

House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2022 Regular Session
April 6, 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 9:14 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 Barry Ivey
Representative Sam L. Jenkins, Jr.
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 Michael T. Johnson

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. 202 by Representative Mike Johnson**

House Bill No. 202 requires political committees to include specified information on the statement of organization.

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 202. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 202 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, 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. 188 by Representative Villio

Representative Villio presented House Bill No. 188, which provides relative to prohibitions and requirements for digital material of a political nature.

Peter Robins-Brown, Louisiana Progress Action, 650 North 6th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (504) 256-8196, spoke in support of House Bill No. 188 and provided a handout, "Digital Ad Funding Transparency", which is labeled Exhibit A in the committee records.

Merrilee Montgomery, Louisiana Progress Action, 650 North 6th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (229) 603-2706, spoke in support of House Bill No. 188.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments to add to the list of media companies not included in the definition of person. Representative Stefanski 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, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Representative Jenkins offered a motion to report House Bill No. 188 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 188 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 418 by Representative Marino

Representative Marino presented House Bill No. 418, which provides relative to eligibility for a therapeutic use of marijuana production license.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 418. No vote was taken on the motion.

Tony Landry, Louisiana Veterans for Medical Cannabis, 213 Case Lane, Lafayette, LA, (337) 412-2836, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 418 and provided a handout which is labeled Exhibit B in the committee records.

Francis Dorsey, 413 Everette Street, New Iberia, LA 70563, (337) 789-3986, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 418.

Angela Broussard, 40225 Fenway Avenue, Prairieville, LA 70769, (225) 572-1235, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 418.

Representative Beaulieu offered a substitute motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 418. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 418 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 299 by Representative Amedee

Representative Amedee presented House Bill No. 299, which provides for an exception to the Open Meetings Law.

Guy Cormier, Police Jury Association of Louisiana, 707 North 7th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (337) 207-8571, spoke in support of House Bill No. 299.

Vice Chairman Duplessis in the chair.

Chairman Stefanski in the chair.

Scott Sternberg, Louisiana Press Association, 935 Gravier Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 299.

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 299. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 299 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Farnum, Gadberry, Ivey, Jenkins, LaCombe, Lyons, Magee, Newell, 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. 390 by Representative Wright

Representative Wright presented House Bill No. 390, which provides relative to rules adopted under the Administrative Procedure Act.

Representative Ivey offered a motion to report House Bill No. 390 with amendments. No vote was taken.

Representative Wright provided handouts from the Mercatus Center at George Mason University, "A Snapshot of Louisiana Regulation in 2019" and "A Snapshot of Regulation in Southern US States", which are labeled as Exhibits C and D in the committee records.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments that:

- (1) Provided that all rules sunset by June 30 of the year following adoption unless the legislature acted to continue the rule;
- (2) Required legislative oversight hearings prior to the convening of the regular legislative session of each year on all rules that were adopted in the previous year to determine if the rules should be continued; and
- (3) Required legislation to authorize the continued effectiveness of such rules.

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Ivey, Jenkins, LaCombe, Lyons, Magee, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Sarah Harbison, Pelican Institute, 400 Poydras Street, Suite 900, New Orleans, LA 70130, (504) 952-8016, spoke in support of House Bill No. 390.

Joe Luppino-Esposito, Pacific Legal Foundation, 3100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 610, Arlington, VA 22201, (201) 835-4236, spoke in support of House Bill No. 390.

Vice Chairman Duplessis in the chair.

Mary Peyton, Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners, 630 Camp Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, (504) 568-6820, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 390.

Thomas Harris, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, no address provided, (225) 278-8860, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 390.

Deidra Johnson, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, 602 North 5th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-4053, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 390.

Carrie Jones, Louisiana State Board of Nursing, 17373 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 755-7575, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 390.

Luke Morris, deputy secretary, Louisiana Department of Revenue, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 390.

Cole Garrett, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 763-5577, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 390.

Chairman Stefanski in the chair.

Representative Ivey withdrew his motion to report House Bill No. 390 with amendments.

Representative Ivey offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 390. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 390 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, LaCombe, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 666 by Representative Wright

Representative Wright presented House Bill No. 666, which provides relative to adjudications and judicial review of adjudications.

Joe Luppino-Esposito, Pacific Legal Foundation, 3100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 610, Arlington, VA 22201, (201) 835-4236, spoke in support of House Bill No. 666.

Sarah Harbison, Pelican Institute, 400 Poydras Street, Suite 900, New Orleans, LA 70130, (504) 952-8016, spoke in support of House Bill No. 666.

Jill Clark, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, 602 North 5th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-4055, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 666.

Courtney Burdette, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, 602 North 5th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-3985, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 666.

Luke Morris, deputy secretary, Louisiana Department of Revenue, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (985) 662-8411, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 666.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Bill No. 666 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 666 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, LaCombe, Magee, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support, 1 in opposition, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 206 by Representative Green

Representative Green presented House Bill No. 206, which provides that the party affiliation for candidates for judicial office shall not be printed on the ballot.

Bill Bryan, Independent Party in Louisiana, 4744 Jamestown Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 278-8830, spoke in support of House Bill No. 206.

Representative Jenkins offered amendments to add an effective date. Representative Jenkins 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, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, LaCombe, Magee, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Representative Jenkins offered a motion to report House Bill No. 206 with amendments, to which Representative Thomas objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 206 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas, 3 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Ivey, Jenkins, LaCombe, Magee, Newell, and White voted yea. Representatives Hodges, Horton, and Thomas voted nay. Representative Stefanski abstained.

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

House Bill No. 35 by Representative Farnum

Representative Farnum presented House Bill No. 35, which provides for a supplemental annual canvass of registered voters.

Kyle Ardoin, Department of State, 8585 Archives Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 922-2880, spoke in support of House Bill No. 35.

Vice Chairman Duplessis in the chair.

Christy Haik, 1377 Steele Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 803-4746, spoke in support of House Bill No. 35.

Katie Alexander, 1380 Steele Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 408-9498, spoke in support of House Bill No. 35.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Bill No. 35 favorably, to which Representative Jenkins objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 35 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Magee, and Thomas voted yea. Representatives Duplessis, Jenkins, LaCombe, Newell, and White voted nay.

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

Chairman Stefanski in the chair.

House Bill No. 144 by Representative Deshotel

On behalf of Representative Deshotel, Representative Newell presented House Bill No. 144, which requires candidates for public office to provide a valid email address when qualifying for office.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Bill No. 144 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 144 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Jenkins, LaCombe, Magee, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 646 by Representative Stefanski

Representative Stefanski presented House Bill No. 646, which makes revisions to the Louisiana Election Code.

Jennifer Bollinger, office of Louisiana secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 922-2880, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 646.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments that:

- (1) Made technical changes;
- (2) Allowed the secretary of state to contract for the delivery of election machines and equipment to early voting locations in parishes that have three or more early voting locations;
- (3) Specified that the secretary of state shall publish the proclamation for certain special elections when the governor issued the proclamation; and
- (4) Allowed the Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure to deliver notices relative to annual reports to certain candidates via electronic mail.

Sherri Hadskey, office of Louisiana secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 922-2880, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 646.

Representative Stefanski 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, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Jenkins, LaCombe, Magee, Newell, and White voted yea.

Representative Magee offered a motion to report House Bill No. 646 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 646 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Jenkins, LaCombe, Magee, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 259 by Representative Magee

Representative Magee presented House Bill No. 259, which provides for calling a limited constitutional convention and preparations therefor.

Representative Magee offered amendments that:

- (1) Reduced the number of convention delegates;
- (2) Limited the scope of the convention regarding public retirement; and
- (3) Made technical changes.

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 Stefanski, Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Jenkins, Magee, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Ron J. Sapia, 110 Bourgeois Street, Raceland, LA 70394, (985) 859-7119, spoke in support of House Bill No. 259.

Representative Magee offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 259. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 259 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Magee, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

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

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

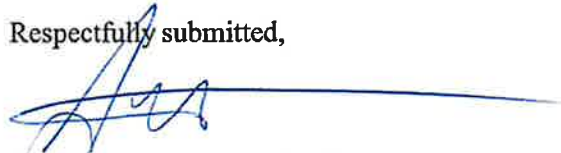
There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Thomas offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Magee, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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

Date adopted: September 15, 2022