

House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2022 Regular Session
May 10, 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 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 Gerald "Beau" Beaulieu, IV
Representative Wilford Dan Carter, Sr.
Representative Jeremy S. LaCombe

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**Senate Bill No. 197 by Senator White**

Senator White presented Senate Bill No. 197, which allows groundwater district commission members appointed by certain entities that furnish water for rural or municipal use to be employees of such entities.

Trey Hill, Baton Rouge Water, 3114 Pentagon Court, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 197.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments that:

- (1) Removed a board member nominated by an industrial user from applicability of proposed law; and
- (2) Removed a provision for retroactive applicability of proposed law.

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, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

Kathy Rhorer Wascom, LEAN, 1255 Aberdeen Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 344-4313, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 197.

Senator White provided a handout, "Boards & Commissions Without Ethics Exceptions", which is labeled Exhibit A in the committee records.

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 197 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 197 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

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.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 7 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 490 by Senator Cortez

On behalf of Senator Cortez, Senator Milligan presented Senate Bill No. 490, which provides for security services in the state capitol building.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments that:

- (1) Removed present law provisions establishing the capitol police;
- (2) Changed the definition utilized to define the state capitol complex and specified the area of jurisdiction for capitol security within the state capitol complex as those areas occupied and utilized by the legislative branch;
- (3) Provided that within the area of jurisdiction for capitol security, the DPS officers shall coordinate with and be subject to the direction of the director of capitol security; and
- (4) Provided for the initial appointment of members to the council and for its first meeting within 90 days of the effective date of proposed law.

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, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Magee in the chair.

Representative Mike Johnson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 490 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 490 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Magee, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

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

Chairman Stefanski in the chair.

Senate Bill No. 73 by Senator Hewitt

Senator Hewitt presented Senate Bill No. 73, which provides for appointments to fill vacancies in local offices under certain circumstances.

Kyle Ardoin, secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 922-2880, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 73.

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 73 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 73 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 74 by Senator Hewitt

Senator Hewitt presented Senate Bill No. 74, which provides relative to the qualification of poll watchers.

Tory Rocca, Disability Rights Louisiana, 8325 Oak Street, New Orleans, LA 70118, (586) 838-0879, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 74.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 74 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 74 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Newell, and Thomas 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.

Senate Bill No. 193 by Senator Hewitt

Senator Hewitt presented Senate Bill No. 193, which provides for the reapportionment plans of school boards.

Kyle Ardoin, secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 922-2880, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 193.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments to conform a present law provision regarding validity of acts taken by a school board despite nullity of the redistricting plan to proposed law providing for nullity by operation of law. 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, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

Dannie Garrett, Dannie P. Garrett, III, Attorney at Law, 635 Main Street #3, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 382-0333, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 193.

Representative Farnum offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 193 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 193 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Deshotel, 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 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 224 by Senator Hewitt

Senator Hewitt presented Senate Bill No. 224, which provides for remote operations of the legislature during a gubernatorially declared state of emergency.

Matt DeVille, attorney for the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs, no address provided, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 224.

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on Senate Bill No. 224. Without objection, action on Senate Bill No. 224 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 1 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 258 by Senator Hewitt

Senator Hewitt presented Senate Bill No. 258, which provides relative to voting and the holding of elections impaired as the result of a declared emergency or disaster.

Kyle Ardoin, secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 922-2880, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 258.

Representative Gadberry offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 258 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 258 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, 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: 1 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 259 by Senator Hewitt

Senator Hewitt presented Senate Bill No. 259, which provides reporting requirements for certain state agencies that administer certain federal and state social service or financial assistance programs.

Vice Chairman Duplessis in the chair.

Daniel Mintz, Louisiana Budget Project, 619 Jefferson Highway, Suite 1-D, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (786) 374-6626, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 259.

Lorrie Briggs, Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services, no address provided, (337) 344-9676, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 259.

Rhonda Brown, Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services, Fraud and Recovery, 627 North 4th Street, Baton Rouge, LA, (337) 884-5783, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 259.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 259 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 259 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 267 by Senator Hewitt

Senator Hewitt presented Senate Bill No. 267, which requires disclosure of whether required ethics training has been completed upon registration.

Representative Duplessis offered amendments to limit the requirement to indicate whether the registrant completed the annual ethics training to lobbyists registered during the prior calendar year. Representative Duplessis offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Duplessis, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Lyons, Newell, and White voted yea.

Representative Duplessis offered amendments that:

- (1) Added "appropriations" to the list of potential subject matters for lobbying the legislature and required a legislative lobbyist to disclose a list of any known legislative instruments he anticipates lobbying; and
- (2) Repealed the exception to supplemental registration requirement.

Representative Duplessis offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Lyons, Newell, and White voted yea.

Kathleen M. Allen, Louisiana Board of Ethics, P.O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 219-5611, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 267.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 267 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 267 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Duplessis, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 333 by Senator Hewitt

Senator Hewitt presented Senate Bill No. 333, which provides relative to boards and commissions.

Representative Duplessis offered amendments to add the Health Education Authority of Louisiana to entities abolished. Representative Duplessis offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Duplessis, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 333 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 333 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Duplessis, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 225 by Senator Hewitt

Senator Hewitt presented Senate Bill No. 225, a constitutional amendment to provide for remote operations of the legislature during a declared emergency.

Representative Duplessis offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on Senate Bill No. 225. Without objection, action on Senate Bill No. 225 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

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

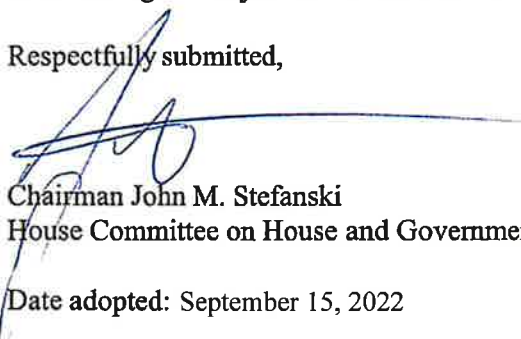
There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Thomas offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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

Date adopted: September 15, 2022