

Joint Committee on Joint Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2021-2022 Interim
January 20, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative John M. Stefanski, chairman of the Joint Committee on Joint Governmental Affairs, called the meeting to order at 11:18 a.m. in Room 5, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

HOUSE 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 Valarie Hodges
Representative Barry Ivey
Representative Sam L. Jenkins, Jr.
Representative Michael T. Johnson
Representative Jeremy S. LaCombe
Representative Rodney Lyons
Representative Tanner D. Magee
Representative Polly Thomas

HOUSE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Wilford Dan Carter, Sr.
Representative Dodie Horton
Representative Candace N. Newell
Representative Malinda B. White

SENATE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Sharon W. Hewitt, chairman
Senator R. L. Bret Allain, II
Senator Franklin J. Foil
Senator Barry S. Milligan, vice chairman
Senator Edward J. "Ed" Price
Senator Mike Reese
Senator Glen Womack

SENATE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Senator Jimmy Harris
Senator Gregory W. Tarver, Sr.

HOUSE STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Patricia Lowrey-Dufour, legislative analyst
Lorrienne Lucas, attorney
Rosalie Ammersbach, committee administrative assistant
Claire Stevenson, attorney
Michelle Fontenot, clerk of the House

SENATE STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Matthew R. DeVille, attorney
Laur'en M. Cimino, secretary
Yolanda J. Dixon, secretary of the Senate
J.W. Wiley, first assistant secretary of the Senate
Suzanne G. Morain, second assistant secretary of the Senate

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

John Harrington, House student intern
Clarence Russ, House sergeant at arms
Danny Leming, House sergeant at arms
Faye Talbot, House sergeant at arms
Louis Carral, Senate sergeant at arms
Fate Mitchell, Jr., Senate sergeant at arms

III. BUSINESS

Discussion of vacancies on the Board of Ethics

Patricia Lowrey-Dufour, legislative analyst for the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs, discussed the House process of electing two members to fill vacancies on the Board of Ethics in accordance with R.S. 42:1132 from a handout, Exhibit A, "Relative to Selection of Members of the Board of Ethics - R.S. 42:1132", which is in the committee records.

J.W. Wiley, first assistant secretary of the Senate, discussed the Senate process of electing two members to fill vacancies on the Board of Ethics in accordance with R.S. 42:1132 from Exhibit A.

Discussion of redistricting roadshow and plan evaluation form

Patricia Lowrey-Dufour, legislative analyst for the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs, discussed the public attendance and number of people that testified and submitted email testimony at each of the redistricting roadshow hearings. She noted that information presented at the redistricting roadshow hearings could be found on the Legislature of Louisiana's redistricting website.

Ms. Lowrey-Dufour said staff had received 27 block-equivalency files for various proposals for redistricting plans as of January 20, 2022: 5 Senate plans, 2 House plans, 16 Congressional plans, 2 BESE plans, and 2 Supreme Court plans. She said that all submissions could be found on the Legislature of Louisiana's redistricting website.

Ms. Lowrey-Dufour discussed the Plan Evaluation Form adopted on September 17, 2021, by the Joint Governmental Affairs Committee, which is labeled as Exhibit B in the committee records.

Public comment

Checo Yancy, VOTE, 251 Florida Street, Suite 201, no city or state given, (225) 270-5245, spoke for information only.

Vice Chairman Duplessis in the chair.

Liddy Rodimon, 509 Houma Boulevard, no city or state given, (504) 615-7383, spoke for information only.

J. Frankie Hyers, 509 Houma Boulevard, Metairie, LA 70001, (504) 616-3073, spoke for information only on the House, Senate, BESE, PSC, Congress, and Courts.

Chairman Stefanski in the chair.

Mary S. "Susie" Labry, 40128B Emerald Drive, Ponchatoula, LA 70454, (225) 235-7879, spoke for information only on the House and Senate.

Dr. Sheila D. Lewis, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., LA Chapters, 14652 Cottingham Court, Baton Rouge, LA 70817, (225) 802-7715, spoke for information only.

Peter Robins-Brown, Louisiana Progress, 650 North 6th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (504) 256-8196, spoke for information only on the House, Senate, and Congress.

M. Christian Green, League of Women Voters, 1308 Greenbriar Road, Lafayette, LA 70503, (404) 520-9326, spoke for information only on the House and Senate.

Melissa Flournoy, LA Progress Action, 650 North 6th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 936-7200, spoke for information only on the House.

Chairman Hewitt in the chair.

Frankie Robertson, Metromorphosis, 4163 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 247-7834, spoke for information only.

Janea Jamison, Power Coalition, 729 Tricou Street, New Orleans, LA 70117, (985) 513-1674, spoke for information only on the House and Senate.

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

Review of submitted proposals

Senate Plan Submissions

Chris Kaiser, ACLU, 1240 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, (512) 740-1317, spoke for information only on proposed Senate plan, "ACLU", which is labeled Exhibit C in the committee records.

Senator Hewitt and Representatives Ivey, Gadberry, Jenkins, and Magee asked questions of Mr. Kaiser regarding the proposed Senate plan to which he responded.

Four additional Senate plans were submitted by individuals who did not appear before the committee. Copies of these submittals are included in the committee records and are labeled as Exhibits D, E, F, and G.

Chairman Stefanski in the chair.

House Plan Submissions

Chris Kaiser, ACLU, 1240 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, (512) 740-1317, spoke for information only on proposed House plan, "ACLU", which is labeled Exhibit H in the committee records.

Senator Hewitt and Representatives Stefanski, Ivey, Duplessis, and Magee asked questions of Mr. Kaiser regarding the proposed House plan to which he responded.

A House plan was submitted by an individual who did not appear before the committee. A copy of this submittal is included in the committee records and labeled Exhibit I.

Congressional Plan Submissions

Chris Henry, 572 Chinquipin Drive, Bossier City, LA 71111, (318) 789-1423, spoke for information only on proposed congressional plans, "James Henry 1", "James Henry 2", and "James Henry 3", which are labeled as Exhibits J, K, and L in the committee records.

Mr. Henry requested that "James Henry 1" be dismissed.

Representatives Stefanski, Ivey, and Jenkins asked questions of Mr. Henry regarding his proposed congressional plans to which he responded.

Jordan Landry, 608 Marceaux Road, Kaplan, LA 70548, (337) 258-8620, spoke for information only on proposed congressional plans, "Jordan Landry Scenario 1", "Jordan Landry Scenario 2", "Jordan Landry Scenario 3", "Jordan Landry Scenario 4", and "Jordan Landry Scenario 5", which are labeled as Exhibits M, N, O, P, and Q in the committee records.

Representative Stefanski asked questions of Mr. Landry regarding his proposed congressional plans to which he responded.

Michael Pernick, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, no address provided, (917) 790-3597, spoke for information only on proposed congressional plans, "NAACPLDF Coalition CD Plan A1 v2", "NAACPLDF Coalition CD Plan A2 v2", "NAACPLDF Coalition CD Plan A3 v2", "NAACPLDF Coalition CD Plan A4 v2", "NAACPLDF Coalition CD Plan A5 v2", "NAACPLDF Coalition CD Plan A6 v2", and "NAACPLDF Coalition CD Plan A7 v2", which are labeled as Exhibits R, S, T, U, V, W, and X in the committee records.

Jared Evans, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, no address provided, (318) 652-2203, spoke for information only on proposed congressional plans, "NAACPLDF Coalition CD Plan A1 v2", "NAACPLDF Coalition CD Plan A2 v2", "NAACPLDF Coalition CD Plan A3 v2", "NAACPLDF Coalition CD Plan A4 v2", "NAACPLDF Coalition CD Plan A5 v2", "NAACPLDF Coalition CD Plan A6 v2", and "NAACPLDF Coalition CD Plan A7 v2", which are labeled as Exhibits R, S, T, U, V, W, and X in the committee records.

Chairman Hewitt in the chair.

Representatives Stefanski, Ivey, Beaulieu, Duplessis, Gadberry, and Farnum, and Senators Hewitt and Price asked questions of Mr. Pernick and Mr. Evans regarding the proposed congressional plans to which they responded.

Chairman Stefanski in the chair.

A congressional plan was submitted by an individual who did not appear before the committee. A copy of this submittal is included in the committee records and labeled Exhibit Y.

BESE Plan Submissions

Michael Pernick, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, no address provided, (917) 790-3597, spoke for information only on proposed BESE plans, "NAACP Option 1" and "NAACP Option 2", which are labeled as Exhibits Z and A2 in the committee records.

Jared Evans, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, no address provided, (318) 652-2203, spoke for information only on proposed BESE plans, "NAACP Option 1" and "NAACP Option 2", which are labeled as Exhibits Z and A2 in the committee records.

Senator Hewitt and Representatives Duplessis and Mike Johnson asked questions of Mr. Pernick and Mr. Evans regarding the proposed BESE plans to which they responded.

Supreme Court Plan Submissions

Michael Pernick, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, no address provided, (917) 790-3597, spoke for information only on proposed Supreme Court plans, "LDF 7 Seat" and "LDF 9 Seat", which are labeled as Exhibits B2 and C2 in the committee records.

Jared Evans, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, no address provided, (318) 652-2203, spoke for information only on proposed Supreme Court plans, "LDF 7 Seat" and "LDF 9 Seat", which are labeled as Exhibits B2 and C2 in the committee records.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman John M. Stefanski
Joint Committee on Joint Governmental Affairs

Date adopted: