

House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2023 Regular Session
May 2, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative John M. Stefanski, chairman of the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs, called the meeting to order at 9:05 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 Les Farnum
Representative Foy Bryan Gadberry
Representative Barry Ivey
Representative Sam L. Jenkins, Jr.
Representative Michael T. Johnson
Representative Jeremy S. LaCombe
Representative Rodney Lyons, vice chairman
Representative Tanner D. Magee
Representative Richard James Nelson
Representative Candace N. Newell
Representative Polly Thomas
Representative Malinda B. White

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Patricia Lowrey-Dufour, legislative analyst
Annie Smith, attorney
Rosalie Ammersbach, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Alex Stefanski, clerk
Vivian Hurst, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 311 by Representative Miguez**

Representative Miguez presented House Bill No. 311, a constitutional amendment which prohibits the use of monies from a foreign government or nongovernmental source to fund elections.

Representative Ivey offered amendments to remove the ability for exceptions to be provided by law and for the acceptance of assistance in accordance with policies adopted by the secretary of state in accordance with law. Representative Ivey offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. No vote was taken.

Angelique Freel, Louisiana Department of Justice, 1885 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 326-6000, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 311.

Vice Chairman Lyons in the chair.

Chairman Stefanski in the chair.

Nancy Landry, office of Louisiana secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 922-2880, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 311.

Chris Alexander, Louisiana Citizen Advocacy Group, 1380 Steele Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 333-6434, spoke in support of House Bill No. 311.

M. Christian Green, League of Women Voters, 1308 Greenbriar Road, Lafayette, LA 70503, (404) 520-9326, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 311.

Representative Ivey withdrew his motion to adopt the proposed amendments.

Representative Deshotel offered a motion to report House Bill No. 311 favorably, to which Representative Newell objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 311 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas, 2 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Beaulieu, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Ivey, Mike Johnson, and Thomas voted yea. Representatives Lyons and Newell voted nay. Representative Stefanski abstained.

(Audio loss due to technical difficulties from 9:34 a.m. - 9:40 a.m.)

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: 17 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 149 by Representative Marino

Representative Marino presented House Bill No. 149, which provides for the compensation of members of the legislature.

Representative Magee in the chair.

Chairman Stefanski in the chair.

Representative Nelson offered amendments that:

- (1) Set the annual salary of members of the legislature at 75% of the median household income instead of \$60,000.
- (2) Set the annual salary of the presiding officers at 200% of the salary set for members instead of \$144,000.
- (3) Set the annual salary of the pro tempores at 150% of the salary set for members instead of \$87,400.
- (4) Removed provisions for a specified CPI-U adjustment of the salaries prior to the beginning of each term by the legislative fiscal officer as validated by the legislative auditor.

Representative Nelson offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Lyons, Magee, Nelson, Newell, and Thomas voted yea. Representative Stefanski abstained.

Vice Chairman Lyons in the chair.

Representative Ivey offered amendments to allow a legislator to waive all or any portion of salary or other compensation for his service in the legislature. Representative Ivey offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Farnum objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 2 yeas and 11 nays. Representatives Ivey and Magee voted yea. Representatives Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Lyons, Nelson, Thomas, and White voted nay.

Merrilee Montgomery, Louisiana Progress Action, 650 North Sixth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (229) 603-2706, spoke in support of House Bill No. 149.

Peter Robins-Brown, Louisiana Progress Action, 650 North Sixth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (504) 256-8196, spoke in support of House Bill No. 149.

Representative Deshotel offered a motion to report House Bill No. 149 with amendments, to which Representative Beaulieu objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 149 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Ivey, Jenkins, Lyons, Magee, Nelson, and White voted yea. Representatives Beaulieu, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, and Thomas voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 15 in support, and 2 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: 2 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 260 by Representative Beaulieu

Representative Beaulieu presented House Bill No. 260, which provides relative to federal election guidance and funding.

Representative Magee in the chair.

Vice Chairman Lyons in the chair.

Ashley Shelton, Power Coalition for Equity and Justice, 13929 Kimbleton Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70817, (225) 802-2435, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 260.

M. Christian Green, League of Women Voters, 1308 Greenbriar Road, Lafayette, LA 70503, (404) 520-9326, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 260.

Chairman Stefanski in the chair.

Kyle Ardoin, secretary of state, 8585 Archives Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 922-2880, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 260.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Bill No. 260 favorably, to which Representative Jenkins objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 260 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas, 3 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Beaulieu, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Magee, Thomas, and White voted yea. Representatives Jenkins, Lyons, and Newell voted nay. Representative Stefanski abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 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: 5 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 213 by Representative Brass

Representative Brass presented House Bill No. 213, which exempts certain school surveillance and security video from the Public Records Law.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments that:

- (1) Added a requirement for the adoption of policies for the limited retention and viewing of the video under specified circumstances.
- (2) Detailed the minimum requirements of the policies.
- (3) Specified that proposed law does not affect a parent's or legal guardian's right to access video recordings in special education settings as provided in present law.

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Jenkins, LaCombe, Lyons, Magee, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea. Representative Stefanski abstained.

Corhonda Corley, Louisiana Families of Individuals with Disabilities, 8815 Wilmore Drive, Zachary, LA 70791, (225) 654-0671, spoke in support of House Bill No. 213.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments to provide that "parent or legal guardian" means a student's parent, legal guardian, or other person or entity responsible for the student as provided in present law. Representative Stefanski offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Jenkins, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea. Representative Stefanski abstained.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 213 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 213 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Jenkins, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea. Representative Stefanski abstained.

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 opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 304 by Representative Orgeron

Representative Orgeron presented House Bill No. 304, which prohibits an elected official who has retired or resigned from office from filling the vacancy his retirement or resignation created.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Bill No. 304 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 304 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea. Representative Stefanski abstained.

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.

House Bill No. 159 by Representative Farnum

Representative Farnum presented House Bill No. 159, which provides for a supplemental annual canvass of registered voters.

Kyle Ardoin, secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 922-2880, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 159.

Representative Farnum offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Farnum offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Wilford Carter, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Jenkins, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea. Representative Stefanski abstained.

Bert Callais, 363 East St. Francis Street, Brusly, LA 70719, (225) 776-3004, spoke in support of House Bill No. 159.

M. Christian Green, League of Women Voters, 1308 Greenbriar Road, Lafayette, LA 70503, (404) 520-9326, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 159.

Representative Farnum offered a motion to report House Bill No. 159 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 159 was reported by substitute by a vote of 10 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Jenkins, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea. Representative Stefanski abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support, 1 in opposition, 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: 7 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 490 by Representative Lyons

Representative Lyons presented House Bill No. 490, which provides for procedures and guidance regarding voter registration activities.

Representative Thomas offered amendments to repeal present law prohibiting the involvement of political or partisan groups in the registration process. Representative Thomas offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Jenkins, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea. Representative Stefanski abstained.

Jacqueline Carroll Jones, Jefferson Parish Schools/Jeremiah Group, no address provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 490.

Representative LaCombe in the chair.

Ashley Shelton, Power Coalition for Equity and Justice, 13929 Kimbleton Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70817, (225) 802-2435, spoke in support of House Bill No. 490.

Shawon Bernard, Lower 9th Ward Voter's Coalition, 5501 Norgate Drive, no city or state given, (504) 231-7113, spoke in support of House Bill No. 490.

M. Christian Green, League of Women Voters, 1308 Greenbriar Road, Lafayette, LA 70503, (404) 520-9326, spoke in support of House Bill No. 490.

Hugo J. Hernandez Frias, Jefferson Parish School System / West Jefferson High School, 2200 8th Street, Harvey, LA 70058, spoke in support of House Bill No. 490.

Kyle Ardoin, secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 922-2880, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 490.

Sherri W. Hadskey, office of Louisiana secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 922-2880, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 490.

Bert Callais, 363 East St. Francis Street, Brusly, LA 70719, (225) 776-3004, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 490.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 490 with amendments, to which Representative Beaulieu objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 490 was reported with amendments by a vote of 7 yeas, 4 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Wilford Carter, Ivey, Jenkins, Lyons, Nelson, Newell, and White voted yea. Representatives Beaulieu, Farnum, Gadberry, and Thomas voted nay. Representative LaCombe abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 21 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: 7 in support, and 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 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Ivey, Jenkins, LaCombe, Lyons, Nelson, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: