

House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2023 Regular Session
May 10, 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 9:18 a.m. in Room 3, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

(Partial audio and video loss due to technical difficulties from 9:18 a.m. - 9:19 a.m.)

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative John M. Stefanski, chairman
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 Richard James Nelson
Representative Candace N. Newell
Representative Polly Thomas
Representative Malinda B. White

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Gerald "Beau" Beaulieu, IV
Representative Wilford Dan Carter, Sr.
Representative Tanner D. Magee

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Frank Meyer, IV, clerk
Vivian Hurst, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 288 by Representative Freiberg**

Representative Freiberg presented House Bill No. 288, which requires auditees to report progress on implementation of recommendations following a performance audit.

Dr. Erin Bendily, Pelican Institute, 400 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke in support of House Bill No 288.

Mike Waguespack, Louisiana legislative auditor, P.O. Box 94397, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 339-3840, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 288.

Representative Farnum offered a motion to report House Bill No. 288 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 288 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Ivey, Jenkins, Lyons, Nelson, Newell, and White voted yea. Representative Stefanski abstained.

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

House Bill No. 383 by Representative Amedee

Representative Amedee presented House Bill No. 383, which requires each insurer subject to the Louisiana Insurance Guaranty Association (LIGA) Law to provide for a data transfer plan and file such plan with the commissioner of insurance.

John Wells, LIGA, 2142 Quail Run Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 757-1688, spoke in support of House Bill No. 383.

Tom Clark, LIGA, 301 Main Street, Suite 2300, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 387-8007, spoke in support of House Bill No. 383.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments that:

- (1) Specified that LIGA is the recipient of the insurer's claims and underwriting records transferred from an insurer's third-party vendor.
- (2) Included information produced to the commissioner pursuant to a data transfer plan in the exception from the Public Records Law.
- (3) Clarified that among the information provided by the commissioner to a guaranty association is that information used to test the processes in the plan.

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Deshotel, Farnum, LaCombe, Lyons, Nelson, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea. Representative Stefanski abstained.

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to report House Bill No. 383 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 383 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Deshotel, Farnum, LaCombe, Lyons, Nelson, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea. 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 Concurrent Resolution No. 9 by Representative Mincey

Representative Mincey presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 9, which requests the Department of Veterans Affairs in conjunction with the office of state buildings to plan and implement a Purple Heart Trail on the grounds surrounding the state capitol.

Lani Durio, Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, 602 North Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 439-5589, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 9.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 9 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 9 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Deshotel, Farnum, Ivey, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Nelson, Newell, and Thomas voted yea. Representative Stefanski abstained.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 17 by Representative Mincey

Representative Mincey presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 17, which continues the Teacher Recruitment, Recovery, and Retention Task Force.

Dr. Susannah Craig, Louisiana Board of Regents, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 17.

Brianna Golden, Louisiana Board of Regents, no witness card provided, submitted the following handouts, which are in the committee records and labeled as follows:

- Exhibit A, "Teacher Recruitment, Recovery, and Retention Task Force - HCR 39 of the 2021 Regular Legislative Session"
- Exhibit B, "Teacher Recruitment, Recovery, and Retention Task Force - HCR 17 of the 2023 Regular Session"

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 17 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 17 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Deshotel, Farnum, Ivey, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Nelson, Newell, and Thomas voted yea. Representative Stefanski abstained.

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

House Bill No. 472 by Representative Mincey

Representative Mincey presented House Bill No. 472, which provides for the state's entry into the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact, which provides relative to certification and qualification of teachers.

Dr. Susannah Craig, Louisiana Board of Regents, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 472.

(Partial audio and video loss due to technical difficulties from 9:54 a.m. - 10:02 a.m.)

Representative Farnum offered a motion to report House Bill No. 472 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 472 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Deshotel, Farnum, Ivey, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Nelson, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea. Representative Stefanski abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 10 in support, and 1 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. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 449 by Representative Willard

Representative Willard presented House Bill No. 449, which provides relative to the rights of voters with disabilities.

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. 449.

The committee recessed at 10:04 a.m. The committee reconvened at 10:06 a.m.

The committee recessed at 10:06 a.m. The committee reconvened at 10:08 a.m.

Representative Lyons offered amendments to make technical changes. Representative Lyons offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Deshotel, Farnum, Ivey, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, and Thomas voted yea. Representative Stefanski abstained.

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. 449.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments to provide that the seven members of the Voting Accessibility Advisory Group are selected by the secretary of state. Representative Stefanski offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Ivey, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, and Thomas voted yea. Representative Stefanski abstained.

Norris Henderson, 4930 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70126, (504) 453-4819, spoke in support of House Bill No. 449.

Checo Yancy, Voice of the Experienced (VOTE), 251 Florida Street, #201, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 270-5245, spoke in support of House Bill No. 449.

Eve Williams, Power Coalition for Equity and Justice, 4930 Washington Street, New Orleans, LA 70125, (971) 340-9907, spoke in support of House Bill No. 449.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 449 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 449 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Ivey, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, and Thomas voted yea. Representative Stefanski abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 44 in support, 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: 4 in support, and 1 for information only. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 506 by Representative Adams

Representative Adams presented House Bill No. 506, which creates the Louisiana Interagency Council on Homelessness within the office of the governor.

Jarvis Lewis, director of Governmental Affairs, Louisiana Housing Corporation, no witness card provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 506.

Representative Lyons offered amendments that:

- (1) Specified that the duties of the council include the development of a statewide plan to end homelessness.
- (2) Added the secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs or his designee to the council.
- (3) Specified that the Louisiana Housing Corporation shall provide the council with resources to facilitate remote participation in meetings to the extent authorized by law.
- (4) Made technical changes.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Ivey, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Newell, and Thomas voted yea. Representative Stefanski abstained.

Winona Connor, Louisiana Housing Corporation, 2415 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 763-8700, spoke in support of House Bill No. 506.

Amy Mangum, Occupational Therapist Association, 450 Laurel Street, Suite 1900, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (985) 479-6828, spoke in support of House Bill No. 506.

Tom Costanza, Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2431 South Acadian Thruway, Suite 250, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (504) 874-7829, spoke in support of House Bill No. 506.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Bill No. 506 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 506 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Ivey, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Nelson, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea. Representative Stefanski abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Resolution No. 1 by Representative Schlegel

Representative Schlegel presented House Resolution No. 1, which provides relative to the removal of deceased voters from the voter registration rolls.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 1 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 1 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Nelson, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea. Representative Stefanski abstained.

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

Vice Chairman Lyons in the chair.

House Bill No. 597 by Representative Ivey

Representative Ivey presented House Bill No. 597, which provides for a portal to provide comprehensive financial and other information to the public.

Representative Ivey offered amendments that:

- (1) Added a requirement for the auditor to include a budget database in the Louisiana Transparency Portal.
- (2) Provided that the contracts database include the city and state of the contractor's domicile rather than of the contractor.

- (3) Removed the requirement for the state treasurer to establish and maintain the state debt database and his related duties and the requirement that state debt database include local debt backed by the full faith and credit of the state.
- (4) Changed the requirement of the auditor to establish a schedule for the inclusion of fiscal information regarding local auditees on the website to an authorization for the auditor to do so.
- (5) Changed the effective date of the proposed provisions relative to the Louisiana Transparency Portal from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024.
- (6) Changed the effective date of the repeal of provisions relative to the Louisiana Fiscal Transparency Website from January 1, 2024, to June 30, 2026.
- (7) Made technical changes to the definition of "contract" and made other technical changes.

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 Farnum, Gadberry, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Nelson, Thomas, and White voted yea.

Eric Wingbermuehle, OpenGov, Inc., 11425 West 117th Street, Overland Park, KS 66210, (314) 809-4490, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 597 and presented a PowerPoint, Exhibit C, "The Modern Government Partner", which is in the committee records.

Brice Percynski, OpenGov, Inc., 325 East Paces Ferry Road, Atlanta, GA, (770) 356-8530, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 597.

Chairman Stefanski in the chair.

Mike Waguespack, Louisiana legislative auditor, P.O. Box 94397, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 339-3840, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 597.

Representative LaCombe offered a motion to report House Bill No. 597 with amendments, to which Representative Thomas objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 597 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas, 2 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Deshotel, Farnum, Ivey, Jenkins, LaCombe, Lyons, Nelson, Newell, and White voted yea. Representatives Gadberry and Thomas voted nay. Representative Stefanski abstained.

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

House Bill No. 396 by Representative Jenkins

Representative Jenkins presented House Bill No. 396, which provides for the reinstatement of the voter registration of a person who is no longer under an order of imprisonment.

Representative Jenkins offered amendments that:

- (1) Added a requirement for submission of a voter reinstatement application.
- (2) Provided that only for a registration suspended due to a state felony conviction or an out of state conviction when probation or parole has been transferred to Louisiana shall registrars rely solely on lists submitted to the Department of State in order to reinstate registration.
- (3) Provided that the notification of a judgement of conviction that the registrar relies upon for reinstatement shall be for the same conviction for which registration was suspended.

Bruce Riley, Voice of the Experienced (VOTE), 4930 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70116, (504) 758-9420, spoke in support of House Bill No. 396.

Representative Jenkins offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Nelson, Newell, Thomas, and White voted yea. Representative Stefanski abstained.

Gregory Finney, VOTE, 1301 Simon Bolivar Avenue, Apartment 911, no city or state given, (504) 342-1698, spoke in support of House Bill No. 396.

Nziki Wiltz, 5315 Wildair Drive, New Orleans, LA 70122, (504) 266-9464, spoke in support of House Bill No. 396.

Eugene Dean, VOTE, 8338 Belfast Street, New Orleans, LA 70118, (504) 575-5779, spoke in support of House Bill No. 396.

Norris Henderson, 7832 Ligustrum Drive, New Orleans, LA 70126, (504) 453-4819, spoke in support of House Bill No. 396.

Charles Phipps, The Urban League of Louisiana, 4640 South Carrollton Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70119, (504) 620-2332, spoke in support of House Bill No. 396.

Jennifer Bollinger, 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. 396.

Celia Cangelosi, office of Louisiana secretary of state, 5551 Corporate Boulevard, Suite 101, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 231-1453, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 396.

Steve Raborn, Louisiana Registrars of Voters Association, P.O. Box 91006, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 389-3940, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 396.

Checo Yancy, VOTE, 251 Florida Street, #201, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 270-5245, spoke in support of House Bill No. 396.

Dr. Ariel White, VOTE, no witness card provided, submitted Exhibit D, "No Surrender, No Retreat! Removing Barriers to the Ballot Box for Formerly Incarcerated People in Louisiana", which is in the committee records.

Representative Deshotel offered amendments that authorized delivery of documentation that a person is no longer subject to suspension by electronic submission in a method approved by the secretary of state instead of by electronic mail. Representative Deshotel offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Deshotel, Gadberry, Ivey, Jenkins, Lyons, Nelson, Newell, and White voted yea. Representative Stefanski abstained.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 396 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 396 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Lyons, Nelson, Newell, and White voted yea. Representative Stefanski abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 94 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: 122 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 487 by Representative Ivey

Representative Ivey presented House Bill No. 487, a constitutional amendment which provides relative to the vote requirements for certain tax legislation.

Representative Ivey offered amendments that:

- (1) Changed the proposal from a listing of the types of tax legislation that require enactment by at least a majority of the elected members of each house and providing that enactment of any other law relative to taxes requires a favorable vote of two-thirds of the elected members of each house, to a listing of the types of tax legislation that require enactment of a law by two-thirds of the elected members of each house.
- (2) Changed the ballot language.

Representative Ivey offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Deshotel, Gadberry, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Lyons, Nelson, Thomas, and White voted yea. Representative Stefanski abstained.

Representative Ivey offered a motion to report House Bill No. 487 with amendments, to which Representative Thomas objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 487 was reported with amendments by a vote of 6 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Deshotel, Ivey, Jenkins, Lyons, Nelson, and White voted yea. Representatives Stefanski, Farnum, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, and Thomas voted nay.

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

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Legislative oversight of rules proposed by the Louisiana Board of Ethics relative to the suspension of late filing fees

Kathleen M. Allen, Louisiana Board of Ethics, P.O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 219-5600, discussed the rules proposed by the Board of Ethics relative to the suspension of late filing fees, Exhibit E, "Promulgation of Rules Regarding the Suspension of Late Filing Fees (LAC 52: I. Chapter 12, *Louisiana Register*, Volume 49, No. 3, March 20, 2023, Pages 529-530)", which is in the committee records.

Legislative oversight of rules proposed by the Louisiana Board of Ethics relative to the exemption disclosure statement pursuant to R.S. 42:1123(34)

Kathleen M. Allen, Louisiana Board of Ethics, P.O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 219-5600, discussed the rules proposed by the Board of Ethics relative to the exemption disclosure statement pursuant to R.S. 42:1123(34), Exhibit F, "Promulgation of Amended Rules Regarding the exemption disclosure statement pursuant to R.S. 42:1123(34) (LAC 52: I. Chapter 20, *Louisiana Register*, Volume 49, No. 3, March 20, 2023, Pages 528-529)", which is in the committee records.

Legislative oversight of rules proposed by the Louisiana Board of Ethics relative to disclosure forms filed pursuant to R.S. 42:1111(C)(5)

Kathleen M. Allen, Louisiana Board of Ethics, P.O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 219-5600, discussed the rules proposed by the Board of Ethics relative to disclosure forms filed pursuant to R.S. 42:1111(C)(5), Exhibit G, "Promulgation of Rules Regarding Disclosure Forms Filed Pursuant to R.S. 42:1111(C)(5)(LAC 52: I. Chapter 12, *Louisiana Register*, Volume 49, No. 3, March 20, 2023, Pages 530-531)", which is in the committee records.

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to find all three proposed rules acceptable. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Lyons, Nelson, Thomas, and White voted yea. Representative Stefanski abstained.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Lyons offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Ivey, Jenkins, Mike Johnson, Lyons, Nelson, Thomas, and White voted yea. Representative Stefanski abstained.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: