

House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2025 Regular Session
April 16, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Gerald "Beau" Beaulieu, IV, chair of the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs, called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m. in Room 2, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Gerald "Beau" Beaulieu, IV, chair
Representative Michael Robert "Mike" Bayham, Jr.
Representative Beth Anne Billings
Representative Wilford Dan Carter, Sr.
Representative Foy Bryan Gadberry
Representative Ed Larvadain, III
Representative Rodney Lyons, vice chair
Representative C. Denise Marcelle
Representative Dixon Wallace McMakin
Representative Candace N. Newell
Representative Rodney Wayne Schamerhorn
Representative Polly Thomas
Representative Mark Wright
Representative John E. Wyble

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Delisha Boyd
Representative Les Farnum

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Annie Smith, attorney
Joseph Chuter, attorney
Sarah Baker, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Caroline Vanhooose, clerk
Cheryl Domino, sergeant at arms
Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms

III. BUSINESS**House Bill No. 223 by Representative Domangue**

Representative Domangue presented House Bill No. 223, which provides relative to compensation for parish board commissioners, election commissioners, and commissioners-in-charge.

Nancy Landry, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 223.

Representative Wyble offered a motion to report House Bill No. 223 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 223 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support, and 2 for information only.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 223.

House Bill No. 420 by Representative Billings

Representative Billings presented House Bill No. 420, which provides for the qualifications, maintenance, and recognition of political parties.

Representative Billings offered amendments to:

1. Replace the words "rescission" and "rescinded" with "dissolution" and "dissolved".
2. Provide for a political party's dissolution rather than the party's rescission of recognition.

Representative Billings offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to provide that the Department of State include an explanation for the change in registration within a notice that is sent to a registrant who has his party affiliation changed pursuant to proposed law. Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Nancy Landry, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 420.

Vice Chair Lyons in the chair.

Chair Beaulieu in the chair.

Sherri Hadskey, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 420.

William Bryan, Independent Party of Louisiana, 4744 Jamestown Avenue, Suite 200, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in support of House Bill No. 420.

Representative Billings offered a motion to report House Bill No. 420 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 420 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Wilford Carter, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 281 by Representative Wyble

Representative Wyble presented House Bill No. 281, which provides relative to acts prohibited during early voting or on election day.

Nancy Landry, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 281.

Sherri Hadskey, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 281.

Vice Chair Lyons in the chair.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 281 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 281 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bayham, Billings, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

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. 323 by Representative Beaulieu

Representative Beaulieu presented House Bill No. 323, which provides for election dates for municipal officers and school board members.

David Dugas, Iberia Parish School District 9, 953 North Main Street, Loreauville, LA 70552, spoke in support of House Bill No. 323.

Brad Norris, Iberia Parish School Board, 3205 Sugar Oaks Road, New Iberia, LA 70563, spoke in support of House Bill No. 323.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 323 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 323 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Wilford Carter, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, and Wyble voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 592 by Representative Beaulieu

Representative Beaulieu presented House Bill No. 592, which makes revisions to the Louisiana Election Code.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to:

1. Provide specifically that state and federal governmental agencies and private vendors that provide voter registration and address data are the entities the secretary of state may enter into written agreements with for purposes of voter list maintenance.
2. Assign responsibility to governing authorities to ensure that the ballot language for propositions submitted to the voters is simple, unbiased, concise, and easily understood.

3. Require that actions contesting an election on a proposed constitutional amendment be instituted no earlier than the day after the election.
4. Provide for effectiveness.
5. Make technical changes.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Wilford Carter, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, and Thomas voted yea.

Lani Boyd, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 592 and provided a handout entitled "NOCALink Full Service Provider Licensees Marketing Contact Information", Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Bruce Reilly, Voice of the Experienced (VOTE), 4930 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 592.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report House Bill No. 592 with amendments, to which Representative Larvadain objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 592 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Gadberry, Lyons, McMakin, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Wilford Carter, Larvadain, Marcelle, and Newell voted nay.

Chair Beaulieu in the chair.

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

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 592.

House Bill No. 526 by Representative Jacob Landry

Representative Jacob Landry presented House Bill No. 526, which provides that a website established and maintained by the commissioner of administration shall be the official journal of the state and requires him to post certain information about boards and commissions on it.

Patrick Goldsmith, Louisiana Division of Administration (DOA), no address given, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 526.

Evelina Broussard, Office of Technology Services (OTS) and DOA, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 526.

Alton Ashy, Louisiana Wallet, 218 Laurel Street, no city or state provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 526.

Scott Sternburg, Louisiana Press Association, 935 Gravier Street, Suite 1800, New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 526.

McHugh David, Louisiana Press Association, no city or state provided, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 526.

Kevin Hall, Georges Media, P.O. Box 588, Baton Rouge, LA 70841, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 526.

Representative Schamerhorn offered a motion to report House Bill No. 526 favorably, to which Representative Wilford Carter objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 526 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Gadberry, Lyons, McMakin, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Bayham, Wilford Carter, Larvadain, Marcelle, and Newell voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, 2 in opposition, 1 for information only, and 2 designees of an elected official. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 397 by Representative Beaulieu

Representative Beaulieu presented House Bill No. 397, which provides for revisions to the Code of Governmental Ethics.

No action was taken on House Bill No. 397.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, 1 for information only, and 1 designee of an elected official. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 532 by Representative Miller

On behalf of Representative Miller, Representative Beaulieu presented House Bill No. 532, which provides relative to sales and use tax elections in certain municipalities.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to provide that proposed law is repealed effective December 31, 2025. Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Gadberry, Larvadin, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 532 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 532 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Gadberry, Larvadin, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 351 by Representative Mike Johnson

Representative Mike Johnson presented House Bill No. 351, which provides for penalties for attesting to false information in a notice of candidacy.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to revise proposed law to provide that upon a determination that a candidate knowingly attested to false information in a notice of candidacy, the court shall assess court costs and attorney fees and that the court may impose against the candidate any other sanction that the court deems appropriate.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Gadberry, Larvadin, Lyons, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Nancy Landry, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 351.

Grant Miller, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 351.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 351 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 351 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Wilford Carter, Gadberry, Larvadin, Lyons, McMakin, Newell, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

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.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

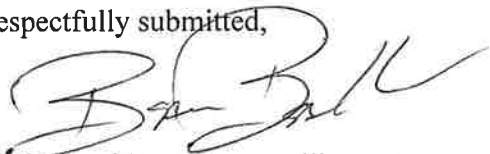
There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Thomas offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Wilford Carter, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, McMakin, Newell, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beau Beaulieu", written over a horizontal line.

Chair Gerald "Beau" Beaulieu, IV
House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Date adopted: