

House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2021 Regular Session
April 22, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative John M. Stefanski, chairman of the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. in Room 3, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative John M. Stefanski, chairman
Representative Gerald "Beau" Beaulieu, IV
Representative Wilford Dan Carter, Sr.
Representative Royce Duplessis, vice chairman
Representative Les Farnum
Representative Foy Bryan Gadberry
Representative Valarie Hodges
Representative Dodie Horton
Representative Sam L. Jenkins, Jr.
Representative Michael T. Johnson
Representative Jeremy S. LaCombe
Representative Rodney Lyons
Representative Tanner D. Magee
Representative Candace N. Newell
Representative Polly Thomas
Representative Malinda B. White

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Daryl Andrew Deshotel
Representative Barry Ivey

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

John Harrington, clerk
Vivian Hurst, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 27 by Representative Gregory Miller**

Representative Gregory Miller presented House Bill No. 27, which repeals certain adjudication, reporting, and notice requirements applicable to certain licensing boards and commissions.

Representative Gregory Miller provided handouts, which are in the committee records, as follows: "Act No. 655 of 2018 Compliance as of 1/28/2021", Exhibit A; and "Act No. 655 of 2018 Compliance as of 4/21/2021", Exhibit B.

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to report House Bill No. 27 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 27 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, and White 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.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 1 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 260 by Representative Gregory Miller

Representative Gregory Miller presented House Bill No. 260, which provides for technical corrections and revision of provisions of Title 36 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes.

Representative Stefanski offered technical amendments. Representative Stefanski offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Magee, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

Vice Chairman Duplessis in the chair.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 260 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 260 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, and Thomas voted yeas.

House Bill No. 138 by Representative Farnum

Representative Farnum presented House Bill No. 138, which provides for a supplemental annual canvass of registered voters.

Chairman Stefanski in the chair.

Representative Farnum offered amendments regarding persons who receive a supplemental address confirmation card. The amendments removed those whose addresses were not verified in the annual canvass and added those whose addresses were not corrected in accordance with information received from the U.S. Postal Service. Representative Farnum offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, and Thomas voted yeas.

R. Kyle Ardoin, secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 922-2880, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 138.

Celia Cangelosi, office of the Louisiana secretary of state, 5551 Corporate Boulevard, Suite 101, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 231-1453, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 138.

Representative Magee in the chair.

Chairman Stefanski in the chair.

Melissa Flournoy, Louisiana Progress Action, 2228 Cherokee Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 936-7200, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 138.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Bill No. 138 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 138 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Magee, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yeas.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support, 2 in opposition, and 3 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, and 1 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 329 by Representative Harris

Representative Harris presented House Bill No. 329, which changes age of a child who may accompany a parent or legal guardian into a voting machine.

R. Kyle Ardoin, secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 922-2880, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 329.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments to change the effective date of the proposed law. Representative Stefanski offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Jennifer K. Miranda, Ambitious Parents and Children of Louisiana, 37176 Goodwood Street, Prairieville, LA 70769, (225) 278-4563, spoke in support of House Bill No. 329.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 329 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 329 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Magee, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, and 3 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 330 by Representative Harris

Representative Harris presented House Bill No. 330, which increases the number of commissioners for the presidential preference primary election.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments to change the effective date of the proposed law. Representative Stefanski offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Magee, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Bill No. 330 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 330 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Magee, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, and 4 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 388 by Representative Harris

Representative Harris presented House Bill No. 388, which provides relative to the preparation and verification process of absentee and early voting ballots prior to election day.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments regarding the time frame during which a parish may conduct the preparation and verification of absentee by mail and early voting ballots that:

- (1) Change the maximum period from four days to three days, if the maximum is approved by the secretary of state.
- (2) Provide that present law is applicable to all parishes unless the maximum period is approved.

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Magee, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Vice Chairman Duplessis in the chair.

R. Kyle Ardoin, secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 922-2880, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 388.

Representative Hodges offered a motion to report House Bill No. 388 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 388 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Lyons, Magee, Newell, and White voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 141 by Representative Stagni

Representative Stagni presented House Bill No. 141, which requires persons conducting exit polls within six hundred feet of a polling place to register with the secretary of state.

R. Kyle Ardoin, secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 922-2880, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 141.

Representative Hodges offered a motion to report House Bill No. 141 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 141 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Lyons, Magee, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 139 by Representative Gadberry

Representative Gadberry presented House Bill No. 139, which requires specified members of the parish board of election supervisors to complete annual training relative to the preparation for and conduct of elections.

R. Kyle Ardoin, secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 922-2880, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 139.

Representative Thomas offered amendments to remove proposed law exempting the designees of the registrar of voters and clerk of court from the training. Representative Thomas offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Magee, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report House Bill No. 139 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 139 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Magee, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, and 3 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.

House Bill No. 167 by Representative Mike Johnson

Representative Mike Johnson presented House Bill No. 167, which provides for removal of deceased persons from voter registration rolls.

Representative Mike Johnson offered amendments to:

- (1) Delete proposed law imposing a three-day deadline on the cancellation of registration of deceased persons.
- (2) Delete proposed law providing the criteria for the removal of deceased persons from voter rolls.
- (3) Add provision for the secretary of state to establish criteria for the removal of deceased persons from voter rolls.
- (4) Add provision requiring the registrar of voters to review the information received from Louisiana Department of Health to determine if information is sufficient to cancel or challenge the registration of deceased persons.
- (5) Change the effective date of proposed law.

Representative Mike Johnson offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Magee, Thomas, and White voted yea.

R. Kyle Ardoin, secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 922-2880, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 167.

Chairman Stefanski in the chair.

Melissa Flourney, Louisiana Progress Action, 2228 Cherokee Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 936-7200, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 167.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Bill No. 167 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 167 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, and 3 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, and 1 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 581 by Representative Mike Johnson

Representative Mike Johnson presented House Bill No. 581, which makes revisions to the Louisiana Election Code.

Representative Mike Johnson offered amendments to:

- (1) Change the proposed election offense regarding "spoofing" from falsifying election information obtained from contacting a telephone number of an election official or impersonating an election official to transmitting or otherwise providing false or misleading election information from a source disguised to be an election official's or while impersonating an election official.
- (2) Provide that the registrar of voters post information on his website regarding when and where the early voting machines will be prepared, if possible.
- (3) Remove proposed change to the notice of candidacy forms regarding availability of campaign finance materials.
- (4) Change the proposed deadline to file the list of watchers with the clerk from the seventh business day to the tenth business day.

Representative Mike Johnson offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Kristy F. Gary, deputy ethics administrator, Louisiana Board of Ethics, P.O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 219-5600, emailed a letter on behalf of the Board of Ethics in support of House Bill No. 581, Exhibit C, which is included in the committee records.

R. Kyle Ardoin, secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 922-2880, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 581.

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to report House Bill No. 581 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 581 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support, and 3 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 opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Resolution No. 9 by Representative Zeringue

Representative Zeringue presented House Resolution No. 9, which provides for recommitment of any instrument with a specified fiscal impact to the Committee on Appropriations.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 9 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 9 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Jenkins, LaCombe, Lyons, Magee, Newell, and Thomas voted yeas.

House Bill No. 214 by Representative Cormier

Representative Cormier presented House Bill No. 214, which provides relative to required orientation and training of new registrars of voters.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments to add a requirement for the involvement of the Registrar of Voters Association in the development of the training. Representative Stefanski offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Jenkins, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, and Thomas voted yeas.

R. Kyle Ardoin, secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 922-2880, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 214.

Representative Jenkins offered a motion to report House Bill No. 214 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 214 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Jenkins, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, and Thomas voted yeas.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support, and 3 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.

House Bill No. 373 by Representative Bishop

On behalf of Representative Bishop, R. Kyle Ardoin, secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 922-2880, presented House Bill No. 373, which establishes an exception to public records requirements for certain information by the secretary of state.

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to report House Bill No. 373 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 373 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Jenkins, LaCombe, Lyons, and Newell voted yea.

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

IV. OTHER BUSINESS**Adoption of minutes for committee meetings held on March 1 and June 21, 2016; September 30, October 1, October 7, October 14, October 20, 2020; and January 5, 2021**

Representative Newell offered a motion to adopt the minutes as presented. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Jenkins, LaCombe, Lyons, and Newell voted yea.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Newell offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Jenkins, LaCombe, Lyons, and Newell voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: