

House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2020 Regular Session
March 11, 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 1:00 p.m. in Room 3, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Stephen C. Dwight, chairman
Representative Reggie Paul "Bagala" Bagala
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 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:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms
Alvin Judson, sergeant at arms
Hailey Austin, clerk

III. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

Chairman Dwight introduced committee members and the committee staff.

IV. DISCUSSION OF ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS**Committee Jurisdiction, Workload, and Business**

Patricia Lowrey-Dufour, legislative analyst for the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs, explained the committee's jurisdiction and workload, and other matters that may come before the committee. She presented Exhibit A, a document entitled, "For Instruments Referred to House and Governmental Affairs (H)", and Exhibit B, a document entitled, "For Instruments Referred to Senate and Governmental Affairs (S)", which are included in the committee records.

Consideration and Adoption of Committee Rules

Chairman Dwight presented an update to the Rules of the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs, Exhibit C, which is included in the committee records. Representative Duplessis offered a motion to adopt the committee rules, which adds a rule that substantive amendments shall be requested at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting on the instrument to which the amendments would apply. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Dwight, Bagala, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Henry, Horton, Ivey, Mike Johnson, Schamerhorn, and White voted yea.

V. PRESENTATIONS**Department of State**

R. Kyle Ardoin, secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 922-2880, provided an overview of the duties and responsibilities of each department within the agency.

R. Kyle Ardoin introduced staff members that were present at the meeting.

Representative Duplessis asked Mr. Ardoin to describe how the new voting machines will be different from the current voting machines. Mr. Ardoin replied that the new voting machines are similar to early voting machines, and that the Department of State was working closely with the Division of Administration on this effort.

Representative Duplessis asked Mr. Ardoin for clarification on the phase-in effort of getting new voting machines. Mr. Ardoin replied that it would be a three-year phase-in process, using both new and old voting machines and systems simultaneously.

Representative Duplessis asked Mr. Ardoin to describe the process of deciding who receives the new voting machines first. Mr. Ardoin replied that his staff would ease the new voting machines into the system.

Chairman Dwight asked Mr. Ardoin to briefly discuss the new voting machines and their capability of reducing the number of elections in the future. Mr. Ardoin replied that the new voting machines are similar to early voting machines, and allow for more options to be listed on the ballot, therefore reducing the number of elections in the future.

Clerks of Court Association

Debbie D. Hudnall, Louisiana Clerks of Court Association, 10202 Jefferson Highway, Building A, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 293-1162, provided an overview of the association and explained its duties, responsibilities, and where it receives its funding.

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

Registrars of Voters Association

Brian J. Champagne, St. Charles Parish Registrar of Voters, P.O. Box 315, Hahnville, LA 70057, (985) 783-5120, provided a letter to the committee, Exhibit D, which contained a list of members of the Board of Directors of the Louisiana Registrar of Voters Association, Inc., and is included in the committee records.

Brian J. Champagne introduced staff members that were present at the meeting.

Lin Stewart, Registrar of Voters Association, 701 Murray Street, Alexandria, LA 71301, (318) 473-6770, spoke for information only on the Registrars of Voters Association.

Department of State Civil Service

Toby Comeaux, State Civil Service, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-8084, provided a PowerPoint presentation to the committee, Exhibit E, which was an overview of the agency and its operations, and is included in the committee records.

Mr. Comeaux introduced staff members that were present at the meeting.

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

State Police Service

Jason Hannaman, Louisiana State Police Commission, 5825 Florida Boulevard #1180, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 328-3859, provided a handout to the committee, Exhibit F, which explained the operation of the agency, and is included in the committee records.

Representative Newell asked Mr. Hannaman about the number of cadet applicants the agency receives regularly. Mr. Hannaman replied that the agency receives between 30 - 50 applications per month.

Representative Horton commended Mr. Hannaman and the Louisiana State Police Commission on their efforts to provide applicants with an option to take the cadet exam electronically or written.

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

Board of Ethics

Kathleen M. Allen, Louisiana Board of Ethics/Ethics Administration Program, P.O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 219-5600, provided an overview of the Louisiana Board of Ethics, its tasks and operations, and staff duties and responsibilities.

Representative Gadberry asked Ms. Allen to clarify when an election cycle ends and another election cycle begins. Ms. Allen replied that an election cycle ends when a candidate does not have any debt, deficits, or surplus funds from the prior election, and an election cycle begins when a candidate begins raising funds for a future election.

Patricia Lowrey-Dufour, committee analyst, reinforced the comments of Ms. Allen.

Office of State Examiner

Adrienne Bordelon, Office of State Examiner, 8550 United Plaza Boulevard, Suite 901, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-4416, provided a PowerPoint presentation to the committee, Exhibit G, which was an overview of the office and its operations, and is included in the committee records.

Division of Administrative Law

Emalie Boyce, Division of Administrative Law, 1020 Florida Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-1800, provided a PowerPoint presentation to the committee, Exhibit H, which explained the mission of the division, and is included in the committee records.

Representative Carter asked Ms. Boyce to clarify how an administrative law judge is selected and the criteria one must meet. Ms. Boyce replied that candidates with at least 10 years of experience in practicing law are preferred, and individuals of all backgrounds and demographics are chosen.

Representative Duplessis asked Ms. Boyce if there were specific or set terms for the appointments. Ms. Boyce replied that appointees do not serve specific or set terms, and once they are hired and become permanent employees, there is a six-month probationary period.

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

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Duplessis offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Dwight, Bagala, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Henry, Horton, Ivey, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Magee, Newell, Schamerhorn, and White voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Vice Chairman Royce Duplessis
House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Date adopted: October 7, 2020