

House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2022 Regular Session
May 24, 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 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 Wilford Dan Carter, Sr.
Representative Tanner D. Magee

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
Danny Leming, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**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.

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 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Matt DeVille, attorney for the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs, no address provided, (225) 342-2101, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 224.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments to repeal proposed law relative to participation in certain meetings by teleconferencing or other electronic means for legislative bodies. 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, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Lyons, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 224 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 224 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, 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.

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 Stefanski offered amendments that:

- (1) Removed proposed changes to the provisions of the present constitution requiring the legislature to provide for orderly and temporary continuity of state government, including those making those provisions permissive and specifically including remote operations of the legislature; and
- (2) Authorized the legislature to utilize remote participation and voting in open, public meetings via electronic means during a gubernatorially declared public emergency upon agreement of the presiding officers while the emergency is in effect.

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

Representative Newell offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 225 with amendments, to which Representative Ivey objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 225 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas, 1 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea. Representative Ivey voted nay. Representative Stefanski abstained.

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

House Resolution No. 116 by Representative Edmonston

Representative Edmonston presented House Resolution No. 116, which expresses the sense of the Louisiana House of Representatives with respect to any potential agreement with the World Health Organization relating to global pandemic response for the United States.

Tobie Thibodeaux, 201 Settlers Trace Boulevard, Lafayette, LA 70508, (318) 453-6464, spoke in support of House Resolution No. 116.

Christy Haik, East Baton Rouge Republican Women (EBRRW), 1377 Steele Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 803-4746, spoke in support of House Resolution No. 116.

Katie Alexander, EBRRW, 1380 Steele Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 408-9498, spoke in support of House Resolution No. 116.

Mary S. Susie Labry, 40128B Emerald Drive, Ponchatoula, LA 70454, (225) 233-7879, spoke in support of House Resolution No. 116.

Debbie Kuehne, 9025 Hill Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 326-0534, spoke in support of House Resolution No. 116.

Jill Hines, Health Freedom Louisiana, 1307 Mesa Avenue, Ruston, LA 71270, (904) 318-6018, spoke in support of House Resolution No. 116.

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 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, and White voted yea.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 116 with amendments, to which Representative Jenkins objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Resolution No. 116 was reported with amendments by a vote of 7 yeas and 6 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, and Ivey voted yea. Representatives Duplessis, Jenkins, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, and White voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 10 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: 78 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 124 by Representative Selders

Representative Selders presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 124, which provides relative to the creation of a legislative disaster assistance and relief fund.

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 124 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 124 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Deshotel, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, and White voted yea.

House Resolution No. 99 by Representative Jefferson

Representative Jefferson presented House Resolution No. 99, which requests each member of the Louisiana House of Representatives to voluntarily serve as a substitute teacher in a public school.

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 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, and White voted yea.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 99 with amendments. Without objection, House Resolution No. 99 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, and White voted yea.

House Resolution No. 17 by Representative Geymann

Representative Geymann presented House Resolution No. 17, which provides relative to procedures required to appropriate certain federal disaster funds for recurring expenses.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 17 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 17 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Duplessis, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, and White voted yea.

House Resolution No. 162 by Representative Ivey

Representative Ivey presented House Resolution No. 162, which provides for the election of the Sergeant at Arms.

Representative Ivey offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 162 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 162 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, and White voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

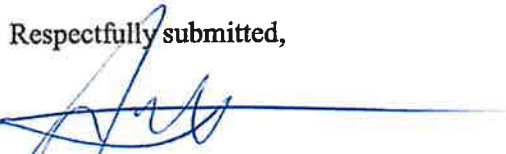
There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Farnum offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Stefanski, Beaulieu, Farnum, Gadberry, Horton, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, and White voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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

Date adopted: September 15, 2022