

House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2020 Second Extraordinary Session
October 14, 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 10:05 a.m. in Room 3, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Stephen C. Dwight, chairman
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 Dodie Horton
Representative Barry Ivey
Representative Sam L. Jenkins, Jr.
Representative Michael T. Johnson
Representative Tanner D. Magee
Representative Candace N. Newell
Representative Rodney Wayne Schamerhorn
Representative Malinda B. White

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Wilford Dan Carter, Sr.
Representative Jeremy S. LaCombe

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**Senate Bill No. 21 by Senator Hewitt**

Senator Hewitt presented Senate Bill No. 21, which provides for revisions to the fee structure and oversight of the in-service training and educational programs for state employees by the Department of State Civil Service.

Byron Decoteau, Jr., State Civil Service, no address provided, (225) 342-8272, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 21.

Representative Mike Johnson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 21 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 21 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Henry, Hodges, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Magee, Newell, Schamerhorn, and White voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 20 by Senator Hewitt

Senator Hewitt presented Senate Bill No. 20, which provides relative to voting and the holding of elections impaired as the result of a declared emergency or disaster.

Representative Ivey offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on Senate Bill No. 20.

Chairman Dwight in the chair.

Nancy Landry, office of the Louisiana secretary of state, no address provided, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 20 and presented a statement to the committee on behalf of R. Kyle Ardoin, Louisiana secretary of state.

Lani Durio, office of the Louisiana secretary of state, 8585 Archives Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 287-7476, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 20.

Representative Ivey withdrew his motion to involuntarily defer action on Senate Bill No. 20.

Representative Ivey offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on Senate Bill No. 20. Without objection, action on Senate Bill No. 20 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 14 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Beaulieu, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Henry, Hodges, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Magee, Newell, Schamerhorn, and White voted yea. Representative Dwight abstained.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 27 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 22 by Senator Hewitt

Senator Hewitt presented Senate Bill No. 22, which provides for preparation and counting of absentee and early voting ballots.

Representative Dwight offered amendments to:

- (1) Limit changes to procedures and compensation of parish board of election supervisors to elections impaired as a result of a declared disaster or emergency.
- (2) Provide that the procedures granting additional time that may begin four days before an election impaired as a result of a declared disaster or emergency for the preparation and verification of absentee by mail and early voting ballots are void and of no effect on August 1, 2021.

Representative Dwight offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Beaulieu, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Henry, Hodges, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Magee, Newell, Schamerhorn, and White voted yea. Representative Dwight abstained.

Lani Durio, office of the Louisiana secretary of state, 8585 Archives Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 287-7476, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 22.

Representative Ivey offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 22 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 22 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Beaulieu, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Henry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Magee, Newell, Schamerhorn, and White voted yea. Representative Dwight abstained.

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

Senate Bill No. 39 by Senator Hewitt

Senator Hewitt presented Senate Bill No. 39, which provides for remote operations of the legislature during a gubernatorially declared state of emergency.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 39 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 39 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Beaulieu, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Henry, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Newell, and Schamerhorn voted yea. Representative Dwight abstained.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

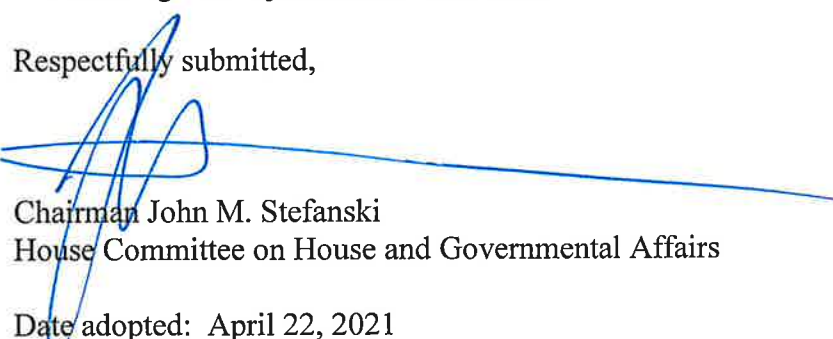
There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Duplessis offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 9 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Beaulieu, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Henry, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Newell, and Schamerhorn voted yea. Representative Dwight abstained.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:51 a.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.