

House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2025 Regular Session
May 14, 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 9:34 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:

Frank Meyer, clerk
Daniel Leming, sergeant at arms
Cheryl Domino, sergeant at arms

III. BUSINESS

The committee stood at ease at 9:34 a.m. The committee reconvened at 9:40 a.m.

Senate Bill No. 80 by Senator Miller

Senator Miller presented Senate Bill No. 80, which provides relative to exit polling.

Representative Lyons offered technical amendments to Senate Bill No. 80. Representative Lyons 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, Lyons, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, 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 Senate Bill No. 80.

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 Senate Bill No. 80.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to adopt the 3-minute rule. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

John Milkouich, 11570 Timber Ridge, Keithville, LA 71047, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 80.

Bert Callais, Louisiana Citizens Advocacy Group, 363 East St. Francis, Brusly, LA, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 80.

Chris Alexander, Louisiana Citizen Advocacy Group, P.O. Box 64952, Baton Rouge, LA 70896, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 80.

Katie Alexander, Louisiana Citizen Advocacy Group, P.O. Box 64952, Baton Rouge, LA 70896, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 80.

Representative Farnum offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 80 with amendments, to which Representative Wilford Carter objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 80 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, McMakin, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yeas. Representatives Wilford Carter, Larvadain, Marcelle, and Newell voted nay.

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

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 80.

Senate Bill No. 51 by Senator Luneau

Representative Gadberry in the chair.

Senator Luneau presented Senate Bill No. 51, which provides for public power authority and public records for the city of Alexandria.

Representative Larvadain offered amendments to:

1. Revise the definition of "public power authority" as it relates to a utility division for the city of Alexandria.
2. Provide that the governing authority of the city of Alexandria shall have access to commercially sensitive information.

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

Jacques M. Roy, City of Alexandria, 915 Third Street, Alexandria, LA 71301, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 51.

Representative Larvadain offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 51 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 51 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Billings, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yeas.

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

House Resolution No. 15 by Representative Young

Vice Chair Lyons in the chair.

Representative Young presented House Resolution No. 15, which creates a task force to study issues relative to the name, image, and likeness of student athletes in Louisiana.

Representative Lyons offered amendments to:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Add the following members to the task force:
 - (1) Three members appointed by the governor.
 - (2) Two representatives of the Louisiana High School Athletic Association from its member schools, appointed by the chairman of the House Committee on Education.
 - (3) One representative of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, appointed by the president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bayham, Billings, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative McMakin offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 15 with amendments. Without objection, House Resolution No. 15 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bayham, Billings, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, McMakin, Newell, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

House Bill No. 405 by Representative Willard

Representative Willard presented House Bill No. 405, which requires the secretary of state to prepare and publish certain information concerning changes in election law.

Representative Newell offered amendments to:

1. Remove a provision requiring the secretary of state to prepare and publish a revised version of the Louisiana Election Code.
2. Require the secretary of state to publish on the website a final revision of the Louisiana Election Code after such final revision is received by the secretary of state from the legislature.
3. Remove a provision requiring the secretary of state to prepare and publish on the website of the secretary of state a plain language digest which summarizes the effect of, enforcement mechanisms for, and implementation dates of, changes to the Louisiana Election Code.
4. Require the secretary of state to provide on the website links to instruments enacted during a session of the legislature affecting the Louisiana Election Code and provide information regarding the effective date and the keyword and onliner of each such instrument.

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

Catherine Newsome, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 405.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 405 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 405 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bayham, Billings, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 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. 405.

House Bill No. 160 by Representative Dickerson

Representative Dickerson presented House Bill No. 160, which provides relative to ethics complaints.

Representative Marcelle offered amendments to:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Provide that a non-sworn complaint shall be filed in person with the Board of Ethics at the offices of the board. Further provides that a sworn complaint shall be filed by mail, fax, or uploading the complaint to the website of the Board of Ethics, or by filing in person with the board at the offices of the board.
3. Add requirements for sworn complaints.
4. Add a provision that prohibits retaliation against a complainant and provides for filing a civil action.
5. Restructure the penalty provision in proposed law.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bayham, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Schamerhorn, and Wyble voted yea.

Steven Procupio, PAR, 450 Laurel Street, Baton Rouge, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 160.

David Bordelon, Louisiana Board of Ethics, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 160.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 160 with amendments, to which Representative Gadberry objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 160 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Bayham, Billings, Wilford Carter, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Farnum, Gadberry, Thomas, and Wright voted nay.

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

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 160.

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.

Representative Lyons offered amendments to change precinct assignments for the election sections.

Chair Beaulieu in the chair.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted 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.

Scott Wilfong, 196295 Harrells Ferry Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, spoke in support of House Bill No. 124.

Judge Ronald R. Johnson, Nineteenth Judicial District Court, 325 Pecan Meadow Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 124.

Judge Tarvald Smith, Nineteenth Judicial District Court, 300 North Boulevard, Suite 9101, Baton Rouge, LA 70815, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 124.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report House Bill No. 124 with amendments, to which Representative Marcelle objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 124 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, McMakin, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Wilford Carter, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, and Newell voted nay.

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

Senate Bill No. 89 by Senator Bouie

Vice Chair Lyons in the chair.

Senator Bouie presented Senate Bill No. 89, which requires the board of commissioners of the Port of New Orleans to be confirmed by the Senate.

Representative Larvadain offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 89 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 89 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, and Thomas voted yea.

House Bill No. 332 by Representative Larvadain

Chair Beaulieu in the chair.

Representative Larvadain presented House Bill No. 332, which provides relative to the size of the campaign-free zone radius at polling places.

Representative Bayham offered amendments to:

1. Change the campaign-free zone from a one hundred foot radius to a three hundred foot radius.
2. Add that the campaign free zone would apply to designated parking lots attached to a polling place.

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

Max Martin, Power Coalition, 5527 North Afton Parkway, no city or state provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 332.

Catherine Newsome, 8585 Archives Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke as the designee of an elected official on House Bill No. 332.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 332 with amendments, to which Representative McMakin objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 8 yeas and 8 nays. Representatives Bayham, Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, and Newell voted yea. Representatives Beaulieu, 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, 2 in opposition, and 3 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 332.

House Bill No. 596 by Representative Wright

Representative Wright presented House Bill No. 596, which provides for revisions to the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act.

Representative Wright offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Wright offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Gadberry, Lyons, McMakin, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Stephen M. Gelé, Bivalacqua, Gelé, and Ellis, 650 Poydras Street, Suite 2615, New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke in support of House Bill No. 596.

David Bordelon, Louisiana Board of Ethics, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 596.

Steven Procupio, PAR, 450 Laurel Street, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 596.

Representative Wright offered a motion to report House Bill No. 596 by substitute, to which Representative Larvadain objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 596 was reported by substitute by a vote of 10 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, McMakin, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Boyd, Larvadain, Lyons, and Newell voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support, and 1 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. 596.

House Bill No. 628 by Representative Crews

Representative Crews presented House Bill No. 628, which establishes the Louisiana Dividend Program within the Department of Treasury and provides for funding, administration, qualifications, and restrictions.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to:

1. Remove the provision requiring automatic payment of a dividend if certain conditions are met.
2. Add a provision authorizing the legislature to pass a concurrent resolution with a two-thirds vote to express its intent to utilize fund and subfund monies for capital outlay projects in the comprehensive capital outlay budget.
3. Change the application period from January 1- March 31 to July 1-September 30.

4. Change the date by which the Department of Corrections must supply certain information from April 5 to October 5.
5. Change the date by which the treasurer must post notice of payment of a dividend and its amount from April 15 to October 15.
6. Change the dates by which the treasurer is required to pay dividends from July 1-December 31 to November 1-March 31.

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

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Bill No. 628 with amendments, to which Representative McMakin objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 628 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 1 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea. Representative McMakin voted nay.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice Chair Lyons announced that House Bill No. 424 by Representative Taylor, which provides relative to early voting, would be heard at a later date.

Vice Chair Lyons announced that House Bill No. 535 by Representative Mandie Landry, which requires the Louisiana Legislative Auditor to evaluate state tax incentives, would be heard at a later date.

V. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Beaulieu", written over the printed name.

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

Date adopted: