

House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2016 Regular Session
March 23, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Michael E. Danahay, chairman of the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs, called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. in Room 2, in the State Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The secretary called the roll.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Michael E. Danahay, chairman
Representative Gary M. Carter, Jr.
Representative Julie Emerson
Representative Jimmy Harris
Representative Dorothy Sue Hill
Representative Barry Ivey
Representative Sam L. Jenkins, Jr.
Representative Gregory A. Miller
Representative John C. "Jay" Morris, III
Representative Stephen E. Pugh, vice chairman
Representative John M. Schroder, Sr.
Representative Robert E. Shadoin

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Patricia Lowrey-Dufour, legislative analyst
Mark Mahaffey, attorney
Shawn O'Brien, secretary

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Beverly Hurst, sergeant at arms
Abby Reynolds, clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 369 by Representative Bishop

House Bill No. 369 requires the submission of redistricting plans in a specified format to the secretary of state.

Representative Danahay offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 369. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 369 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Danahay, Gary Carter, Emerson, Jimmy Harris, Hill, Ivey, Jenkins, Gregory Miller, Jay Morris, and Pugh voted yea.

House Bill No. 414 by Representative Bishop

House Bill No. 414 authorizes the secretary of state to promulgate rules and forms for the registration of individuals who serve as demographers for the development of reapportionment or redistricting plans in Louisiana.

Representative Danahay offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 414. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 414 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Danahay, Gary Carter, Emerson, Jimmy Harris, Hill, Ivey, Jenkins, Gregory Miller, Jay Morris, and Pugh voted yea.

House Bill No. 161 by Representative Edmonds

Representative Edmonds presented House Bill No. 161, which provides relative to dates for bond, tax, and other proposition elections.

Representative Pugh offered a technical amendment. Representative Pugh offered a motion to adopt the proposed technical amendment. Without objection, the technical amendment was adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Danahay, Gary Carter, Emerson, Jimmy Harris, Hill, Ivey, Jenkins, Gregory Miller, Jay Morris, and Pugh voted yea.

J. Hudson, an associate of Representative Edmonds, 4625 Park Oaks Drive, Baton Rouge, LA, 225-223-8483, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 161.

Kyle Ardoin, first assistant secretary of state, 8585 Archives Ave., Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only House Bill No. 161.

Zack Rau, legislative fiscal office, 18th Floor, State Capitol Building, Baton Rouge, LA 225-342-7162, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 161.

Roland Dartez, Police Jury Association, 707 N. 7th Street, Baton Rouge, LA, 225-285-5840, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 161.

Scott Richard, executive director, Louisiana School Boards Assn., 7912 Summa Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, 225-769-3191, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 161.

Michael Ranatza, executive director, Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, 1175 Nicholson Drive, Baton Rouge LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 161.

Ronnie Harris, Louisiana Municipal Association, 700 N. 10th Street., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, 225-344-5001, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 161.

Chad Major, Professional Firefighters of Louisiana, 8011 Merle Gustafson Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70807, 225-572-8483, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 161.

Jim Melohn, St. Charles Parish School Board, 13855 River Road, Luling, LA 70070, 504-416-6198, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 161.

Representative Shadoin offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 161. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 161 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Danahay, Gary Carter, Emerson, Jimmy Harris, Hill, Ivey, Jenkins, Gregory Miller, Jay Morris, Pugh, and Shadoin voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support and 26 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 614 by Representative Moreno

Representative Moreno presented House Bill No. 614, which provides for the electronic transmission of voting materials and procedures and requirements for voting absentee using such materials.

Stephanie Patrick, Advocacy Center, 8325 Oak Street, New Orleans, LA 70114, 504-460-5200 spoke in support of House Bill No. 614.

Buddy Amoroso, 12633 Lake Sherwood Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70816, 225-806-6491, spoke in support of House Bill No. 614.

Linda M. Walker, League of Women voters of Louisiana, 3201 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, LA 70115, submitted a letter (Exhibit A) to committee members in support of House Bill No. 614. Ms. Walker's witness card is filed with cards for House Bill No. 483.

Kyle Ardoin, first assistant secretary of state, 8585 Archives Ave., Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only House Bill No. 614.

Representative Jenkins offered a motion to report House Bill No. 614 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 614 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Danahay, Gary Carter, Emerson, Jimmy Harris, Hill, Ivey, Jenkins, Gregory Miller, Jay Morris, Pugh, and Shadoin voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 563 by Representative Richard

Representative Richard presented House Bill No. 563, which allows a candidate to have the word "independent" placed on the ballot in lieu of an indication of political party affiliation.

Kyle Ardoin, first assistant secretary of state, 8585 Archives Ave., Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only House Bill No. 563.

Linda M. Walker, League of Women voters of Louisiana, 3201 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, LA 70115, submitted a letter (Exhibit A) to committee members in support of House Bill No. 563. Ms. Walker's witness card is filed with cards for House Bill No. 483.

Representative Jay Morris offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 563. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 563 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Danahay, Gary Carter, Emerson, Jimmy Harris, Hill, Ivey, Jenkins, Gregory Miller, Jay Morris, Pugh, and Shadoin voted yea.

House Bill No. 876 by Representative Leger

Representative Leger presented House Bill No. 876, which provides for certain commercial filings to be submitted electronically.

Kyle Ardoin, first assistant secretary of state, 8585 Archives Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only House Bill No. 876.

Representative Danahay offered technical amendments to the bill. Representative Danahay offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Danahay, Gary Carter, Emerson, Jimmy Harris, Hill, Ivey, Jenkins, Gregory Miller, Jay Morris, Pugh, and Shadoin voted yea.

Representative Danahay offered amendments to specify that if a document is required by law to be filed with any other entity or official, the filing of the document with the secretary of state shall not satisfy that requirement. Representative Danahay offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Danahay, Gary Carter, Emerson, Jimmy Harris, Hill, Ivey, Jenkins, Gregory Miller, Pugh, and Shadoin voted yea.

Representative Jenkins offered a motion to report House Bill No. 876 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 876 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Danahay, Gary Carter, Emerson, Jimmy Harris, Hill, Ivey, Jenkins, Gregory Miller, Jay Morris, Pugh, and Shadoin voted yea.

House Bill No. 483 by Representative Mike Johnson

Representative Mike Johnson presented House Bill No. 483, which provides relative to penalties for certain election offenses.

Heather Cloud, Village of Turkey Creek, P. O. Box 259, Turkey Creek, LA 70805, 337-224-6604, spoke in support of House Bill 483.

Linda M. Walker, League of Women voters of Louisiana, 3201 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, LA 70115, submitted a letter (Exhibit A) to committee members in support of House Bill No. 483.

Representative Gary Carter offered amendments to remove the requirement that the convicted person be indigent in order to make restitution through a periodic payment plan and offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Danahay, Gary Carter, Emerson, Jimmy Harris, Hill, Ivey, Jenkins, Gregory Miller, Jay Morris, Pugh, and Shadoin voted yea.

Representative Jay Morris offered a motion to report House Bill No. 483 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 483 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Danahay, Gary Carter, Emerson, Jimmy Harris, Hill, Ivey, Jenkins, Gregory Miller, Jay Morris, Pugh, and Shadoin voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 571 by Representative Shadoin

Representative Shadoin presented House Bill No. 571, which repeals the requirement that the secretary of state print documents of the Louisiana Historical Association.

Representative Ivey offered a motion to report House Bill No. 571 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 571 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Danahay, Gary Carter, Emerson, Jimmy Harris, Hill, Ivey, Jenkins, Gregory Miller, Jay Morris, Pugh, and Shadoin voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 583 by Representative Broadwater

Representative Broadwater presented House Bill No. 583, which provides relative to withdrawal of candidates.

Representative Danahay offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 583. Without objection, House Bill No. 583 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Danahay, Gary Carter, Emerson, Jimmy Harris, Hill, Ivey, Jenkins, Gregory Miller, Jay Morris, Pugh, and Shadoin voted yea.

House Bill No. 654 by Representative Gregory Miller

Representative Gregory Miller presented House Bill No. 654, which provides relative to voting by certain persons who are entitled to assistance.

Representative Gregory Miller offered amendments to provide for a January 1, 2017, effective date. Representative Gregory Miller offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Danahay, Gary Carter, Emerson, Jimmy Harris, Hill, Ivey, Jenkins, Gregory Miller, Jay Morris, Pugh, Schroder, and Shadoin voted yea.

Brian J. Champagne, St. Charles Parish Registrar of Voters, P. O. Box 315, Hahnville, LA, 985-783-5120, spoke in support of House Bill No. 654.

Kyle Ardoin, first assistant secretary of state, 8585 Archives Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only House Bill No. 654.

Linda M. Walker, League of Women voters of Louisiana, 3201 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, LA 70115, submitted a letter (Exhibit A) to committee members in support of House Bill No. 654. Ms. Walker's witness card is filed with cards for House Bill No. 483.

Representative Gregory Miller offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 654. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 654 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and

0 nays. Representatives Danahay, Emerson, Hill, Ivey, Jenkins, Gregory Miller, Jay Morris, Pugh, Schroder, and Shadoin voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 821 by Representative Gregory Miller

Representative Gregory Miller presented House Bill No. 821, which provides relative to absentee by mail voting by certain persons.

Representative Gregory Miller offered amendments to change the eligibility criteria relative to frequency of voting and to add an effective date. Representative Gregory Miller offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Danahay, Gary Carter, Emerson, Jimmy Harris, Hill, Ivey, Jenkins, Gregory Miller, Jay Morris, Pugh, Schroder, and Shadoin voted yea.

Brian J. Champagne, St. Charles Parish Registrar of Voters, P. O. Box 315, Hahnville, LA, 985-783-5120, spoke in support of House Bill No. 821.

Kyle Ardoin, first assistant secretary of state, 8585 Archives Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only House Bill No. 821.

Representative Gregory Miller offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 821. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 821 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Danahay, Gary Carter, Emerson, Jimmy Harris, Hill, Ivey, Jenkins, Gregory Miller, Jay Morris, Pugh, Schroder, and Shadoin voted yea.

House Bill No. 619 by Representative Zeringue

Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 619, which provides relative to precincts with fewer than three hundred registered voters and the payment of election expenses in certain such precincts.

Representative Danahay offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 619. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 619 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Danahay, Gary Carter, Emerson, Jimmy Harris, Hill, Ivey, Jenkins, Gregory Miller, Jay Morris, Pugh, Schroder, and Shadoin voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 378 by Representative Danahay

Representative Danahay presented House Bill No. 378, which provides for the membership of the State Board of Election Supervisors.

Representative Danahay offered a motion to report House Bill No. 378 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 378 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Danahay, Gary Carter, Emerson, Jimmy Harris, Hill, Ivey, Jenkins, Gregory Miller, Jay Morris, Pugh, Schroder, and Shadoin 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 Bill No. 890 by Representative Danahay

Representative Danahay presented House Bill No. 890, which makes revisions to the Louisiana Election Code.

Representative Pugh offered amendments to add procedures for using a replacement paper ballot to change or correct a vote before the vote is cast and counted when voting during early voting, absentee by mail, and on election day; and to make technical changes. Representative Pugh offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Danahay, Emerson, Hill, Ivey, Gregory Miller, Jay Morris, Pugh, Schroder, and Shadoin voted yea.

Representative Danahay offered amendments to remove provisions requiring a parish governing authority to send certain documents to the secretary of state prior to adopting a precinct division and requiring the secretary of state to provide the parish governing authority with a report concerning the proposed precinct division, and to add provisions requiring the parish governing authority to notify the secretary of state in writing when a precinct division is adopted. Representative Danahay offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Danahay, Emerson, Hill, Ivey, Gregory Miller, Jay Morris, Pugh, Schroder, and Shadoin voted yea.

Kyle Ardoin, First Assistant Secretary of State, 8585 Archives Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only House Bill No. 890.

Linda M. Walker, League of Women voters of Louisiana, 3201 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, LA 70115, submitted a letter (Exhibit A) to committee members in support of House Bill No. 654. Ms. Walker's witness card is filed with cards for House Bill No. 890.

Representative Danahay offered a motion to report House Bill No. 890 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 890 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Danahay, Emerson, Hill, Ivey, Gregory Miller, Jay Morris, Pugh, Schroder, and Shadoin voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

The minutes from the 2015 Regular Session dated April 22, April 29, May 6, May 12, May 13, May 20, May 27, and June 2, 2015, were presented to the committee for approval.

Representative Shadoin offered a motion to approve the minutes. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Danahay, Emerson, Hill, Ivey, Gregory Miller, Jay Morris, Pugh, Schroder, and Shadoin voted yea.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Michael E. Danahay
House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Date adopted: