

## **House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs**

Minutes of Meeting  
2020 Second Extraordinary Session  
October 7, 2020

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Representative Royce Duplessis, vice chairman of the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs, called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. in Room 3, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Representative Gerald "Beau" Beaulieu, IV  
Representative Royce Duplessis, vice chairman  
Representative Les Farnum  
Representative Foy Bryan Gadberry  
Representative Charles Alexander Henry  
Representative Valarie Hodges  
Representative Sam L. Jenkins, Jr.  
Representative Michael T. Johnson  
Representative Jeremy S. LaCombe  
Representative Tanner D. Magee  
Representative Candace N. Newell  
Representative Rodney Wayne Schamerhorn  
Representative Malinda B. White

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Stephen C. Dwight, chairman  
Representative Wilford Dan Carter, Sr.  
Representative Dodie Horton  
Representative Barry Ivey

#### **STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms  
Nicolas Garon, clerk

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION****House Bill No. 59 by Representative Beaulieu**

Representative Beaulieu presented House Bill No. 59, which authorizes the payment of additional compensation to certain election officials for elections held within a certain period following a gubernatorially declared emergency.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to add a provision to proposed law authorizing additional pay per day of assistance if applicable. Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Henry, Hodges, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Magee, Newell, Schamerhorn, and White voted yea.

David Ditch, clerk of court, 300 Iberia, no city given, LA, (985) 209-7162, spoke in support of House Bill No. 59.

Representative Mike Johnson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 59 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 59 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Henry, Hodges, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Magee, Newell, Schamerhorn, and White voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 51 by Representative Miguez**

Representative Miguez presented House Bill No. 51, which provides for prohibition of using private funds for any part of our election system.

Representative Magee offered amendments to add that the prohibition does not apply to solicitation, use, etc., of campaign contributions or in-kind contributions by a candidate for public office. Representative Magee offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Henry, Hodges, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Magee, Newell, Schamerhorn, and White voted yea.

Angelique Freel, Department of Justice, no address provided, (225) 326-6020, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 51.

Nancy Landry, office of the Louisiana secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 922-2880, spoke in support of House Bill No. 51.

Debbie D. Hudnall, Louisiana Clerks of Court Association, 10202 Jefferson Highway, Building A, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 293-1162, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 51.

Representative Schamerhorn offered a motion to call the question on the bill, to which Representative Newell objected. No vote was taken on the motion.

Representative Duplessis offered amendments to provide that the secretary of state shall not solicit, accept, use, or dispose of any donation in the form of money, grants, property, or personal services from individuals or profit or nonprofit corporations, for the purpose of funding election related expenses. Representative Duplessis offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Mike Johnson objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas and 7 nays. Representatives Duplessis, Jenkins, LaCombe, Newell, and White voted yea. Representatives Beaulieu, Farnum, Gadberry, Henry, Hodges, Mike Johnson, and Schamerhorn voted nay.

Representative Mike Johnson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 51 with amendments, to which Representative Jenkins objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 51 was reported with amendments by a vote of 7 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Farnum, Gadberry, Henry, Hodges, Mike Johnson, and Schamerhorn voted yea. Representatives Duplessis, Jenkins, LaCombe, Newell, and White voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records. \*(See Other Business)

#### **House Bill No. 57 by Representative Edmonds**

Representative Edmonds presented House Bill No. 57, which provides relative to the emergency powers of the governor.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report House Bill No. 57 favorably, to which Representative Jenkins objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 57 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Farnum, Gadberry, Henry, Hodges, Mike Johnson, and Schamerhorn voted yea. Representatives Duplessis, Jenkins, LaCombe, and Newell voted nay.

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

*Representative Beaulieu in the chair.*

### **House Concurrent Resolution No. 18 by Representative Duplessis**

Representative Duplessis presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 18, which requests the clerks of court to develop and utilize innovative strategies to recruit commissioners for polling places.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 18 favorably, to which Representative Schamerhorn objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Concurrent Resolution No. 18 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 1 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Henry, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Newell, and White voted yea. Representative Schamerhorn voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

### **House Resolution No. 2 by Representative Duplessis**

Representative Duplessis presented House Resolution No. 2, which requests the clerks of court to develop and utilize innovative strategies to recruit commissioners for polling places.

Representative Henry offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 2 favorably, to which Representative Schamerhorn objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Resolution No. 2 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Duplessis, Gadberry, Henry, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Newell, and White voted yea. Representatives Farnum and Schamerhorn voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

### **House Concurrent Resolution No. 14 by Representative Duplessis**

Representative Duplessis presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 14, which requests the secretary of state to adopt a policy to ensure that routine maintenance of the Department of State's online voter registration system does not occur during certain time periods.

Nancy Landry, office of the Louisiana secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 922-2880, spoke for information only House Concurrent Resolution No. 14.

Kerry Williams, address illegible, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 14.

Representative Duplessis offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Concurrent Resolution No. 14. Without objection, action on House Concurrent Resolution No. 14 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Henry, Hodges, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Newell, Schamerhorn, and White voted yea.

#### **IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

**Adoption of minutes for committee meetings held on February 20, 2017, April 19, 2017, April 26, 2017, May 2, 2017, May 10, 2017, May 17, 2017, May 23, 2017, May 31, 2017, December 12, 2019, March 2, 2020, March 11, 2020, April 15, 2020, April 22, 2020, May 6, 2020, May 13, 2020, May 19, 2020, May 27, 2020, June 10, 2020, and June 16, 2020.**

Representative Jenkins offered a motion to adopt. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Henry, Hodges, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Newell, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

\*After disposition of House Bill No. 51 by Representative Miguez, Representative Duplessis, vice chairman of the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs, allowed Peter Robins-Brown to provide testimony, who spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 51.

#### **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

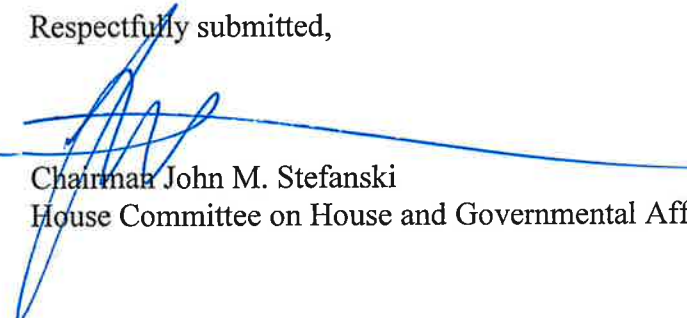
There were no announcements.

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Henry offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Henry, Hodges, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Newell, Schamerhorn, and White voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Chairman John M. Stefanski  
House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Date adopted: April 22, 2021

The committee has acknowledged on April 22, 2021, that these minutes were prepared in accordance with the rules of the House of Representatives.