

House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2026 Regular Session
March 18, 2026

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 9:02 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 Beth Anne Billings
Representative Wilford Dan Carter, Sr.
Representative Les Farnum
Representative Foy Bryan Gadberry
Representative Michael T. Johnson
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 Joy Walters
Representative John E. Wyble

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Delisha Boyd
Representative Polly Thomas
Representative Mark Wright

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Jairielle Ross, committee assistant
Cheryl Domino, sergeant at arms

III. BUSINESS**House Bill No. 250 by Representative Turner**

Vice Chair Lyons recused himself from voting on House Bill No. 250.

Representative Turner presented House Bill No. 250, which provides with respect to disclosure of certain information by members of boards or commissions.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to provide that proposed law applies to an immediate family member of an appointed member of a board or commission. 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, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Walters, and Wyble voted yeas.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report House Bill No. 250 with amendments, to which Representative Wilford Carter objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 6 yeas and 6 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, McMakin, and Wyble voted yeas. Representatives Wilford Carter, Larvadain, Marcelle, Newell, Schamerhorn, and Walters voted nays.

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. 576 by Representative Gadberry

Representative Gadberry presented House Bill No. 576, which transfers the Old Governor's Mansion to the Department of State.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Provide that the title to the Old Governor's Mansion shall remain in the state of Louisiana, along with all buildings and other improvements constructed thereon.

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, Billings, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, and Walters 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. 576.

Sinella Aghasi, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 576.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 576 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 576 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, and Walters voted yea.

House Bill No. 117 by Representative Beaulieu

Vice Chair Lyons in the chair.

Representative Beaulieu presented House Bill No. 117, which re-creates the Department of State and the statutory entities made a part of the department by law.

Nancy Landry, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 117.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report House Bill No. 117 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 117 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Lyons, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Walters, and Wyble voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 842 by Representative Beaulieu

Representative Beaulieu presented House Bill No. 842, which makes revisions to the Louisiana Election Code.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to:

- (1) Remove the proposed law requirement that the chief deputy registrar or confidential assistant, specifically, remain in the registrar's office during the time that the office is open on election day.
- (2) Provide for the timely receipt of a change in registration to be effective for a special primary election or regularly scheduled or special general election.
- (3) Remove proposed law provisions authorizing the secretary of state to bring an action contesting any election if he alleges irregularities in the conduct of the election may have effected the outcome of the election.
- (4) Make technical changes.

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, Larvadain, Lyons, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Walters, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Wilford Carter offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 842, to which Representative Beaulieu objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 4 yeas and 9 nays. Representatives Wilford Carter, Larvadain, Newell, and Walters voted yea. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Lyons, McMakin, Schamerhorn, and Wyble voted nay.

Lani Boyd, office of the secretary of state, 8585 Archives Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 842.

Catherine Newsome, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 842.

Chris Alexander, Louisiana Citizen Advocacy Group (LACAG), P.O. Box 64952, Baton Rouge, LA 70896, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 842.

Bret Callais, no address provided, Brusly, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 842.

Bruce Reilly, Voters Organized to Educate (VOTE), 4950 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 842.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report House Bill No. 842 with amendments, to which Representative Wilford Carter objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill

No. 842 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Lyons, McMakin, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Wilford Carter, Larvadain, Newell, Schamerhorn, and Walters voted nay.

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

House Bill No. 228 by Representative Stagni

Chair Beaulieu in the chair.

Representative Stagni presented House Bill No. 228, which re-creates the Department of State Civil Service and the statutory entities made a part of the department by law.

Byron Decoteau, Jr., State Civil Service, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 228.

Representative Mike Johnson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 228 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 228 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Lyons, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Walters, and Wyble 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. 260 by Representative Travis Johnson

Representative Travis Johnson presented House Bill No. 260, which authorizes legislators to accept complimentary reasonable transportation to foreign countries.

Representative McMakin offered amendments to prohibit accepting transportation to a foreign country if sponsored by a foreign adversary. Representative McMakin 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, Farnum, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, McMakin, Newell, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

Representative McMakin offered a motion to report House Bill No. 260 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 260 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, McMakin, Newell, and Schamerhorn 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. 551 by Representative Billings

Representative Billings presented House Bill No. 551, which provides for early voting commissioners assisting with the nursing home early voting program.

Brian Champagne, St. Charles Parish Registrar of Voters, P.O. Box 315, Hahnville, LA 70057, spoke in support of House Bill No. 551.

Sherri Hadskey, office of the secretary of state, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 551.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 551 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 551 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

House Bill No. 400 by Representative Fontenot

Representative Fontenot presented House Bill No. 400, which provides that bond and tax elections shall be held only on regularly scheduled fall election dates.

Representative Beaulieu offered technical amendments to House Bill No. 400. Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Wilford Carter, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, McMakin, and Newell voted yea.

Guy Cormier, Police Jury Association of Louisiana, 707 North Seventh Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 400.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 400 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 400 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, and Wyble voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support, 2 in opposition, and 3 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 393 by Representative Fontenot

Representative Fontenot presented House Bill No. 393, a constitutional amendment which provides for eligible election dates for bond and tax elections.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report House Bill No. 393 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 393 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, and Wyble voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, 5 in opposition, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 534 by Representative Boyer

Representative Boyer presented House Bill No. 534, which provides for local bond and tax elections to be held only during a primary election.

Representative Beaulieu offered technical amendments to House Bill No. 534. 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, Farnum, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Lyons, McMakin, Newell, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

Guy Cormier, Police Jury Association of Louisiana, 707 North Seventh Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 534.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report House Bill No. 534 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 534 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Lyons, McMakin, Newell, and Schamerhorn voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 446 by Representative Boyer

Representative Boyer presented House Bill No. 446, a constitutional amendment which provides for eligible election dates for bond and tax elections.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report House Bill No. 446 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 446 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Wilford Carter, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Lyons, McMakin, Newell, and Wyble voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, 3 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Adoption of minutes revision from the February 21, 2024, meeting of the 2024 Second Extraordinary Session

Representative Farnum offered a motion to adopt revised minutes from the 2024 Second Extraordinary Session dated February 21, 2024. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, and Walters voted yea.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Newell offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Wilford Carter, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Lyons, McMakin, Newell, and Wyble voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: