

House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2025 Regular Session
June 3, 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 9:37 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 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 Wilford Dan Carter, Sr.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Bryce McGlothin, clerk
Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms

III. BUSINESS**House Resolution No. 239 by Representative Jordan**

Representative Jordan presented House Resolution No. 239, which provides for a task force to study the best practices for training poll commissioners.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to change "commissioner-in-charge" to "clerk of court." 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, Larvadain, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Marcelle offered amendments to change the composition of the study commission. Representative Marcelle 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, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, 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 Resolution No. 239.

Sherri Hadskey, office of the Secretary of State, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Resolution No. 239.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to adopt the 3-minute rule. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Wyble in the chair.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 239 with amendments, to which Representative Farnum objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 4 yeas and 10 nays. Representatives 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: 1 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 21 by Senator Mizell

Senator Mizell presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 21, which establishes the Louisiana-Ireland Trade Commission.

Representative Bayham offered amendments to change to composition of the committee and make technical changes, to which Representative Marcelle objected. Representative Bayham withdrew his amendments.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 21 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 21 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

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

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 35 by Senator Edmonds

On behalf of Senator Edmonds, Representative Thomas presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 35, which directs the legislative auditor to conduct a performance audit of the Department of State regarding policies, procedures, and practices related to the integrity of elections.

Catherine Newsome, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 35.

Bruce Reilly, VOTE, 4950 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA, spoke in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 35.

Representative McMakin offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 35 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 35 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, Lyons, McMakin, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

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

House Concurrent Resolution No. 75 by Representative Riser

Representative Riser presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 75, which creates the Chronic Wasting Disease Task Force.

Representative Wyble offered amendments to:

1. Provide that the member of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker shall serve as chairman of the task force.
2. Make technical changes.

Representative Wyble 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, McMakin, Schamerhorn, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 75 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 75 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, Lyons, McMakin, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble 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.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 80 by Representative Beaulieu

Representative Beaulieu presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 80, which provides for the additional information required for consideration of appropriations bills.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments so that the information provided for in the proposed joint rule is the only information required. 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, Lyons, McMakin, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 80 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 80 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, Lyons, McMakin, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 61 by Representative Coates

Representative Coates presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 61, which creates a special task force to study the interagency consultation process for data centers to ensure more complete natural resource planning and management.

Representative Wyble offered amendments to:

1. Provide that the chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources shall serve as chairman of the task force.
2. Require that a copy of the concurrent resolution be transmitted to each entity represented on the task force.

Representative Wyble 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, McMakin, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Wyble offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 61 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 61 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, McMakin, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble 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. 586 by Representative McMakin

Representative McMakin presented House Bill No. 586, which provides for calling a constitutional convention.

Jim Patterson, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, 500 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 586.

Peter Robins-Brown, Louisiana Progress Action, 680 North Sixth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 586.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report House Bill No. 586 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 586 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, Lyons, McMakin, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

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

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 586.

Chair Beaulieu in the chair.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Consideration and discussion of a proposed rule promulgation by the Board of Ethics regarding the food and drink limit

Annie Smith, committee attorney, presented information on the proposed rule. Chair Beaulieu distributed a letter, "Re: Promulgation of Amended Rules Regarding Food and Drink Limit (LAC 52: I, Chapter 17, *Louisiana Register*, Volume 51, No. 4, April 20, 2025, Page 556), labeled Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to find the rule acceptable. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Bayham, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, Lyons, McMakin, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yeas.

Discussion regarding a study of the possibility of reducing the number of elections held in Louisiana pursuant to House Study Resolution No. 3 of the 2024 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana

Representative Mandie Landry, District 91, spoke for information only on the study.

Catherine Newsome, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on the study,

Joel Watson, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on the study, and presented a presentation titled "HSR 3 STUDY: Election Frequency in Louisiana and Around the Country", labeled Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Sherri Hadskey, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on the study.

Cree Matlock, Power Coalition, 4930 Washington Avenue, Suite E, New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke for information only on the study.

DeMetris Causer, Legal Defense Fund, 40 Rector Street, Room 5, New York, NY 10006, spoke for information only on the study.

M. Christian Green, LWV (League of Women Voters) of Louisiana, 1308 Greenbriar Road, Lafayette, LA 70503, spoke for information only on the study, and provided a handout, entitled "Testimony Provided to the Election Frequency Study Meeting" and labeled Exhibit C, which is included in the committee records.

Bruce Reilly, VOTE, 4950 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70116, spoke in support of the study.

Vice Chair Lyons in the chair.

Peter Robins-Brown, Louisiana Progress Action, 650 North Sixth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of the study.

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

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Farnum offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bayham, Farnum, Gadberry, Lyons, McMakin, Schamerhorn, and Wright voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: