

House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2022 First Extraordinary Session
February 16, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative John M. Stefanski, chairman of the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. in Room 5, 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 Daryl Andrew Deshotel
Representative Royce Duplessis, vice chairman
Representative Les Farnum
Representative Foy Bryan Gadberry
Representative Valarie Hodges
Representative Dodie Horton
Representative Barry Ivey
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:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

John Harrington, clerk
Clarence Russ, sergeant at arms
Danny Leming, sergeant at arms
Keshauna Murphy, sergeant at arms
Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms
Faye Talbot, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**Senate Bill No. 1 by Senator Cortez**

Senator Cortez presented Senate Bill No. 1, which provides for the redistricting of the Louisiana Senate.

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 1 favorably, to which Representative Jenkins objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 1 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Ivey, Mike Johnson, Thomas, and White voted yea. Representatives Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Jenkins, Lyons, and Newell voted nay.

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

Vice Chairman Duplessis in the chair.

House Bill No. 10 by Representative Wilford Carter

Representative Wilford Carter presented House Bill No. 10, a constitutional amendment which increases the number of associate supreme court justices and increases the required number of justices concurring in order to render judgment.

Representative Wilford Carter offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 10. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 10 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 13 by Representative Wilford Carter

Representative Wilford Carter presented House Bill No. 13, a constitutional amendment which provides that the supreme court shall be composed of nine justices.

Representative Wilford Carter offered a motion to report House Bill No. 13 favorably, to which Representative Horton objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 6 yeas and 7 nays. Representatives Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Ivey, Jenkins, Lyons, and Newell voted yea. Representatives Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Mike Johnson, and Thomas 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.

House Bill No. 17 by Representative Wilford Carter

Representative Wilford Carter presented House Bill No. 17, which provides for nine election districts for the election of justices to the supreme court.

Representative Wilford Carter offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 17. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 17 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 18 by Representative Wilford Carter

Representative Wilford Carter presented House Bill No. 18, which provides for the redistricting of the supreme court.

Representative Duplessis offered a motion to report House Bill No. 18 favorably, to which Representative Beaulieu objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 18 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas, 7 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Duplessis, Ivey, Jenkins, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, and White voted yea. Representatives Beaulieu, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Mike Johnson, and Thomas voted nay. Representative Stefanski abstained.

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

House Bill No. 20 by Representative Wilford Carter

Representative Wilford Carter presented House Bill No. 20, which provides for the redistricting of the supreme court.

Representative Duplessis offered a motion to report House Bill No. 20 favorably, to which Representative Horton objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 20 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas, 7 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Ivey, Jenkins, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, and White voted yea. Representatives Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Mike Johnson, Magee, and Thomas voted nay. Representative Stefanski abstained.

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

Chairman Stefanski in the chair.

Senate Bill No. 15 by Senator Hewitt

Senator Hewitt presented Senate Bill No. 15, which provides for redistricting of the supreme court.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments to change the effective date to January 1, 2023. 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, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Magee, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

Peter Robins-Brown, Louisiana Progress Action, 650 North 6th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (504) 256-8196, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 15.

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

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

House Bill No. 23 by Representative Glover

Representative Glover presented House Bill No. 23, which provides for the districts for the election of members to the House of Representatives.

Katie Bernhardt, Louisiana Democratic Party, P.O. Box 52309, Lafayette, LA 70503, (337) 278-8733, spoke in support of House Bill No. 23.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 23 favorably, to which Representative Stefanski objected. Representative Stefanski offered a substitute motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 23. The administrative assistant called the roll, and action on House Bill No. 23 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and 7 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Mike Johnson, Magee, and Thomas voted yea. Representatives Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Ivey, Jenkins, Lyons, Newell, and White voted nay.

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

House Bill No. 24 by Representative Glover

Representative Glover presented House Bill No. 24, which provides for the districts for the election of members to the House of Representatives.

Representative Duplessis offered a motion to report House Bill No. 24 favorably, to which Representative Stefanski objected. Representative Stefanski offered a substitute motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 24. The administrative assistant called the roll, and action on House Bill No. 24 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 9 yeas and 7 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Mike Johnson, Magee, and Thomas voted yea. Representatives Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Jenkins, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, and White voted nay.

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

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Wilford Carter offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed 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.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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

Date adopted: March 17, 2022