

House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2022 Regular Session
April 19, 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 9:10 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 Valarie Hodges
Representative Dodie Horton
Representative Sam L. Jenkins, Jr.
Representative Michael T. Johnson
Representative Jeremy S. LaCombe
Representative Rodney Lyons
Representative Candace N. Newell
Representative Polly Thomas
Representative Malinda B. White

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Wilford Dan Carter, Sr.
Representative Barry Ivey
Representative Tanner D. Magee

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lorrienne Lucas, attorney
Bryan D. Vincent, division director
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**

Representative Mike Johnson presented House Bill No. 202, which requires political committees to include specified information on the statement of organization.

Representative Mike Johnson offered technical amendments. Representative Mike Johnson 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, Beaulieu, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Newell, and White voted yea.

Kathleen M. Allen, Louisiana Board of Ethics, P.O. Box 4368, no city or state given, (225) 291-5600, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 202.

Representative Mike Johnson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 202 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 202 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, 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. 642 by Representative Firment

On behalf of Representative Firment, Representative Mike Johnson presented House Bill No. 642, which exempts certain transactions regarding the donation, sale, or lease of the former defender's office utilized to render public defender services under certain conditions.

Joseph P. Beck III, Grant Parish Public Defender, 352 Second Street, Colfax, LA, (318) 627-3255, spoke in support of House Bill No. 642.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 642 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 642 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Lyons, Newell, 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. 266 by Representative Willard

Representative Willard presented House Bill No. 266, which provides relative to the Louisiana Commission on HIV, AIDS, and Hepatitis C Education, Prevention, and Treatment.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments to remove a provision allowing meetings to be conducted by electronic means. 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, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Austin Matthews, Louisiana Commission on HIV, AIDS, and HCV, 834 West Johnson Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (318) 355-7066, spoke in support of House Bill No. 266.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 266 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 266 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, 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 Concurrent Resolution No. 14 by Representative Willard

Representative Willard presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 14, which creates a task force to study and make recommendations relative to the voting rights of people with disabilities.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments that:

- (1) Changed the chairman of the task force from the director of the office on disability affairs or his designee to the secretary of state or his designee; and
- (2) Changed provisions relative to the composition of the task force.

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

Kyle Ardoin, secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 922-2880, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 14.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments to remove a provision that the task force shall investigate opportunities to provide curbside voting. 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, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 14 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 14 was reported with amendments 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: 5 in support, and 2 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: 2 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 352 by Representative Landry

Representative Landry presented House Bill No. 352, which provides relative to prepaid postage on absentee ballots.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments that:

- (1) Changed the effective date; and
- (2) Provided that the provisions of the Act not be implemented until after the legislature appropriates sufficient funds to the Department of State to cover costs of the postage paid envelopes for ballots.

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, Horton, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

Kyle Ardoin, secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 922-2880, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 352.

Joel Watson, office of Louisiana secretary of state, 8585 Archives Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 341-9100, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 352.

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 352. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 352 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Deshotel, Duplessis, 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: 5 in support, and 2 for information only. 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.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments that:

- (1) Required the legislative committees to consult with the secretary of state or his designee before taking an action contemplated by proposed law;
- (2) Limited applicability of proposed law regarding acceptance and dispersal of federal elections funds to "new" federal funds; and
- (3) Exempted directives and guidance that are posted on the secretary of state's website from the notification requirements or proposed law.

Representative Beaulieu 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, Gadberry, Horton, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Vice Chairman Duplessis in the chair.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 359 with amendments, to which Representative Jenkins objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 359 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Deshotel, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Mike Johnson, Thomas, and White voted yea. Representatives Duplessis, Jenkins, LaCombe, Lyons, and Newell voted nay.

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

Chairman Stefanski in the chair.

House Bill No. 606 by Representative Geymann

Representative Geymann presented House Bill No. 606, which creates a legislative oversight committee to oversee and set priorities for the expenditure of federal monies received by the state for emergencies and disaster recovery.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments to provide for appointment, rather than election, of the chairman and the vice chairman of the joint committee. 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, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Casey Tingle, Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, 7667 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 925-7500, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 606.

Representative Deshotel in the chair.

Kyle Ardoin, secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 922-2880, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 606.

Representative Deshotel offered amendments to add an exemption from proposed law for emergency elections. Representative Deshotel 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, Beaulieu, Deshotel, Gadberry, Hodges, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

Pat Forbes, Office of Community Development, no address provided, (225) 342-1626, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 606.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 606 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 606 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Deshotel, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, 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.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

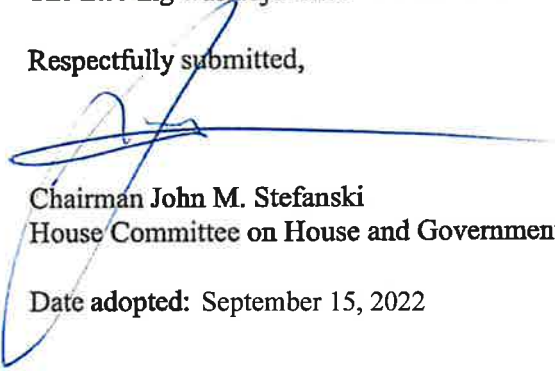
There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Thomas offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Deshotel, Gadberry, Hodges, Horton, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Lyons, Thomas, and White voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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

Date adopted: September 15, 2022