

House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2022 Regular Session
May 11, 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 9:04 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 Jeremy S. LaCombe
Representative Rodney Lyons
Representative Candace N. Newell
Representative Polly Thomas
Representative Malinda B. White

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Tanner D. Magee

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Patricia Lowrey-Dufour, legislative analyst
Lorriane Lucas, attorney
Rosalie Ammersbach, committee administrative assistant
Jennifer Watson, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

John Harrington, clerk
Vivian Hurst, sergeant at arms
Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to invoke the three-minute rule. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 51 by Representative Gregory Miller

Representative Gregory Miller presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 51, which directs the Louisiana State Law Institute to stop printing unconstitutionally adopted language in Article I, Section 10 of the Louisiana Constitution.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 51 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 51 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

House Bill No. 841 by Representative Boyd

Representative Boyd presented House Bill No. 841, which provides relative to the disclosure of personal information of certain persons.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 841 favorably. No vote was taken.

Scott Sternberg, Louisiana Press Association, no address provided, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 841.

Further action was taken by the committee on House Bill No. 841 at a later point in the meeting. Please check subsequent action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 841.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 81 by Representative Mincey

Representative Mincey presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 81, which creates the Workforce Opportunity and Readiness Task Force to study and report relative to workforce readiness programs and activities in public schools.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 81 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 81 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Mike Johnson, Lyons, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

House Bill No. 281 by Representative Marcelle

Representative Marcelle presented House Bill No. 281, which provides relative to the assessment of penalties for failure to timely file required reports.

Representative Duplessis offered amendments to remove a provision that per-day civil penalties for failing to file or failing to timely file campaign reports do not begin until after a certified notice of delinquency is received. Representative Duplessis 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, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Mike Johnson, Lyons, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

Bruce Reilly, Voters Organized to Educate, 4930 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125, (504) 758-9420, spoke in support of House Bill No. 281.

Checo Yancy, Voters Organized to Educate, 251 Florida Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 270-5240, spoke in support of House Bill No. 281.

Kathleen M. Allen, Louisiana Board of Ethics, P.O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 219-5611, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 281.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments to change the proposed new cap on the per-day penalty amount for district office candidates from \$500 to \$1,000. 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, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Lyons, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 281 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 281 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Deshotel, Farnum, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Lyons, Newell, and Thomas 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. 720 by Representative Gaines

Representative Gaines presented House Bill No. 720, which provides for election procedures during a state of emergency.

Representative Gaines offered a substitute bill for House Bill No. 720.

Kyle Ardoin, secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 922-2880, spoke for information only on the substitute bill.

Representative Stefanski offered technical amendments to the substitute bill. 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, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Lyons, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Jenkins offered a motion to report House Bill No. 720 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 720 was reported by substitute by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Duplessis, Farnum, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Lyons, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 36 by Representative Dustin Miller

On behalf of Representative Dustin Miller, Representative Duplessis presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 36, which continues the Healthcare Workplace Violence Task Force created by House Concurrent Resolution No. 121 of the 2021 Regular Session.

Annyel Burkes, Louisiana State Nurses Association, 543 Spanish Town Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (504) 390-2737, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 36.

Leanne H. Fowler, Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners, 154 Islander Drive, Slidell, LA 70458, (504) 214-8100, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 36.

Representative Stefanski offered a technical amendment. Representative Stefanski offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Lyons, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 36 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 36 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Lyons, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 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: 1 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 984 by Representative Amedee

Representative Amedee presented House Bill No. 984, which provides relative to school board meetings.

Scott Sternberg, no address provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 984.

Jennifer Carignan, Louisiana Save Our Schools, 719 South Taylor Street, no city or state provided, (240) 893-9501, spoke in support of House Bill No. 984.

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to report House Bill No. 984 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 984 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Lyons, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 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: 20 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 841 by Representative Boyd

This is a continuation of the discussion on House Bill No. 841 from earlier in the meeting. Please check prior action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 841.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments that:

- (1) Limited the application of redaction of names from online property records to judges and further limited application only to the judge's domiciliary address;
- (2) Required the judge to submit an annual request for the redaction along with proof of currently holding judicial office; and
- (3) Allowed a person to request access to the redacted information by mail or electronic mail.

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, Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Duplessis, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Lyons, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 841 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 841 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Duplessis, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, 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. 987 by Representative Deshotel

Representative Deshotel presented House Bill No. 987, which provides relative to the protection of data.

Representative Stefanski offered technical amendments. 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, Deshotel, Duplessis, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Lyons, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 987. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 987 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Duplessis, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Lyons, Newell, and Thomas 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.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 60 by Representative Deshotel

Representative Deshotel presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 60, which requests a joint subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee and Senate Finance Committee to research, evaluate, and make recommendations relative to the office of technology services.

Representative Deshotel offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 60 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 60 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Farnum, Ivey, Jenkins, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

House Bill No. 811 by Representative Miguez

Representative Miguez presented House Bill No. 811, which prohibits the use of private funds to pay election-related expenses.

Kyle Ardoin, secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 922-2880, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 811.

David Jeddie Smith, Jr., Louisiana Department of Justice, office of the attorney general, 1885 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 326-6000, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 811.

Vice Chairman Duplessis in the chair.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Bill No. 811 favorably, to which Representative Newell objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 811 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 6 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Thomas, and White voted yea. Representatives Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Jenkins, LaCombe, Lyons, and Newell voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 19 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: 15 in support, and 4 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

Chairman Stefanski in the chair.

The committee stood at ease at 11:17 a.m. The committee reconvened at 11:27 a.m.

House Bill No. 980 by Representative Freeman

Representative Freeman presented House Bill No. 980, which provides relative to the state employee leave transfer program.

Michele Caruso, Nicholls State University, 244 Destrahan Drive, Schriever, LA 70395, (985) 688-1986, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 980.

Cami Geisman, University of Louisiana System, 1201 North Third Street, Suite 7-300, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-0270, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 980.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments to remove the repeal of a provision of present law regarding an employer's discretion in considering a request to use leave from the pool. 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, Beaulieu, Duplessis, Gadberry, Ivey, Jenkins, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Representative Ivey offered a motion to report House Bill No. 980 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 980 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Duplessis, Gadberry, Ivey, Jenkins, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

House Bill No. 615 by Representative Freeman

Representative Freeman presented House Bill No. 615, which provides relative to law enforcement records.

Morgan Lamandre, Sexual Trauma Awareness & Response, 5615 Corporate Boulevard, Suite 200, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 615-7093, spoke in support of House Bill No. 615 and provided a handout, "Out of Every 1,000 Sexual Assaults, 975 Perpetrators Will Walk Free", which is labeled Exhibit A in the committee records.

Scott Sternberg, Louisiana Press Association, 935 Gravier Street, Suite 2020, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 351-0808, spoke in support of House Bill No. 615.

Vice Chairman Duplessis in the chair.

Representative LaCombe offered amendments to remove provisions of proposed law relative to access to records prepared by an attorney acting on behalf of a public body and authorizing the custodian to redact mental impressions and legal advice consistent with the attorney-client privilege from such records. Representative LaCombe 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, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Ivey, LaCombe, Lyons, and Thomas voted yea.

Chairman Stefanski in the chair.

Representative Ivey offered amendments to replace "custodian" with "agency" throughout the new language. Representative Ivey 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, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Ivey, LaCombe, Lyons, and Thomas voted yea.

Bruce Reilly, Voters Organized to Educate, 4930 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125, (504) 758-9470, spoke in support of House Bill No. 615.

Katie Hunter-Lowrey, Louisiana Survivors for Reform, 1024 Elysian Fields Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70117, (504) 535-4912, spoke in support of House Bill No. 615.

Sean Cassidy, Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault, 2133 Silverside Drive, Suite A, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 372-7587, spoke in support of House Bill No. 615.

Francis Dorsey, president, Operation Continued Resilience, P.O. Box 9557, New Iberia, LA 70562, (225) 244-9595, spoke in support of House Bill No. 615.

Shannon Dirmann, Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, 1175 Nicholson Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 615.

W. Claire Howington, 16th District Attorney's Office, 300 Iberia Street, Suite 200, New Iberia, LA 70560, (337) 369-4420, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 615.

Representative LaCombe in the chair.

Michael Ranatza, Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, 1175 Nicholson Drive, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 343-8402, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 615.

Chairman Stefanski in the chair.

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 615. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 615 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support, and 2 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 846 by Representative Marcelle

House Bill No. 846 provides relative to registration and voting by a person convicted of a felony.

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 846. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 846 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 10 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 50 by Representative Newell

Representative Newell presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 50, which requests a study of the practicality and feasibility of phasing-in property tax increases when a property's assessed value increases after reassessment by a percentage of less than fifty percent of the previous year's assessed value.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments to change the membership of the subcommittee from not more than three members of each committee to four members of the House Committee on Ways and Means and three members of the Senate Committee on Revenue and Fiscal Affairs. Representative Stefanski offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 50 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 50 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

House Bill No. 161 by Representative Lyons

Representative Lyons presented House Bill No. 161, which provides for the vouchered office expense allowance for members of the legislature.

Representative Lyons offered amendments that:

- (1) Removed an increase of the legislative office expense allowance to \$1,500 if the average rent for a reasonable commercial office space situated in a parish represented by the legislator exceeds \$500 per month; and
- (2) Increased the legislative office expense allowance from \$500 to \$1,000 per month.

Representative Lyons 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, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Bill No. 161 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 161 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

House Bill No. 739 by Representative Lyons

Representative Lyons presented House Bill No. 739, which provides for placement of a statue of Oscar James Dunn in the State Capitol.

Representative Lyons provided an excerpt from Act 57 of 1873 regarding the O.J. Dunn Monumental Association of Louisiana, along with excerpts of Act 59 of 1874 and Act 17 of 1875 specific to appropriations for a tomb for the late Oscar J. Dunn, which is labeled Exhibit B in the committee records.

Representative Lyons played a YouTube video published by WWLTV, "You Ought to Know: Oscar Dunn", which provided a brief history on the late Oscar J. Dunn, the nation's first African-American lieutenant governor in 1868. The video is available on the House legislative website within the recording of this meeting.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Bill No. 739 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 739 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

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

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

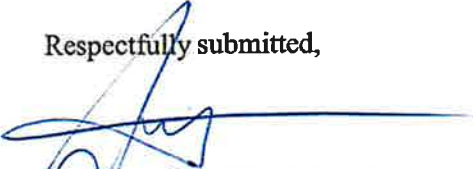
There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Farnum offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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

Date adopted: September 15, 2022