

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

Minutes of Meeting  
2022 Regular Session  
May 3, 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 9:06 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 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 Malinda B. White

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Jeremy S. LaCombe  
Representative Polly Thomas

#### **STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Patricia Lowrey-Dufour, legislative analyst  
Lorrienne 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. 357 by Representative Jenkins**

Representative Jenkins presented House Bill No. 357, which provides relative to polling places.

Representative Jenkins provided handouts, "Sec. 3-07. Commission meetings and rules." and "Sec. 4-05. Powers and duties of the parish administrator.", which are labeled as Exhibits A and B in the committee records.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 357 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 357 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Magee, 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. 559 by Representative Edmonds**

Representative Edmonds presented House Bill No. 559, which provides relative to absentee by mail ballots.

Chris Magee, Louisiana legislative auditor, no address provided, (225) 336-6071, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 559.

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. 559.

Representative Farnum offered a motion to report House Bill No. 559 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 559 was reported by substitute by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Magee, and Newell 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. 671 by Representative Edmonds**

Representative Edmonds presented House Bill No. 671, which provides for testing of voting machines prior to election.

Chris Magee, Louisiana legislative auditor, no address provided, (225) 336-6071, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 671.

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. 671.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments to change the required submission to the parish board of elections supervisors from a test vote on each machine to a certification of the testing. Representative Stefanski offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Magee, and Newell voted yea.

Representative Newell offered amendments to require that the certification of the testing be signed. Representative Newell 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, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Magee, and Newell voted yea.

Representative Farnum offered a motion to report House Bill No. 671 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 671 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Magee, and Newell 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. 924 by Representative Edmonds**

Representative Edmonds presented House Bill No. 924, which provides for post-election tabulation audits of paper records including absentee ballots.

Representative Edmonds provided a handout of recommendations and matters for legislative consideration for House Bill No. 924, which is labeled as Exhibit C in the committee records.

Chris Magee, Louisiana legislative auditor, no address provided, (225) 336-6071, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 924.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments to provide for an effective date and implementation. 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, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Farnum, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Magee, and Newell voted yea.

Nancy Landry, 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. 924.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments to change records subject to audit from in-person and absentee by mail voter-verified paper records to paper ballots and related records. Representative Stefanski offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Farnum, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Magee, and Newell voted yea.

Sherri Hadskey, office of Louisiana secretary of state, no address provided, (225) 916-6486, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 924.

Representative Ivey offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 924. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 924 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Farnum, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, and Newell 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.

### **House Concurrent Resolution No. 32 by Representative Edmonds**

Representative Edmonds presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 32, which urges and requests that the secretary of state produce an annual report of all voting complaints.

Representative Edmonds provided a handout of recommendations for House Concurrent Resolution No. 32, which is labeled as Exhibit C in the committee records.

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 Concurrent Resolution No. 32.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments to change a request to the secretary of state from producing an annual report of voting complaints to adding complaints to his annual performance indicator report. 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, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Farnum, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, and Newell voted yea.

Chris Magee, Louisiana legislative auditor, no address provided, (225) 336-6071, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 32.

Nancy Landry, office of Louisiana secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 922-2880, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 32.

Kyle Ardoin, secretary of state, 8585 Archives Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 922-2880, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 32.

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 32 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 32 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Deshotel, Farnum, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Lyons, and Newell voted yea.

#### **House Resolution No. 19 by Representative Zeringue**

Representative Zeringue presented House Resolution No. 19, which provides relative to notice of interim committee meetings.

Representative Ivey offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 19 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 19 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Deshotel, Farnum, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Lyons, and Newell voted yea.

#### **House Resolution No. 30 by Representative Zeringue**

Representative Zeringue presented House Resolution No. 30, which establishes a task force to study the funding and workload of judicial districts and circuits.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments that:

- (1) Added two members of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate and made changes to provisions regarding per diem and mileage of members related thereto;
- (2) Specified that the members of the House on the task force are appointed by the speaker of the House; and
- (3) Provided that the chairman is a member of the House designated by the speaker of the House and provided that the task force may select any other officers it deems necessary.

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Deshotel, Farnum, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Lyons, and Newell voted yea.

Brian Wiggins, Louisiana Supreme Court, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, LA, (504) 310-2540, spoke for information only on House Resolution No. 30 and provided a letter from the Louisiana Supreme Court, which is labeled Exhibit D in the committee records.

Representative Mike Johnson offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 30 with amendments. Without objection, House Resolution No. 30 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Farnum, Ivey, Mike Johnson, Lyons, and Newell 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.

*Representative Ivey in the chair.*

#### **House Concurrent Resolution No. 90 by Representative Stefanski**

Representative Stefanski presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 90, which requests the State Board of Election Supervisors to study and make recommendations regarding specified election issues.

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 90 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 90 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Farnum, Ivey, Mike Johnson, Lyons, and Newell voted yea.

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

The committee recessed at 10:19 a.m. The committee reconvened at 10:22 a.m.

#### **House Bill No. 912 by Representative Magee**

On behalf of Representative Magee, Representative Stefanski presented House Bill No. 912, which makes technical changes to certain provisions relative to the manner in which ballots are prepared and marked.

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to report House Bill No. 912 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 912 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Farnum, Ivey, Mike Johnson, Lyons, and Newell voted yea.

**IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

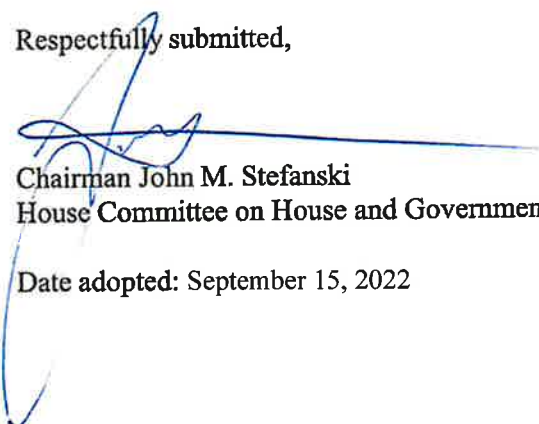
There were no announcements.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Mike Johnson offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Farnum, Ivey, Mike Johnson, Lyons, and Newell voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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

Date adopted: September 15, 2022