

House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2020 Regular Session
April 15, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Stephen C. Dwight, chairman of the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs, called the meeting to order at 1:27 p.m. in the House Chamber, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. CHAIRMAN REMARKS

Chairman Dwight asked for a brief observance in memory of Representative Reggie Paul Bagala, who passed on April 9, 2020, from complications of COVID-19.

R. Kyle Ardoin, Louisiana secretary of state, offered a prayer at the chairman's request.

III. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Stephen C. Dwight, chairman
Representative Wilford Dan Carter, Sr.
Representative Royce Duplessis, vice chairman
Representative Les Farnum
Representative Foy Bryan Gadberry
Representative Charles Alexander Henry
Representative Valarie Hodges
Representative Dodie Horton
Representative Barry Ivey
Representative Michael T. Johnson
Representative Tanner D. Magee
Representative Candace N. Newell
Representative Rodney Wayne Schamerhorn
Representative Malinda B. White

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Sam L. Jenkins, Jr.
Representative Jeremy S. LaCombe

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Patricia Lowrey-Dufour, legislative analyst
Lorriane Lucas, attorney
Rosalie Ammersbach, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Michael Derson, sergeant at arms
Danny Leming, sergeant at arms
Stephan Lewis, sergeant at arms

IV. DISCUSSION

To discuss and consider the secretary of state's determination and reasons therfor that the public health emergency caused by COVID-19 impairs the 2020 presidential preference primary election and the 2020 municipal general election to the extent that an emergency election plan is necessary to ensure maximum citizen participation in the elections

R. Kyle Ardoin, secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 922-2880, discussed why the emergency election plan is necessary for the 2020 presidential primary election and the 2020 municipal general election and provided handouts, which are in the committee records, as follows:

- Exhibit A, Proclamation Number 46 JBE 2020, "Elections Rescheduled Due to Statewide State of Emergency Caused By COVID-19";
- Exhibit B, "Emergency Certification";
- Exhibit C, dated April 14, 2020, "Secretary of State Emergency Election Plan For The July 11, 2020 Presidential Preference Primary and August 15, 2020 Municipal General Elections In The State of Louisiana"; and
- Exhibit D, "State of Louisiana Official Absentee Ballot Application, COVID-19 Emergency Application".

To discuss and consider the written emergency plan for the elections submitted by the secretary of state in accordance with R.S. 18:401.3

M. Christian Green, League of Women Voters, 1308 Greenbriar Road, Lafayette, LA 70503, (404) 520-9326, spoke in support of the secretary of state's emergency election plan.

Ashley Shelton, Power Coalition, 13929 Kimbleton Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70817, (225) 802-2435, spoke in support of the secretary of state's emergency election plan.

Representative Duplessis offered a motion to concur in certification of an emergency. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Dwight, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Henry, Ivey, Mike Johnson, Magee, Newell, and White voted yea.

Representative Dwight offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on the written emergency plan for the elections. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Dwight, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Henry, Ivey, Mike Johnson, Magee, Newell, and White voted yea.

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

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 86 in support, and 28 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Magee offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Dwight, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Henry, Ivey, Mike Johnson, Magee, Newell, and White voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Vice Chairman Royce Duplessis
House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Date adopted: October 7, 2020