

House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2023 Regular Session
May 16, 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 9:38 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 Les Farnum
Representative Foy Bryan Gadberry
Representative Michael T. Johnson
Representative Jeremy S. LaCombe
Representative Rodney Lyons, vice chairman
Representative Richard James Nelson
Representative Candace N. Newell
Representative Malinda B. White

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Wilford Dan Carter, Sr.
Representative Barry Ivey
Representative Sam L. Jenkins, Jr.
Representative Tanner D. Magee
Representative Polly Thomas

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**Senate Bill No. 40 by Senator Foil**

Senator Foil presented Senate Bill No. 40, which allows the use of summary proceedings in matters pending before the Ethics Adjudicatory Board.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments that:

- (1) Authorized that filing affidavits in support of or in opposition to the motion shall be in compliance with provisions of present law Code of Civil Procedure.
- (2) Expressly required the Ethics Adjudicatory Board to send notice of a hearing to the Board of Ethics and the respondent.

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 Beaulieu, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Lyons, Nelson, and White voted yea. Representative Stefanski abstained.

Kathleen M. Allen, Louisiana Board of Ethics, P.O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 219-5600, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 40.

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 40 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 40 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Beaulieu, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Lyons, Nelson, and White voted yea. Representative Stefanski abstained.

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

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 11 by Senator Pope

Senator Pope presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 11, which provides for the expansion of the Louisiana Veterans Memorial Park pursuant to the Capitol Complex Master Plan as envisioned by the Capitol Park Interpretive Plan.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments to add a request for periodic maintenance of the monuments and sculptures located within Capitol Park and on the State Capitol. 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 Beaulieu, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Lyons, Nelson, and White voted yea. Representative Stefanski abstained.

Julie Baxter Payor, deputy secretary, Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, 602 North 5th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-5000, spoke for information only on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 11.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 11 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 11 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Beaulieu, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Lyons, Nelson, and White voted yea. Representative Stefanski abstained.

Senate Bill No. 21 by Senator Price

Senator Price presented Senate Bill No. 21, which names the Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) headquarters building in Baton Rouge in honor of Governor P.B.S. Pinchback.

Greg Hardy, DOTD, 1201 Capitol Access Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 379-1023, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 21.

Kevin Reed, DOTD, 1212 East Highway Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 7802, (225) 379-1916, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 21.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 21 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 21 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Beaulieu, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Lyons, Nelson, 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.

Senate Bill No. 26 by Senator Price

Senator Price presented Senate Bill No. 26, which provides relative to public notice of hearings of the Ethics Adjudicatory Board.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments to expressly require the Ethics Adjudicatory Board to send the required notice. 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 Beaulieu, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Lyons, Nelson, and White voted yea. Representative Stefanski abstained.

Kathleen M. Allen, Louisiana Board of Ethics, P.O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 219-5611, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 26.

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 26 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 26 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Beaulieu, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Lyons, Nelson, and White voted yea. Representative Stefanski abstained.

Senate Bill No. 52 by Senator Tarver

On behalf of Senator Tarver, Representative Stefanski presented Senate Bill No. 52, which provides for technical corrections beyond the authority of the Louisiana State Law Institute to certain citations in the Administrative Procedure Act as amended by Act No. 211 of the 2021 Regular Session and Act No. 663 of the 2022 Regular Session.

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 52 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 52 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Beaulieu, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Lyons, Nelson, and White voted yea. Representative Stefanski abstained.

Senate Bill No. 184 by Senator Peacock

Senator Peacock presented Senate Bill No. 184, which provides for repayment of personal contributions or loans.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 184 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 184 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Beaulieu, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Lyons, Nelson, and White voted yea. Representative Stefanski abstained.

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

Senate Bill No. 201 by Senator Hewitt

Senator Hewitt presented Senate Bill No. 201, which provides for meetings of boards and commissions via electronic means.

Representative Stefanski offered amendments that:

- (1) Removed provisions requiring distribution of meeting notices, agendas, and information regarding public participation to the news media.
- (2) Added a provision regarding the display of votes for certain public bodies.
- (3) Provided for the duration of the online archive.
- (4) Revised the limitation on the number of meetings that may be held via electronic means.
- (5) Provided authorization for advisory councils or committees of certain public bodies to hold meetings via electronic means.
- (6) Authorized the Traumatic Head and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund Advisory Board and the board of directors of the Special School District to conduct and for their members to attend any meeting via electronic means.

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 Beaulieu, Deshotel, Farnum, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Lyons, Nelson, and White voted yea. Representative Stefanski abstained.

(Audio loss due to technical difficulties from 10:16 a.m. - 10:17 a.m.)

Matt DeVille, attorney for the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs, provided information only on Senate Bill No. 201.

Representative LaCombe in the chair.

Dr. Libbie Sonnier, Louisiana Policy Institute for Children, no address provided, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (985) 687-7494, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 201.

Christina Martin, 620 Vanderbilt Lane, Kenner, LA 70065, (504) 645-0290, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 201.

Chairman Stefanski in the chair.

Kristie Curtis, 10416 North Road, Lot 30, Abbeville, LA 70510, (337) 492-3110, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 201.

Representative Stefanski offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on Senate Bill No. 201. Without objection, action on Senate Bill No. 201 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 8 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Deshotel, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Nelson, Newell, and White voted yea. Representative Stefanski abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 15 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: 10 in support, and 1 for information only. 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 Gadberry offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 8 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Deshotel, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, LaCombe, Lyons, Nelson, Newell, and White voted yea. Representative Stefanski abstained.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: