

House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2025 Regular Session
May 8, 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 9:31 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 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:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Caroline Vanhooose, clerk
Cheryl Domino, sergeant at arms
Johnae' Conner, sergeant at arms

III. BUSINESS**House Bill No. 648 by Representative Beaulieu**

Vice Chair Lyons in the chair.

Representative Beaulieu presented House Bill No. 648, which increases candidate qualifying fees and dedicates the monies to the Campaign Sign Recycling Fund.

Representative Bayham offered amendments to exempt candidates for school board and political party committee from the requirement to pay the additional qualifying fee.

Representative Bayham 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, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to provide for the additional qualifying fee to be paid by candidates qualifying on and after August 1, 2025.

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, Farnum, Gadberry, Lyons, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Trey Bishop, no witness card provided, spoke on House Bill No. 648.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report House Bill No. 648 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 648 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, Farnum, Gadberry, Lyons, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

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.

House Bill No. 124 by Representative Freiberg

Representative Freiberg presented House Bill No. 124, which provides for the election of judges to the 19th Judicial District Court.

Chair Beaulieu in the chair.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to:

1. Change the divisions assigned to each election section.
2. Make changes to election sections 1 and 2.

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, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

John Couvillon, JMC Analytics and Polling, 1025 Chipperham Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in support of House Bill No. 124.

Scott Wilfong, 19629 South Harrells Ferry Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, spoke in support of House Bill No. 124.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 124. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 124 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

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.

House Bill No. 274 by Representative Owen

Representative Owen presented House Bill No. 274, which provides relative to the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP).

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to:

1. Provide for the authority of GOHSEP related to general functions of the office.

2. Provide for the employment of a deputy director and additional deputies and assistants.
3. Provide for the authority of GOHSEP and the office of state police during a gubernatorially declared state of emergency.
4. Remove changes to the office of interoperability.

Representative Beaulieu 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, Boyd, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Thomas Friloux, LANG, 6400 Saint Claude Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70117, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 274.

Jason Mahfouz, GOHSEP, 7667 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 274.

Guy Cormier, Police Jury Association of Louisiana, 707 North Seventh Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 274.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report House Bill No. 274 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 274 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Gadberry, Lyons, Marcelle, McMakin, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 362 by Representative Schamerhorn

Representative Schamerhorn presented House Bill No. 362, which provides that the secretary of state is the chief protocol officer of the state.

Nancy Landry, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 362.

Representative Schamerhorn offered a motion to report House Bill No. 362 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 362 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, McMakin, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 482 by Representative Thomas

Representative Thomas presented House Bill No. 482, which provides for review of local redistricting plans.

Representative Thomas offered technical amendments to House Bill No. 482. Representative Thomas 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, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wright 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. 482.

Sherri Hadskey, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 482.

Representative Gadberry in the chair.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Bill No. 482 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 482 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

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

Chair Beaulieu in the chair.

House Bill No. 529 by Representative Bryant

Representative Bryant presented House Bill No. 529, which relative to municipal, parish, and state governmental entities, provides for conditions pertaining to security for the issuance of permits for outdoor events and the release of certain surveillance video.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to remove the provisions from the bill regarding the release of certain surveillance video captured by state governmental entities. 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, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Representative McMakin offered amendments to remove the provisions from the bill regarding the release of certain surveillance video captured by municipal or parish governmental entities. Representative McMakin 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, Boyd, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, and Wright voted yea.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to adopt three-minute rule, to which Representative Marcelle objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion passed by a vote of 9 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, McMakin, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Boyd, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, and Newell voted nay.

Scott Sternberg, Louisiana Press Association, 9618 Jefferson Highway, Suite D, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke and withdrew the Louisiana Press Association's opposition to House Bill No. 529.

Representative Newell offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 529. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 529 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Wilford Carter, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, and Wright voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 49 by Representative Melerine

Representative Melerine presented House Bill No. 49, which provides relative to the confidentiality of records from certain hearings of the Board of Pardons and committee on parole.

Representative Beaulieu offered technical amendments to House Bill No. 49. Representative Beaulieu 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, Billings, Wilford Carter, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report House Bill No. 49 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 49 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Wilford Carter, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, McMakin, Newell, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 177 by Representative Brown

Representative Brown presented House Bill No. 177, which provides for the territorial jurisdiction and election districts of the justice of the peace courts and constables in Iberville Parish.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report House Bill No. 177 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 177 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 367 by Representative Marcelle

Representative Marcelle presented House Bill No. 367, which provides relative to the election sections for judgeship of the second district of the First Circuit Court of Appeal.

Representative Marcelle offered technical amendments House Bill No. 367. Representative Marcelle 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, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Donald R. Johnson, 2905 Jefferson Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 367.

Representative Larvadain offered a motion to report House Bill No. 367 with amendments, to which Representative Thomas objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 6 yeas and 10 nays. Representatives Boyd, Wilford Carter, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, and Newell voted yea. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, McMakin, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted nay.

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

House Bill No. 511 by Representative Owen

Representative Owen presented House Bill No. 511, which provides for the registration of foreign adversaries.

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 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Farnum in the chair.

Desiree Lemoine, The TJC Group, 4530 Bluebonnet Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke and withdrew the TJC Group's opposition to House Bill No. 511.

David Bordelon, Louisiana Board of Ethics, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 511.

Chair Beaulieu in the chair.

Representative Farnum offered a motion to report House Bill No. 511 by substitute, to which Representative Marcelle objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 511 was reported by substitute by a vote of 10 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, McMakin, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Boyd, Wilford Carter, Larvadain, Marcelle, and Newell voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support, 5 in opposition, and 2 as a designee of an elected official. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 511.

House Bill No. 421 by Representative Chenevert

Representative Chenevert presented House Bill No. 421, which provides relative to diversity, equity, and inclusion in state agencies.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill, to which Representative Marcelle objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 6 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, McMakin, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Boyd, Wilford Carter, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, and Newell voted nay.

John Mazin, FGA Action, 1421 Strawberry Hill Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360, spoke in support of House Bill No. 421.

Randal Gaines, Louisiana State Democratic Party, no address given, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 421.

Tramelle Howard, Ed Trust Louisiana, 270 Elmer Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 421.

Dadrius Lanus, Louisiana Democratic Party, no address given, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 421.

Tia Fields, NAACP, 12163 Strauss Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70811, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 421.

Kaitlyn Joshua, 11111 Clarks Ferry Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70817, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 421.

Molly Bush, 3933 Overlook Point Court, no city or state provided, 70817, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 421.

Representative Wyble offered a motion to report House Bill No. 421 by substitute, to which Representative Marcelle objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 421 was reported by substitute by a vote of 10 yeas and 6 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, McMakin, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Boyd, Wilford Carter, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, and Newell voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support, and 10 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 421.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Minutes from the December 12, 2024, House and Governmental Affairs committee meeting were presented to the committee for adoption. Representative Bayham offered a motion to adopt the minutes. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Lyons offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Beaulieu", written over the text "Respectfully submitted,".

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

Date adopted: