

House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2025 Regular Session
April 23, 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 9:32 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 Delisha Boyd
Representative Wilford Dan Carter, Sr.
Representative Les Farnum
Representative Foy Bryan Gadberry
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 Ed Larvadain, III

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joseph Chuter, attorney
Annie Smith, attorney
Sarah Baker, committee administrative assistant
Natayveon Howard-Williams, committee assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Caroline Vanhooose, clerk
Johnae Conner, sergeant at arms

III. BUSINESS

House Bill No. 206 by Representative Melerine

Representative Melerine presented House Bill No. 206, which requires legislative authorization to give effect to certain actions regarding election procedures inconsistent with the Election Code.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Bill No. 206 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 206 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, Lyons, McMakin, Schamerhorn, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in opposition, and 1 as a designee of an elected official.

House Bill No. 342 by Representative Bayham

Representative Bayham presented House Bill No. 342, which provides relative to qualifying fees and nominating petitions for certain candidates.

Representative Bayham offered amendments to change the qualifying fee for the U.S. senator and representative in congress from \$2,500 to \$3,500. Representative Bayham offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, Lyons, Marcelle, McMakin, Schamerhorn, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Bayham offered technical amendments. Representative Bayham offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, Lyons, Marcelle, McMakin, Schamerhorn, and Thomas voted yea.

Stephen M. Gelé, Griffin and Bivalacqua, LLC, 650 Poydras Street, Suite 2615, New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke in support of House Bill No. 342.

Representative Bayham offered a motion to report House Bill No. 342 with amendments, to which Representative Lyons objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 342 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham,

Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, McMakin, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Boyd, Wilford Carter, Lyons, Marcelle, and Newell voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 for information only.

House Bill No. 385 by Representative Bryant

Representative Bryant presented House Bill No. 385, which provides that the oath or affirmation of a public official shall be recorded at no charge to the official.

Representative Beaulieu offered technical amendments. Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Lyons, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 385 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 385 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Boyd, Farnum, Gadberry, Lyons, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

House Bill No. 216 by Representative Jackson

Representative Jackson presented House Bill No. 216, which provides for the broadcast and recordation of meetings of the Board of Ethics.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to provide for an effective date. Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Lyons, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

David Bordelon, Ethics Administrator, Louisiana Board of Ethics, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 216.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 216 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 216 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Lyons, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Vice Chair Lyons in the chair.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support.

House Bill No. 397 by Representative Beaulieu

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

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, Farnum, Gadberry, Lyons, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, and Thomas voted yea.

Stephen M. Gelé, Griffin and Bivalacqua, LLC, 650 Poydras Street, Suite 2615, New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke in support of House Bill No. 397.

David Bordelon, Ethics Administrator, Louisiana Board of Ethics, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 397.

Jay O'Quinn, Louisiana State Troopers Association, 8120 Jefferson Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in support of House Bill No. 397.

Steven Procopio, Public Affairs Research Council (PAR), 450 Laurel Street, Suite 1610, no city or state provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 397.

Barry Erwin, Leaders for a Better Louisiana, 450 Laurel Street, Suite 1900, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 397.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report House Bill No. 397 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 397 was reported by substitute by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Lyons, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Chair Beaulieu in the chair.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support, and 1 as a designee of an elected official.

The committee stood at ease at 10:57 a.m. The committee reconvened at 11:00 a.m.

House Bill No. 624 by Representative Berault

Representative Berault presented House Bill No. 624, which transfers certain family and support programs from the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to the Louisiana Workforce Commission and renames Louisiana Workforce Commission to Louisiana Works.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to:

1. Change the effective date.
2. Remove provisions regarding the recommended appropriations for Louisiana Works and DCFS in the executive budget for FY 2027-2028.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Lyons, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to provide for digitizing and disposal of Louisiana Works records in accordance with procedures established by the Department of State. Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Lyons, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Austin Lewis, office of the governor, no address provided, spoke as the designee of an elected official on House Bill No. 624.

Susana Schowen, Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC), 1001 North Twenty-Third Street, no city or state provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 624.

David Matlock, DCFS, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 624.

Daniel Erspamer, Pelican Institute, 342 Lafayette Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 624.

Representative Gadberry in the chair.

Chair Beaulieu in the chair.

Jim Patterson, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, 500 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of House Bill No. 624.

Pat Van Burkleo, Feeding Louisiana, 7916 Wrenwood Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 624.

Representative Wyble offered a motion to report House Bill No. 624 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 624 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, Lyons, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 12 in support, and 1 in opposition.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 624.

House Bill No. 590 by Representative Spell

Representative Spell presented House Bill No. 590, which provides relative to foreign funding for elections and ballot measures.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to:

1. Impose criminal penalties on the foreign government, foreign entity, noncitizen, or nongovernmental source that makes a prohibited donation, rather than the recipient of the donation.
2. Require the person that received a donation in violation of proposed law to return the donation if the person has actual knowledge that the donation violates 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, Billings, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, 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. 590.

Jason Snead, Honest Elections Project Action, 368 South Dickett Street, Suite 9956, Alexandria, VA 22304, spoke in support of House Bill No. 590.

Catherine Newsome, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 590.

Karen Jaroch, Heritage Action, 214 Massachusetts Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20002, spoke in support of House Bill No. 590.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Bill No. 590 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 590 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Boyd, Farnum, Gadberry, Lyons, Marcelle, McMakin, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to invoke the three-minute rule, to which Representative McMakin objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Boyd, Farnum, Gadberry, Lyons, Marcelle, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wright voted yea. Representatives McMakin and Wyble voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 590.

House Bill No. 502 by Representative Butler

Representative Butler presented House Bill No. 502, which provides for the compensation, evaluation, duties, and removal of registrars of voters.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to:

1. Provide for a finding of "not assessed", rather than "unrated", relative to evaluations of registrars, chief deputies, and confidential assistants.
2. Specify that the salary increase provided for in proposed law is provided annually, and does not serve as a basis for the additional salary increase provided in present law to certified registrars, deputy registrars, and confidential assistants.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Boyd, Farnum, Gadberry, Lyons, Marcelle, McMakin, 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. 502.

Steve Raborn, Louisiana Registrars of Voters Association, P.O. Box 91006, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, spoke in support of House Bill No. 502.

Catherine Newsome, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 502.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 502 with amendments, to which Representative Farnum objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 502 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 1 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Boyd, Gadberry, Lyons, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea. Representative Farnum voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support, and 3 for information only.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 502.

House Bill No. 625 by Representative Butler

Representative Butler presented House Bill No. 625, which provides for a special statewide election on April 18, 2026, for submitting proposed constitutional amendments to the state's electors.

Representative Wyble offered a motion to report House Bill No. 625 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 625 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, Farnum, Gadberry, Lyons, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 for information only.

House Bill No. 617 by Representative Carver

Representative Carver presented House Bill No. 617, which reorganizes the Department of Children and Family Services.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Provide for duties of the offices within the department.
3. Remove a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit provision from proposed law.
4. Add additional purpose language.
5. Add reference to Title IV-D of the Social Security Act in provisions relative to certain child support programs.

6. Add language regarding child and medical support orders.
7. Provide that the Department of Education take necessary steps to correct overpayments and underpayments of child care assistance, instead of DCFS.

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, Billings, Boyd, Farnum, Gadberry, Lyons, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Wyble offered a motion to report House Bill No. 617 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 617 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Boyd, Farnum, Gadberry, Lyons, Marcelle, McMakin, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 10 in support, 2 for information only, and 1 as a designee of an elected official.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 617.

House Bill No. 603 by Representative McMakin

Representative McMakin presented House Bill No. 603, which amends the appointing process for certain occupational licensing boards, committees, and authorities.

Representative McMakin offered amendments to make technical changes. Representative McMakin offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Boyd, Farnum, Gadberry, Lyons, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative McMakin offered a motion to report House Bill No. 603 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 603 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Boyd, Farnum, Gadberry, Lyons, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support, 3 in opposition, and 2 as a designee of an elected official.

House Bill No. 200 by Representative McMakin

Representative McMakin presented House Bill No. 200, which provides for membership of the executive committee of a recognized political party in East Baton Rouge Parish.

Representative McMakin offered amendments to limit the applicability of the bill to the parish executive committee for the Republican party in East Baton Rouge Parish only, and to provide for membership on the committee. Representative McMakin offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Boyd, Farnum, Gadberry, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Thomas in the chair.

Gordon Trey Borgas, 4243 Burbank # 102, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in support of House Bill No. 200.

Chair Beaulieu in the chair.

Derek Babcock, Louisiana Republican Party/LAGOP, 3466 Drusilla Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 200.

Darrell W. Glasper, 6022 Riverbend Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70820, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 200.

Woody Jenkins, East Baton Rouge Republican Parish Executive Committee, 910 North Foster Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 200 and provided a handout entitled "Republican Party of East Baton Rouge", Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Henry Kinney, 6536 Lasalle Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 200.

Jeff Wittenbrink, 331 St. Ferdinand Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 200.

Jerry Brouillette, LAGOP, 18713 Santa Monica Parkway, St. George, LA 70809, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 200.

Vice Chair Lyons in the chair.

Lynn Coxe Graham, EBR REPC and Louisiana Republican State Central Committee (RSCC), District 16-C, 6215 Esplanade Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 200.

Christy Haik, EBR RPEC and Louisiana Republican Assembly, 1377 Steele Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 200.

Jamey Sandefur, Livingston Republican Parish Executive Committee, 24411 Oma Harris Lane, Denham Springs, LA 70726, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 200.

Erin Sandefur, RSCC and Livingston Parish Council, 24411 Oma Harris Lane, Denham Springs, 70726, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 200.

Katherine Diamond, 2105 Kleinert Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 200.

Chair Beaulieu in the chair.

Shirley Bowler, East Baton Rouge Louisiana Republican Party Parish Executive Committee (PEC), 705 Maximillian Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 200.

Representative McMakin offered a motion to report House Bill No. 200 with amendments, to which Representative Billings objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 7 yeas and 7 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Farnum, McMakin, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Billings, Boyd, Gadberry, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, and Schamerhorn voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support, 12 in opposition, and 1 for information only.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 200.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Thomas offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Boyd, Farnum, Gadberry, Lyons, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beau Beaulieu, IV". The signature is stylized with large, flowing letters and a prominent "B" at the beginning.

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

Date adopted: