

## House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting  
2022 Regular Session  
May 17, 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 9:09 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 Tanner D. Magee  
Representative Candace N. Newell  
Representative Polly Thomas  
Representative Malinda B. White

#### MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

#### 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. 615 by Representative Freeman**

On behalf of Representative Freeman, Scott Sternberg, no address provided, presented House Bill No. 615, which provides relative to law enforcement records.

Loren M. Lampert, executive director, Louisiana District Attorneys Association, 2525 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 343-0171, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 615.

Morgan Lamandre, Sexual Trauma Awareness & Response, 5615 Corporate Boulevard, Suite 200, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 615-7093, spoke for information only on the proposed amendment and House Bill No. 615.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments that:

- (1) Removed proposed law providing that present law does not prohibit release of any portion of an investigation to a victim or family member unless the custodian determines that the release would materially affect pending or anticipated criminal litigation and providing that if such a determination was made the victim shall be entitled to receive a status update on the charges and investigation within 10 days and prohibiting withholding a report from a victim after a period of 45 days; and
- (2) Added proposed law regarding a victim's access to records regarding a sex offense as outlined in the digest of the original bill.

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

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to report House Bill No. 615 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 615 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, 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.

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. 254 by Representative Green**

Representative Green presented House Bill No. 254, which increases the campaign contribution limit for certain contributions.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments that:

- (1) Changed the effective date from signature of the governor to January 1, 2023; and
- (2) Made proposed law prospective and applicable to contributions made to candidates in elections occurring after January 1, 2023, and provide that the limits applicable on May 17, 2022, apply to contributions to candidates in elections occurring prior to January 1, 2023.

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

Representative Wilford Carter offered a motion to report House Bill No. 254 with amendments, to which Representative Stefanski objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 254 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, and White voted yea. Representatives Stefanski, Farnum, Gadberry, Ivey, and Thomas voted nay.

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. 498 by Representative Green**

Representative Green presented House Bill No. 498, a constitutional amendment which provides for timing and duration of regular legislative sessions.

*Vice Chairman Duplessis in the chair.*

Representative Ivey offered a motion to report House Bill No. 498 favorably, to which Representative Thomas objected. Representative Thomas offered a substitute motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 498, to which Representative Ivey objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 4 yeas and 9 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, and Thomas voted yea. Representatives Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Ivey, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, and White voted nay.

The original motion to report House Bill No. 498 favorably was considered. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 498 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Ivey, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, and White voted yea. Representatives Stefanski, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, and Thomas voted nay.

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.

*Chairman Stefanski in the chair.*

#### **House Bill No. 846 by Representative Marcelle**

Representative Marcelle presented House Bill No. 846, which provides relative to registration and voting by a person convicted of a felony.

Bruce Reilly, Voters Organized to Educate, 4930 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125, (504) 758-9420, spoke in support of House Bill No. 846.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments that provisions prohibiting certain incarcerated felons from registering and voting did not apply if the incarcerated persons were counted for redistricting purposes in the preparation of legislative districts in effect and provided relative to the effectiveness of related provisions.

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

Will Harrell, Voters Organized to Educate, 1221 Kerlerec Street, New Orleans, LA 70116, (512) 695-7519, spoke in support of House Bill No. 846.

J. Christopher Alexander, 1380 Steele Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 333-6434, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 846.

Representative Wilford Carter offered a motion to report House Bill No. 846 with amendments, to which Representative Thomas objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 4 yeas and 10 nays. Representatives Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Lyons, and Newell voted yea. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, and Thomas voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support, and 7 in opposition. 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 opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

### **House Bill No. 251 by Representative Wilford Carter**

Representative Wilford Carter presented House Bill No. 251, which establishes election sections for the election of judges to the City Court of Lake Charles.

Judge Ronald Richard, Lake Charles City Court, 118 West Mill Street, Lake Charles, LA, (337) 491-1305, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 251.

Representative Ivey offered a motion to report House Bill No. 251 favorably, to which Representative Farnum objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas, 8 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Wilford Carter, Duplessis, Ivey, Lyons, and Newell voted yea. Representatives Beaulieu, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Mike Johnson, Thomas, and White voted nay. Representative Stefanski abstained.

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

*Vice Chairman Duplessis in the chair.*

### **House Concurrent Resolution No. 112 by Representative Amedee**

Representative Amedee presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 112, which requests local public bodies to allow the public to view and participate in meetings via electronic means to the extent practicable.

Kelly Monroe, The Arc of Louisiana, 600 Colonial Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 383-1033, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 112.

Representative White offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 112 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 112 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Duplessis, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Mike Johnson, Lyons, Thomas, and White 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 Bill No. 987 by Representative Deshotel**

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

Representative Deshotel offered technical amendments. Representative Deshotel offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Duplessis, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Mike Johnson, Lyons, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Scott Sternberg, no address provided, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 987.

Larry Murray, TechNet, 3650 Morning Glory, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 413-8705, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 987.

Representative Deshotel offered a motion to report House Bill No. 987 with amendments, to which Representative Thomas objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 987 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Mike Johnson, and White voted yea. Representatives Wilford Carter and Thomas voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, and 6 in opposition. 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, 1 in opposition, and 2 for information only. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

#### **House Bill No. 145 by Representative Edmonston**

Representative Edmonston presented House Bill No. 145, which provides relative to rule making procedure.

Representative Ivey offered amendments that:

- (1) Removed proposed law removing the governor's authority to disapprove any action taken by the subcommittee if such action is approved by a two-thirds vote of the members; and
- (2) Removed the repeal of present law relative to the governor's power to suspend or veto a rule or regulation.

Representative Ivey offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report House Bill No. 145 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 145 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Thomas, and White 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.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 3 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

#### **House Bill No. 859 by Representative Muscarello**

House Bill No. 859 provides relative to exceptions to the public records law.

Representative Duplessis offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 859. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 859 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Thomas, and White voted yea.

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

**IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

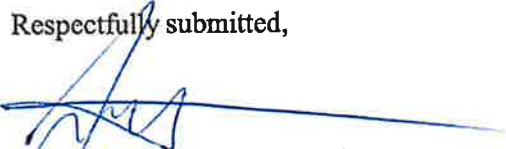
There were no announcements.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Thomas offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beullieu, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Thomas, and White voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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

Date adopted: September 15, 2022