

House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2025 Regular Session
May 20, 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 Les Farnum
Representative Foy Bryan Gadberry
Representative Ed Larvadain, III
Representative Rodney Lyons, vice chair
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 Wilford Dan Carter, Sr.
Representative C. Denise Marcelle

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

III. BUSINESS**Senate Bill No. 59 by Senator Reese**

Senator Reese presented Senate Bill No. 59, which provides for fiscal and economic impact statements under the Administrative Procedure Act.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to:

1. Provide that the exception from including the fiscal impact applies to proposed actions expressly required to implement legislation.
2. Add the condition that the fiscal impact not be included as long as the fiscal impact accounted for in the fiscal note associated with legislation is greater than or equal to the amount for the fiscal impact of the proposed action.
3. Require the governor to submit his written findings to the legislature, the agency, and the Louisiana Register.
4. Revise terminology.

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, Bayham, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, McMakin, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Farnum offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 59 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 59 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, McMakin, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support, and 1 as a designee of an elected official. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 4 by Senator Lambert

Senator Lambert presented Senate Bill No. 4, which authorizes political campaign signs to be posted on public school athletic fields and gymnasiums when a political candidate or campaign pays for the posting.

Bruce Reilly, VOTE, 4930 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70116, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 4.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 4 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 4 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, McMakin, Schamerhorn, Thomas, 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.

Senate Bill No. 109 by Senator Seabaugh

On behalf of Senator Seabaugh, Representative Spell presented Senate Bill No. 109, a constitutional amendment to provide for foreign donations in elections.

Nancy Landry, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 109.

Catherine Newsome, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 109.

Bruce Reilly, VOTE, 4930 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 109.

Representative Bayham offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 109 favorably, to which Representative Newell objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 109 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 3 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, McMakin, Schamerhorn, and Thomas voted yea. Representatives Larvadain, Lyons, and Newell voted nay.

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.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 109.

House Bill No. 264 by Representative Echols

Representative Echols presented House Bill No. 264, which provides for transparency and compensation practices relative to pharmacy benefit managers.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to revise language establishing the confidentiality of information submitted by pharmacy benefit managers.

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

Josh Sonnier, Ironworkers Local #623, 6153 Airline Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70805, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 264.

Phil Christofanelli, PCMA, 537 Sergeant Pepper Drive, St. Peters, MO 63376, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 264.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 264 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 264 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 424 by Representative Taylor

Representative Taylor presented House Bill No. 424, which provides relative to early voting.

Max Martin, Power Coalition, 5527 North Afton Parkway, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in support of House Bill No. 424, and presented a slideshow, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Steve Raborn, Louisiana Registrars of Voters Association Legislative Committee, P.O. Box 91006, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 424.

Sherri Hadskey, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 424.

Nancy Landry, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 424.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 424 favorably. Representative Newell withdrew her motion to report House Bill No. 424 favorably.

Representative Newell offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 424. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 424 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, 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.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 424.

Vice Chair Lyons in the chair.

Senate Bill No. 90 by Senator Edmonds

Senator Edmonds presented Senate Bill No. 90, which prohibits betting or wagering on elections.

Catherine Newsome spoke as a designee of the office of the secretary of state, 8585 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, in support of Senate Bill No. 90 and read from a page of prepared statements by Secretary of State Nancy Landry, included as Exhibit B in the committee records.

Peter Robins-Brown, 230 Ponce de Leon Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 90.

Representative Farnum offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 90 favorably, to which Representative Newell objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 90 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, Lyons, McMakin, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Larvadain and Newell voted nay.

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

Chair Beaulieu in the chair.

Senate Bill No. 20 by Senator Wheat

Senator Wheat presented Senate Bill No. 20, a constitutional amendment to change the number of general bills a legislator may file during regular sessions that occur during odd-numbered years and for legislating with regard to dedication or rededication of funds.

Representative Bayham offered a motion to provide for the duration of a regular session in odd numbered years. Representative Bayham withdrew his motion.

Representative Wyble offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 20 favorably, to which Representative McMakin objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 20 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 3 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Farnum, Gadberry, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Billings, Larvadain, and McMakin 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.

House Bill No. 535 by Representative Mandie Landry

Representative Mandie Landry presented House Bill No. 535, which requires the Louisiana Legislative Auditor to evaluate state tax incentives.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Provide that evaluations and reports are done at least once every four years.
3. Provide information required to be included in an evaluation.
4. Remove proposed law authority and related provisions regarding recapturing funds.
5. Change what shall be included in the recommendations.

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, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, McMakin, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Peter Robins-Brown, Louisiana Progress Action, 650 North Sixth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 535.

Edward Seyler, Louisiana Legislative Auditor, P.O. Box 94397, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 535.

Representative Larvadain offered a motion to report House Bill No. 535 with amendments. No vote was taken.

Representative Beaulieu offered a substitute motion to report House Bill No. 535 with amendments, with a recommendation that it be recommitted to the House Committee on Ways and Means. Without objection, House Bill No. 535 was reported with amendments, with recommendation that it be recommitted to the House Committee on Ways and Means by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, McMakin, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Beaulieu announced that House Bill No. 536 by Representative Lyons, which provides for the election of judges of the first district of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal, would be deferred to a later date.

Chair Beaulieu announced that House Resolution No. 110 by Representative Bayham, which repeals the Berthelot Rule, would be deferred to a later date.

Chair Beaulieu announced that House Resolution No. 111 by Representative Bayham, which provides for objections to a legislative instrument being considered in preferential order, would be deferred to a later date.

Chair Beaulieu announced that House Resolution No. 164, which creates a study committee to research office space for members of the House of Representatives, would be deferred to a later date.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Thomas offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, McMakin, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Beaulieu", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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

Date adopted: