

House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2026 Regular Session
April 23, 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 9:06 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 Polly Thomas
Representative Mark Wright
Representative John E. Wyble

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Delisha Boyd
Representative Joy Walters

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Hannah Tassin, clerk
Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms

III. BUSINESS**Senate Bill No. 397 by Senator Reese**

Senator Reese presented Senate Bill No. 397, which provides for vacancies caused by retirement, resignation, or removal from elected office.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 397 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 397 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Lyons, McMakin, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

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 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Lyons, McMakin, Schamerhorn, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report House Bill No. 398 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 398 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Lyons, McMakin, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

House Bill No. 1201 by Representative Illg

Representative Illg presented House Bill No. 1201, which provides with respect to the compensation of statewide elected officials and legislators.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1201 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 1201 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 41 by Senator Allain

Senator Allain presented Senate Bill No. 41, which expands the number of days required for public bodies to publish minutes for open meetings from 20 days to 45 days.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on Senate Bill No. 41. Without objection, action on Senate Bill No. 41 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 289 by Senator Abraham

Senator Abraham presented Senate Bill No. 289, which provides for confidentiality of certain information in public records requests for universities.

Scott Sternberg, Louisiana Press Association, 935 Gravier Street, Suite 1890, New Orleans, LA, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 289.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to:

- (1) Revise language regarding the exception for certain records of a public postsecondary education institution regarding an applicant for an executive position.
- (2) Limit the exception for records identifying certain donors to a public postsecondary education institution or its affiliated foundation to apply only to records belonging to such institution or foundation.
- (3) 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, Farnum, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

No action was taken on Senate Bill No. 289.

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

Senate Bill No. 248 by Senator Miller

Senator Miller presented Senate Bill No. 248, which provides for consolidation of precincts with fewer than 20 voters.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to specify that the voters may vote at the other polling place in the same polling location. 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, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, 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 Bill No. 248.

Representative McMakin in the chair.

Sherri Hadskey, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 248.

Representative Billings offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 248 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 248 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Wilford Carter, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 47 by Senator Mizell

Senator Mizell presented Senate Bill No. 47, which requires certain email and telephone contact information for individual members of a board and commission.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to:

- (1) Require the website to include a phone number for at least two contacts at the board, including the chairman and the director or administrator, rather than for each member of the board.
- (2) Remove language providing that the required email address be, specifically, private or accessible through the board.

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, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 47 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 47 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Wilford Carter, Gadberry, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, 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, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 210 by Senator Kleinpeter

On behalf of Senator Kleinpeter, Representative Beaulieu presented Senate Bill No. 210, which provides for the increase in the number of election commissioners for closed party primaries.

Nancy Landry, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 210.

Sherri Hadskey, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 210.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 210 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 210 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 106 by Senator Kleinpeter

On behalf of Senator Kleinpeter, Representative Beaulieu presented Senate Bill No. 106, which provides that certain photographs, audio or video recordings, digital images regarding a crime scene or used in a criminal prosecution are not public records available for release or to be copied except by clerk of court or a court order.

Representative McMakin offered technical amendments to House Bill No. 106. Representative McMakin 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, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Marcelle, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 106 with amendments, to which Representative Larvadain objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 106 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Gadberry, McMakin, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Larvadain and Newell voted nay.

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. 906 by Representative Billings

Representative Billings presented House Bill No. 906, which provides for the nominating petition for presidential candidates.

Representative Billings offered amendments to:

- (1) Add language giving the ability for a state central committee of a major political party to allow, through its bylaws, unaffiliated voters to participate in its party primary elections and provide that unaffiliated voters can only vote in one major political party's primary elections, if allowed.
- (2) Require a state central committee to notify the Department of State if it allows or prohibits unaffiliated voters from participating in its party primary elections.
- (3) Provide that if a state central committee allows unaffiliated voters to participate in its party primary elections, then the unaffiliated voters shall also be allowed to participate in the elections for the state central committee, parish executive committee, and the statewide presidential preference primary.

- (4) Make technical changes.
- (5) Add effective date of January 1, 2027.

Representative Billings 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, 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 Bill No. 906.

Sherri Hadskey, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 906.

Representative Billings offered a motion to report House Bill No. 906 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 906 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Billings, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 218 by Senator Talbot

Senator Talbot presented Senate Bill No. 218, which provides for certification programs for election officials.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on Senate Bill No. 218. Without objection, action on Senate Bill No. 218 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 220 by Senator Talbot

Senator Talbot presented Senate Bill No. 220, which provides for the Official Journal of the State.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on Senate Bill No. 220. Without objection, action on Senate Bill No. 220 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and

0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

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

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Newell offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Wilford Carter, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, McMakin, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: