

## House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting  
2014 Regular Session  
March 19, 2014

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Tim Burns, chairman of the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs, called the meeting to order at 9:32 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 Stephen E. Pugh

#### MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative John M. Schroder, Sr.

#### STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

### III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

#### House Bill No. 283 by Representative Smith

House Bill No. 283 provides relative to registration and voting by a person convicted of a felony.

There was no discussion on the bill.

Representative Burns offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 283. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 283 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Brossett, Burns, Danahay, and Pugh voted yea.

**House Bill No. 296 by Representative Connick**

House Bill No. 296 provides for an automatic recount in elections when the number of absentee by mail and early voting ballots could make a difference in the outcome of the election.

There was no discussion on the bill.

Representative Burns offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 296. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 296 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Brossett, Burns, Danahay, and Pugh voted yea.

**House Bill No. 354 by Representative Connick**

House Bill No. 354 provides for the use of provisional ballots in all elections.

There was no discussion on the bill.

Representative Burns offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 354. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 354 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Brossett, Burns, Danahay, and Pugh voted yea.

**House Bill No. 737 by Representative Jefferson**

House Bill No. 737 requires certain reports regarding satisfaction of orders of imprisonment for conviction of a felony.

There was no discussion on the bill.

Representative Burns offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 737. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 737 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Brossett, Burns, Danahay, and Pugh voted yea.

**House Bill No. 970 by Representative Jefferson**

House Bill No. 970 provides relative to voting by persons who are incarcerated. There was no discussion on the bill.

Representative Burns offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 970. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 970 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Brossett, Burns, Danahay, and Pugh voted yea.

**House Bill No. 313 by Representative Champagne**

House Bill No. 313, a constitutional amendment, provides term limits for certain statewide elected officials.

There was no discussion on the bill.

Representative Burns offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 313. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 313 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Brossett, Burns, Danahay, and Pugh voted yea.

**House Bill No. 443 by Representative Huval**

House Bill No. 443 requires the secretary of state to compare the names of candidates with certain criminal history records and to inform the district attorney of his findings under certain circumstances.

There was no discussion on the bill.

Representative Burns offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 443. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 443 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Brossett, Burns, Danahay, and Pugh voted yea.

**House Bill No. 497 by Representative Arnold**

Representative Arnold presented House Bill No. 497, which provides for the selection of commissioners who serve during early voting in the same manner as commissioners who serve on election day.

Mr. Arthur Morrell, clerk of court for Orleans Parish, 4925 Moore Street, New Orleans, LA, testified in favor of the bill.

Mr. Brian Champagne, registrar of voters, St. Charles Parish, P. O. Box 315, Hahnville, LA 70057, 985-783-5120, provided information on the difference between early and election-day voting.

Ms. Sandra Wilson, Orleans Parish registrar of voters, 1300 Perdido St., New Orleans, LA, 504-858-8300, provided information on the bill.

Mr. Kyle Ardoin, first assistant secretary of state, 8585 Archives Ave., Baton Rouge, LA, 225-922-2880, submitted a card for information.

Representative Danahay offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 497, to which Representative Brossett objected. A roll call vote was taken and action on House Bill No. 497 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 6 yeas and 1 nay. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Danahay, Gaines, Miller, and Pugh voted yea. Representative Brossett voted nay.

**House Bill No. 498 by Representative Arnold**

Representative Arnold presented House Bill No. 498, which provides relative to the tabulation and counting of absentee by mail and early voting ballots.

Mr. Arthur Morrell, clerk of court for Orleans Parish, 4925 Moore Street, New Orleans, LA, testified in favor of the bill.

Mr. Brian Champagne, registrar of voters, St. Charles Parish, P. O. Box 315, Hahnville, LA 70057, 985-783-5120, informed the committee why his office is opposed to the bill.

Mr. Dennis DiMarco, Jefferson Parish registrar of voters (no address provided), 504-736-6191, provided information on the bill.

Ms. Alex Smith, Louisiana Strong, 17732 Highland Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, 225-328-5936; and Dr. Lennie Rhys, Louisiana Strong, 555 St. Landry St., Baton Rouge, LA, submitted witness cards in opposition to the bill but did not testify.

Ms. Sandra Wilson, Orleans Parish registrar of voters, 1300 Perdido St., New Orleans, LA, 504-858-8300, provided information on the bill.

Mr. Kyle Ardoin, first assistant secretary of xtate, 8585 Archives Ave., Baton Rouge, LA, 225-922-2880, submitted a witness card for information but did not speak.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 498. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 498 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Brossett, Danahay, Miller, and Pugh voted yea.

**House Bill No. 501 by Representative Wesley Bishop**

Representative Wesley Bishop presented House Bill No. 501, which provides for voter registration at age sixteen by making application when the person obtains a driver's license.

Representative Burns offered a set of amendments to change the name of the proposed Act, to clarify the intent of the bill relative to age, and to provide for the driver's license applicant's declining to sign or failure to sign the voter registration application.

Representative Burns 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, Brossett, Burns, Danahay, Miller, and Pugh voted yea.

Representative Burns offered a set of amendments to provide for an effective date of January 1, 2015.

Ms. Angie Rogers, commissioner of elections, 8585 Archives Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, 225-922-0900, provided information on the proposed amendments.

Mr. Brian Champagne, registrar of voters, St. Charles Parish, P. O. Box 315, Hahnville, LA 70057, 985-783-5120, provided information on the bill.

Representative Burns offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Brossett, Burns, Danahay, Gaines, Miller, and Pugh voted yea.

Mr. Kyle Ardoin, first assistant secretary of state, 8585 Archives Ave., Baton Rouge, LA, 225-922-2880, submitted a witness card for information but did not speak.

Ms. Mary Patricia Wray, Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9623 Brookline Ave, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, submitted a card in support of the bill but did not speak.

Ms. Alex Smith, Louisiana Strong, 17732 Highland Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, 225-328-5936; and Dr. Lennie Rhys, Louisiana Strong, 555 St. Landry St., Baton Rouge, LA, submitted cards in opposition to the bill but did not speak.

Representative Brossett offered a motion to report House Bill No. 501 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 501 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Brossett, Burns, Danahay, Gaines, Miller, and Pugh voted yea.

#### **House Bill No. 857 by Representative Broadwater**

Representative Broadwater presented House Bill No. 857, which provides relative to the filling of vacancies in certain local and municipal offices.

Representative Burns offered a set of technical amendments to the bill.

Representative Burns offered a motion to adopt the technical amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Brossett, Burns, Danahay, Gaines, Miller, and Pugh voted yea.

Mr. Kevin Hayes, Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police, 8440 Jefferson Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, 225-336-5200, submitted a witness card in support of the bill.

Representative Berthelot offered a motion to report House Bill No. 857 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 857 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Brossett, Burns, Danahay, Gaines, Miller, and Pugh 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.

Mr. Aaron Jackson, Alliance for Citizen Engagement, 73 Pinehurst Drive, New Orleans, LA 70131, 504-444-1166, spoke in support of the bill.

Ms. Ayn W. Stehr, National Association of Social Workers, 18906 Spyglass Hill Drive., Baton Rouge, LA 225-241-0947; Ms. Carrie Wooten and Mr. Bruce Parker, Louisiana Progress Action, 650 N. 6th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802; Ms. Ebony Baylor, Louisiana Democratic Party, 701 Government St., Baton Rouge, LA, 225-336 4155; Ms. Ashley Shelton and Ms. April Brumfield, One Voice, 11606 Southfork Ave., Suite 102, Baton Rouge, LA, 225-938-3734; Mr. Rodney Braxton, City of New Orleans, 1300 Perdido St., New Orleans, LA, 225-806-2522; and Ms. Mary Patricia Wray, Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9623 Brookline Ave, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, submitted witness cards indicating their support of the bill but did not testify.

Mr. Brian Champagne, registrar of voters, St. Charles Parish, P. O. Box 315, Hahnville, LA 70057, 985-783-5120, submitted a witness card to provide information.

Mr. Kyle Ardoin, first assistant secretary of state, 8585 Archives Ave., Baton Rouge, LA, 225-922-2880, provided information on the bill.

Dr. Maurice Im-Lei Millere, Civil Rights Advocacy Association, Jonesboro, LA, 202-735-7656, spoke in support of the bill relative to efforts to increase voter participation.

Ms. Sandra Wilson, Orleans Parish registrar of voters, 1300 Perdido St., New Orleans, LA, 504-858-8300, provided information to the committee.

Ms. Sandra McDade, Eagle Forum, 342 Pines Road (address incomplete), 318-468-1418, submitted a card in opposition to the bill.

Representative Gaines offered a motion to report House Bill No. 203 favorably, to which Representative Danahay objected. A roll call vote was taken and by a vote of 2 yeas and 5 nays, the motion failed to pass. Representatives Brossett and Gaines voted yea. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Danahay, Miller, and Pugh voted nay.

There was no final action taken on the bill.

#### **House Bill No. 68 by Representative Tim Burns**

Representative Tim Burns presented House Bill No. 68, which provides that certain appeals and hearings formerly conducted by the bureau of appeals of the Department of Health and Hospitals shall be conducted by the division of administrative law.

Mr. James Taylor, Department of Health and Hospitals, health standards section, 628 North 4th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, 225-342-9500, provided information on the need for the bill.

Ms. Anne Wise, Division of Administrative Law, P. O. Box 44033, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, informed the committee that the bill is technical in nature.

Representative Pugh offered a motion to report House Bill No. 68 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 68 was reported favorably by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Burns, Danahay, Miller, and Pugh voted yea.

**House Bill No. 193 by Representative Richard**

Representative Richard presented House Bill No. 193, which provides that a person who is not affiliated with any political party is designated as "independent" instead of "no party" on voter registration records, a notice of candidacy, and a ballot.

Representative Danahay offered a set of amendments to provide an effective date of January 1, 2015.

Mr. Kyle Ardoin, first assistant secretary of state, 8585 Archives Ave., Baton Rouge, LA, 225-922-2880, informed the committee that there are already numerous variations on approximately 670,000 existing voter registration applications by voters not wanting to affiliate with any party, including use of "independent", which he said would create confusion with the actual Independent Party and thereby convolute the intention of the bill.

Ms. Angie Rogers, commissioner of elections, 8585 Archives Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, 225-922-0900, provided additional information on the bill.

Representative Danahay offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Brossett, Danahay, Gaines, Miller, Pugh, and Burns voted yea.

Representative Danahay offered a motion to report House Bill No. 193 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 193 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Brossett, Burns, Danahay, Gaines, Miller, and Pugh voted yea.

**House Bill No. 235 by Representative Richard**

Representative Richard presented House Bill No. 235, which provides relative to use of public funds to disseminate certain information relative to a proposition appearing on an election ballot.

Ms. Jennifer Ansardi, Jefferson Parish, P. O. Box 55815, Metairie, LA, 504-606-7700; Ms. Alex Smith, Louisiana Strong, 17732 Highland Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, 225-328-5936; and Dr. Lennie Rhys, Louisiana Strong, 555 St. Landry St., Baton Rouge, LA, submitted witness cards in opposition to the bill.

Representative Berthelot offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 235. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 235 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Barras, Berthelot, Brossett, Burns, Danahay, Gaines, Miller, and Pugh voted yea.

**IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no further business to come before the committee.

**V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 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