yea.

Representative Danahay offered a motion to report House Bill No. 383 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 383 was reported with amendments by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Danahay, Gaines, Miller, and Burns voted yea.

House Bill No. 428 by Representative Barras

Representative Barras presented House Bill No. 428, which repeals provisions of law that allow for a refund of qualifying fees under certain circumstances when a candidate files multiple notices of candidacy.

Representative Burns offered a motion to report House Bill No. 428 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 428 was reported favorably by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Brossett, Danahay, Miller, and Burns voted yea.

House Bill No. 203 by Representative Brossett

Representative Brossett presented House Bill No. 203, which provides for the conduct of early voting on the Sunday during the early voting period from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

There was no discussion on the bill.

Representative Brossett offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 203. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 203 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Brossett, Danahay, Miller, and Burns voted yea.

House Bill No. 365 by Representative Moreno

On behalf of the author, Mr. Kyle Ardoin, first assistant secretary of state, 8585 Archives Ave., Baton Rouge, LA, presented House Bill No. 365, which authorizes the secretary of state to enter into certain cooperative agreements with other states or groups of states to share voter information and data and requires privacy provisions relative to such information and data.

Ms. Angie Rogers, elections commissioner, 8585 Archives Ave., Baton Rouge, LA, provided further information on the bill.

Representative Burns offered a motion to report House Bill No. 365 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 365 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Brossett, Gaines, Miller, Schroder, and Burns voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to come before the committee.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Tim Burns congratulated committee member Representative Jared Brossett on his recent election to the New Orleans City Council.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Burns /s/". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Tim Burns, Chairman
House and Governmental Affairs

/s/

Date Approved: 3-4-15