

## **House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs**

Minutes of Meeting  
2022 Regular Session  
April 13, 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 9:05 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 Daryl Andrew Deshotel  
Representative Royce Duplessis, vice chairman  
Representative Les Farnum  
Representative Foy Bryan Gadberry  
Representative Dodie Horton  
Representative Barry Ivey  
Representative Sam L. Jenkins, Jr.  
Representative Michael T. Johnson  
Representative Rodney Lyons  
Representative Tanner D. Magee  
Representative Candace N. Newell  
Representative Polly Thomas  
Representative Malinda B. White

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

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

#### **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. 770 by Representative St. Blanc**

Representative St. Blanc presented House Bill No. 770, which creates and provides for the Louisiana Governor's Mansion Commission.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments that:

- (1) Specified that the commission is within the office of the governor;
- (2) Changed board membership;
- (3) Provided that changes to the private areas of the mansion are subject to commission approval;
- (4) Removed the requirement for legislative approval of maintenance or repairs costing more than \$100,000;
- (5) Removed authority for the commission to pursue civil litigation enjoining a governor from instituting changes to the mansion that violate proposed law; and
- (6) Provided that the commission's solicitation of donations may be indirectly through a foundation.

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, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Magee, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Randy Haynie, Louisiana Governor's Mansion Commission, 1465 Ted Dunham Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 235-7049, spoke in support of House Bill No. 770.

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to report House Bill No. 770 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 770 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Magee, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

**House Bill No. 12 by Representative Frieman**

Representative Frieman presented House Bill No. 12, which provides relative to termination of emergency declarations.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments to add a provision that the termination of a state of disaster or emergency does not affect an election being conducted in accordance with present law regarding emergency election procedures. 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, Beaulieu, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments to replace present law providing that either house of the legislature may terminate the emergency declaration with a requirement that a majority of both houses of the legislature is required to terminate such an emergency declaration. 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, Beaulieu, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

*Vice Chairman Duplessis in the chair.*

*Chairman Stefanski in the chair.*

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to report House Bill No. 12 with amendments, to which Representative Lyons objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 12 was reported with amendments by a vote of 6 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Gadberry, Ivey, Mike Johnson, and Thomas voted yea. Representatives Duplessis, Jenkins, Lyons, Newell, and White voted nay.

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.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 8 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 143 by Representative Butler**

Representative Butler presented House Bill No. 143, which provides for development and implementation by state agencies of policies, training, and reporting relative to compliance with requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments to add a provision that self-identification forms required by proposed law are exempt from disclosure pursuant to the Public Records Law. 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, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Lyons, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments to change the scope of proposed law application from all state agencies to agencies within the executive branch of the state. 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, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Lyons, and Thomas voted yea.

Rikki Nicole David, office of state ADA coordinator, 1051 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 342-1243, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 143.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report House Bill No. 143 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 143 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Lyons, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

#### **House Bill No. 685 by Representative Hilferty**

House Bill No. 685 provides relative to the termination of emergency declarations.

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 685. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 685 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Lyons, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

#### **House Bill No. 701 by Representative Hilferty**

Representative Hilferty presented House Bill No. 701, which provides relative to the declaration of a state of emergency.

Guy Cormier, Police Jury Association of Louisiana, 707 North 7th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 701.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments to make technical changes. Representative Stefanski 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, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Lyons, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments to add a provision that proposed law does not affect an election being conducted in accordance with present law regarding emergency election procedures. 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, Deshotel, Duplessis, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Lyons, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Bill No. 701 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 701 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Deshotel, Duplessis, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Lyons, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

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

#### **House Bill No. 661 by Representative Hilferty**

Representative Hilferty presented House Bill No. 661, which provides that state buildings are not subject to declarations of disaster or emergency declared by parish or municipal officials.

*Representative Deshotel in the chair.*

*Chairman Stefanski in the chair.*

Paul Rainwater, City of New Orleans, 5117 Cheneau Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 281-8176, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 661.

Representative Ivey offered a motion to report House Bill No. 661 favorably, to which Representative Newell objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 661 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Mike Johnson, and Thomas voted yea. Representatives Jenkins, Lyons, Newell, and White 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.

**House Bill No. 359 by Representative Beaulieu**

Representative Beaulieu presented House Bill No. 359, which provides relative to federal election guidance and funding.

Nancy Landry, office of the Louisiana secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 922-2880, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 359.

Sam Adolphsen, Opportunity Solutions Project, 1400 Village Square Boulevard, #3-80038, Tallahassee, FL 32312, (207) 975-8817, spoke in support of House Bill No. 359.

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 359. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 359 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Lyons, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 for information only. Witness cards 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.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments that:

- (1) Removed specific references to "meeting at which a quorum is present" and removed references to conversations via telecommunications media and to presentations that include security sensitive information; and
- (2) Changed the exception to allow members of a public body to receive information regarding preparations for and response and recovery efforts directly relating to a natural disaster or declared emergency if no vote or other action, including formal or informal polling of members or discussion of future action by the public body, occurs.

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, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Lyons, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to report House Bill No. 299 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 299 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Lyons, 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.

#### **IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

#### **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

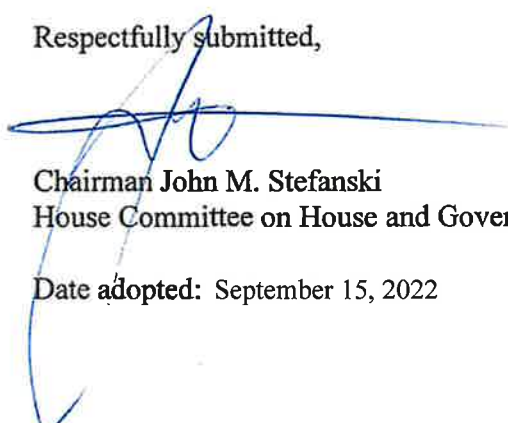
There were no announcements.

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Thomas offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Lyons, Thomas, and White voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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

Date adopted: September 15, 2022