

House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2026 Regular Session
April 1, 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 9:07 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 C. Denise Marcelle
Representative Dixon Wallace McMakin
Representative Candace N. Newell
Representative Rodney Wayne Schamerhorn
Representative Polly Thomas
Representative Joy Walters
Representative Mark Wright
Representative John E. Wyble

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

Jairielle Ross, committee assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms

III. BUSINESS

House Bill No. 648 by Representative Brass

Representative Brass presented House Bill No. 648, which provides relative to attendance at meetings of public bodies.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Remove proposed law provisions that would allow a parent or a legal guardian of a child under the age of five or a provider of early childhood supports or services to participate in a meeting of a public body via teleconference, video conference, or other alternative methods.

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

Sadie Becnel, Louisiana Policy Institute for Children, P.O. Box 13552, New Orleans, LA 70185, spoke in support of House Bill No. 648.

Megan Garretson, Young Scholars Academy, 16013 Firewood Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, spoke in support of House Bill No. 648.

Scott Sternberg, Sternberg, Naccari, and White, no address provided, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 648.

Representative Boyd offered a motion to report House Bill No. 648 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 648 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Lyons, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support, and 3 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 996 by Representative Dewitt

Representative Dewitt presented House Bill No. 996, which provides for the use of campaign funds for clothing required for holding office.

Representative Mike Johnson offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 996. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 996 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, 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. 615 by Representative Mike Johnson

Representative Mike Johnson presented House Bill No. 615, which requires certain public meetings to be broadcast live.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to provide that each of the listed entities in proposed law shall video broadcast live all proceedings in a public meeting.

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

Representative Beaulieu offered technical amendments to require each meeting to be video recorded. 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, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, McMakin, Walters, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Laurie Adams, Pelican Institute, 400 Poydras, New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke in support of House Bill No. 615.

Scott Sternberg, Louisiana Press Association (LPA), no address provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 615.

Bruce Reilly, Voters Organized to Educate (VOTE), 4930 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in support of House Bill No. 615.

Guy Cormier, Police Jury Association of Louisiana, 707 North 7th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 615.

Robby Miller, Tangipahoa Parish, P.O. Box 206, Amite, LA 70422, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 615.

Representative Wyble offered a motion to report House Bill No. 615 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 615 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, McMakin, Walters, Wright, and Wyble voted yeas.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support, and 3 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 627 by Representative Knox

Representative Knox presented House Bill No. 627, which provides relative to live-stream video and recording of the public meetings of entities created by law.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 627. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 627 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, McMakin, Walters, Wright, and Wyble voted yeas.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support, and 6 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 540 by Representative Knox

Representative Knox presented House Bill No. 540, which provides for disclosures required in certain digital political communications.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 540 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 540 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, 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.

House Bill No. 270 by Representative Terry Landry

Representative Terry Landry presented House Bill No. 270, which provides for absentee voting by mail by qualified incarcerated voters.

Bruce Reilly, 4930 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in support of House Bill No. 270.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 270 favorably, to which Representative Thomas objected. No vote was taken.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 270, to which Representative Marcelle objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and action on House Bill No. 270 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 9 yeas and 7 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, McMakin, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Boyd, Wilford Carter, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, and Walters voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 14 in support, and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 361 by Representative Terry Landry

Representative Terry Landry presented House Bill No. 361, which provides for the reinstatement of the voter registration of a person who is no longer under an order of imprisonment.

Bruce Reilly, 4930 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in support of House Bill No. 361.

Charles Amos, 2100 Painters Street, no city or state provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 361.

Checo Yancy, VOTE, 251 Florida Street, Room 201, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of House Bill No. 361.

Amelia Herrera, 251 Florida Avenue, no city or state provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 361.

Ilona Prieto, VOTE, 4930 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in support of House Bill No. 361.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 361 favorably, to which Representative Thomas objected. No vote was taken.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 361, to which Representative Marcelle objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and action on House Bill No. 361 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and 7 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, McMakin, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Boyd, Wilford Carter, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, and Walters voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 13 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 206 by Representative Green

Representative Green presented House Bill No. 206, which authorizes legislators to attend meetings of an entity for which membership is subject to legislative confirmation.

Representative Lyons offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes
- (2) Authorize legislators to attend meetings of state boards, commissions, agencies, and committees or any entity created by the legislature.

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

Vice Chair Lyons in the chair.

Jennifer Marusak, Ports Association of Louisiana, P.O. Box 82880, Baton Rouge, LA 70884, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 206.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Bill No. 206 with amendments, to which Representative Wright objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 7 yeas and 8 nays. Representatives Boyd, Wilford Carter, Larvadain, Lyons, McMakin, Newell, and Walters voted yea. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted nay.

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

House Bill No. 459 by Representative Mandie Landry

Representative Mandie Landry presented House Bill No. 459, which provides relative to the use of artificial intelligence in political campaigns.

Woody Jenkins, 910 North Foster Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in support of House Bill No. 459.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Bill No. 459 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 459 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Lyons, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wright 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. 813 by Representative Mandie Landry

Chair Beaulieu in the chair.

Representative Mandie Landry presented House Bill No. 813, which provides relative to the term of office for the Orleans Parish sheriff.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 813 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 813 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 244 by Representative Green

Representative Green presented House Bill No. 244, a constitutional amendment which provides for the election of constitutional convention delegates and vote requirements necessary for the adoption of a new constitution.

Representative Thomas offered amendments to the ballot language. Representative Thomas 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, Wilford Carter, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, McMakin, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Walters, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Bill No. 244 with amendments, to which Representative Schamerhorn objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 244 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, Walters, Wright, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives McMakin and Schamerhorn voted nay.

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

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 244.

House Bill No. 4 by Representative McMakin

Representative McMakin presented House Bill No. 4, which provides for calling a constitutional convention.

Representative McMakin offered amendments to:

- (1) Change the relevant dates for the convention and related elections.
- (2) Provide that election delegates shall be elected by plurality at the spring primary election in 2028, instead of by majority vote at the fall primary and general elections in 2026.
- (3) Specifically provide that when calling the special election for delegates, the governor shall be subject to the procedures provided for in present law for calling a special election.
- (4) Provide the method for qualifying for candidates for delegate and associated qualifying fees.
- (5) Provide for the house and senate committees on governmental affairs to meet and adopt rules and a schedule for the convention and committees of the convention, instead of legislative staff preparing rules for adoption by the convention.
- (6) Provide that on the day after he receives the proposed constitution, the governor shall call an election to submit the proposed amendment to the voters.

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

Ron Sapia, 110 Bourgeois Street, Raceland, LA 70394, spoke in support of House Bill No. 4.

Woody Jenkins, 910 North Foster Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 4.

Representative McMakin offered a motion to report House Bill No. 4 with amendments, to which Representative Wilford Carter objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 4 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 6 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, McMakin, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Boyd, Wilford Carter, Larvadain, Lyons, Newell, and Schamerhorn voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, and 4 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 4.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Beaulieu announced that House Bill 486 by Representative Spell, which provides relative to the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT), had been deferred.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Thomas offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Boyd, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: