

House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2026 Regular Session
March 24, 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 9:03 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 Delisha Boyd
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 Dixon Wallace McMakin
Representative Candace N. Newell
Representative Rodney Wayne Schamerhorn
Representative Joy Walters
Representative Mark Wright
Representative John E. Wyble

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative C. Denise Marcelle
Representative Polly Thomas

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Hannah Tassin, clerk
Daniel Leming, sergeant at arms
Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms

III. BUSINESS**House Bill No. 858 by Representative Riser**

Representative Riser presented House Bill No. 858, which establishes a public records exemption for Global Positioning System data collected on wildlife and aquatic life.

Representative Walters offered a motion to report House Bill No. 858 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 858 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, 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: 6 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. 858.

House Bill No. 661 by Representative Fontenot

Representative Fontenot presented House Bill No. 661, which provides an exception for hiring the immediate family member of a school board member or superintendent for certain positions.

David Bordelon, Louisiana Board of Ethics, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 661.

Representative Mike Johnson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 661 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 661 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Lyons, McMakin, Schamerhorn, Walters, and Wyble voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 359 by Representative Beaulieu

Vice Chair Lyons in the chair.

Representative Beaulieu presented House Bill No. 359, which provides relative to the death of a candidate for a party primary office who is not affiliated with a major political party.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report House Bill No. 359 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 359 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Wilford Carter, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Lyons, McMakin, 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. 258 by Representative Beaulieu

Representative Beaulieu presented House Bill No. 258, which provides for exceptions to the dual officeholding laws for volunteer firefighters and judicial branch employees.

David Bordelon, Louisiana Board of Ethics, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 258.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report House Bill No. 258 favorably, to which Representative Wilford Carter objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 258 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Lyons, McMakin, Schamerhorn, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Wilford Carter, Larvadain, Newell, and Walters voted nay.

House Bill No. 705 by Representative Newell

Chair Beaulieu in the chair.

Representative Newell presented House Bill No. 705, which provides relative to contempt of the legislature.

Vice Chair Lyons in the chair.

Representative Newell offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 705. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 705 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, 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. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 705.

House Bill No. 177 by Representative Muscarello

Chair Beaulieu in the chair.

Representative Muscarello presented House Bill No. 177, which excludes court reporters from the two-year waiting period for rehiring relative to termination of public service.

Representative Larvadain offered amendments to remove proposed language related to the reemployment of a former or retired court reporter. Representative Larvadain 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, Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Lyons, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Walters, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Larvadain offered a motion to report House Bill No. 177 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 177 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Lyons, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Walters, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 238 by Representative Zeringue

Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 238, which provides relative to exceptions for the employment of a former school board member.

Representative Schamerhorn offered a motion to report House Bill No. 238 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 238 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Lyons, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Walters, Wright, 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. 398 by Representative Zeringue

Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 398, which prohibits payment for lodging, meals, or incidental expenses for state public officials and employees from exceeding amounts for such expenses established by the U.S. General Services Administration.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to:

- (1) Remove provisions limiting the amount of reimbursement for lodging.
- (2) Add provisions regarding the maximum allowable reimbursement to executive branch employees and public officials for lodging, meals, and incidental expenses during a gubernatorially declared state of emergency.

Representative Beaulieu 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, Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Lyons, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Walters, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Glenn Ansardi, Louisiana District Judges Association (LDJA), Louisiana City Judges Association (LCJA), 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 398.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 398. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 398 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Lyons, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Walters, 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.

Vice Chair Lyons in the chair.

House Bill No. 752 by Representative Green

Representative Green presented House Bill No. 752, a constitutional amendment which provides that the timing and duration of regular sessions of the legislature may be set by joint rule of the legislature.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.

- (2) Add repeal of provisions providing for organizational sessions.
- (3) Provide that the legislature shall convene at least once in every year, and such meeting shall begin on the second Monday in January, unless the legislature provides otherwise by joint rule adopted by a favorable vote of 2/3rds of the elected members of each house appointing a different day, and adjourn sine die no later than May first and provide that the legislature may provide for sessions by joint rule adopted by a favorable vote of 2/3rds of the elected members of each house.
- (4) Make conforming changes to ballot language.

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, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, McMakin, Schamerhorn, Walters, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Jim Patterson, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry (LABI), 500 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 752.

Chris Alexander, Louisiana Citizen Advocacy Group (LACAG), 1380 Steele Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA, 70806, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 752.

Representative McMakin offered a motion to report House Bill No. 752 with amendments, to which Representative Gadberry objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 752 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Boyd, Wilford Carter, Larvadain, Lyons, McMakin, Newell, Walters, Wright, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, and Schamerhorn voted nay.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Adoption of minutes for House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs meetings held on October 24, 2025, and October 25, 2025, of the 2025 First Extraordinary Session

Representative Lyons offered a motion to adopt the minutes of committee meetings held on October 24 and 25, 2025, of the 2025 First Extraordinary Session. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Walters, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Beaulieu announced that action on House Bill No. 307 by Representative Green, which authorizes the governor and legislators to accept and deposit campaign contributions during a regular session of the Legislature of Louisiana, was voluntarily deferred.

Chair Beaulieu announced that action on House Bill No. 210 by Representative Melerine, which provides for retroactivity of certain provisions of Act No. 492 of the 2024 Regular Session, was voluntarily deferred.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Wyble offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Walters, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: