

House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

Minutes of Meeting
2026 Regular Session
May 19, 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 9:13 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 Les Farnum
Representative Foy Bryan Gadberry
Representative Ed Larvadain, III
Representative Rodney Lyons, vice chair
Representative C. Denise Marcelle
Representative Candace N. Newell
Representative Rodney Wayne Schamerhorn
Representative Polly Thomas
Representative Joy Walters
Representative John E. Wyble

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Wilford Dan Carter, Sr.
Representative Michael T. Johnson
Representative Dixon Wallace McMakin
Representative Mark Wright

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Jennifer Watson, committee assistant
Daniel Leming, sergeant at arms
Janet Anthony, sergeant at arms

III. BUSINESS**Senate Bill No. 319 by Senator Pressly**

Senator Pressly presented Senate Bill No. 319, which provides for instructions to elections commissioners.

Nancy Landry, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 319, and provided a handout, "Current Voter ID Laws," which is labeled Exhibit A and included in committee records.

Catherine Newsome, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 319.

Paul Lagemann, Heritage Action, no address provided, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 319.

Chad Ennis, Honest Elections Project Action, 4100 Gandara Bend, Austin, TX 78738, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 319.

Bruce Reilly, Voters Organized to Educate (VOTE), 4930 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 319.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 319 favorably, to which Representative Larvadain objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 319 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, Lyons, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Larvadain and Marcelle voted nay.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to adopt the 3-minute rule. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Thomas, 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.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 63 by Senator Bass

Senator Bass presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 63, which requests the legislative auditor to examine and evaluate the process of creating fiscal notes during the legislative session.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 63 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 63 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 202 by Senator Kleinpeter

Senator Kleinpeter presented Senate Bill No. 202, which provides for the increase of parish board of election supervisor meetings in certain parishes for certain races.

Nancy Landry, office of the secretary of state, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 202.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 202 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 202 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Thomas, and Wyble voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 25 by Senator Kleinpeter

Senator Kleinpeter presented Senate Bill No. 25, which adjusts compensation schedule for Registrar of Voters.

Representative Beaulieu offered technical amendments to Senate Bill No. 25. 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, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, Walters, and Wyble voted yea.

Shanika Olinde, Pointe Coupee Registrar of Voters, 1919 Hospital Road, New Roads, LA 70760, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 25.

Amanda Raynes, DeSoto Registrar of Voters, Registrar of Voters Association, 104 Crosby Street, Mansfield, LA 71052, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 25.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to specify that the prohibition against salary adjustment more than once after the decennial census applies only to adjustments based on population changes. 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, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Walters, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 25 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 25 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Walters, 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.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 25.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 29 by Senator Kleinpeter

Senator Kleinpeter presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 29, which creates a joint legislative committee to study and make recommendations relative to the water quality of the Atchafalaya Basin.

Representative Beaulieu offered technical amendments to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 29. 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, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Walters, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 29 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 29 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Walters, and Wyble voted yea.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 85 by Representative Knox

Representative Knox presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 85, which creates a task force on illegal dumping.

Representative Beaulieu offered technical amendments to House Concurrent Resolution No. 85. 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, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Walters, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Larvadain offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 85 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 85 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Walters, and Wyble voted yeas.

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

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 33 by Senator Myers

On behalf of Senator Myers, Representative Carver presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 33, which creates the Work-Based Learning Coordination Task Force.

Representative Wyble offered amendments to remove the Louisiana School Boards Association as an appointing entity. 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, Billings, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Walters, and Wyble voted yeas.

Sheree Blanchard, Leaders for a Better Louisiana, 450 Laurel Street, Suite 1900, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 33.

Representative Wyble offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 33 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 33 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, Walters, and Wyble voted yeas.

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

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 5 by Senator Mizell

On behalf of Senator Mizell, Representative Billings presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 5, which establishes the Louisiana-Ireland Trade Commission.

Representative Billings offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 5 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 5 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Walters voted yeas.

House Resolution No. 196 by Representative Owen

Representative Owen presented House Resolution No. 196, which establishes a special study committee to assess the impact of fallen trees on residential properties and property values and to make recommendations.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to:

- (1) Change membership of the study committee from nine to four.
- (2) Provide that the speaker of the House of Representatives shall call the first meeting of the study committee and require the study committee to elect a chairman from among its members at the first meeting.

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, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Walters voted yea.

Representative Lyons offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 196 with amendments. Without objection, House Resolution No. 196 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Newell, Schamerhorn, Thomas, and Walters voted yea.

House Resolution No. 237 by Representative Owen

Representative Owen presented House Resolution No. 237, which memorializes Congress to enact a provision in the National Defense Authorization Act directing the Department of Defense to provide accurate on-base population counts for the decennial census.

Representative Larvadain offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 237 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 237 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, Walters, and Wyble voted yea.

House Resolution No. 118 by Representative Wright

On behalf of Representative Wright, Representative Beaulieu presented House Resolution No. 118, which creates a legislative subcommittee to study the potential establishment of a state income tax credit for certain water utility customers.

Representative Beaulieu offered amendments to:

- (1) Provide for the creation of a select committee, rather than subcommittee, of the House of Representatives.
- (2) Provide for the speaker of the House of Representatives to designate staff to assist the committee.

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, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, Walters, and Wyble voted yea.

Representative Beaulieu offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 118 with amendments. Without objection, House Resolution No. 118 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Newell, Walters, and Wyble voted yea.

The committee stood at ease at 11:16 a.m. The committee reconvened at 11:27 a.m.

House Bill No. 442 by Representative Marcelle

Representative Marcelle presented House Bill No. 442, which provides relative to election sections for judgeship of the family court for East Baton Rouge Parish.

Donald Johnson, 3114 Jefferson Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 442.

Wendy Edwards, 6700 Jefferson Highway, Building 3, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 442.

Representative Lyons provided a handout, a letter to Chief Judge Faulkner from Jennifer Eagan, which is labeled Exhibit B and included in committee records.

Representative Larvadain offered a motion to report House Bill No. 442 favorably, to which Representative Thomas objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas, 5 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, and Walters voted yea. Representatives Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, Thomas, and Wyble voted nay. Representative Beaulieu abstained.

House Bill No. 443 by Representative Marcelle

Representative Marcelle presented House Bill No. 443, which provides relative to the election sections for judgeship of the second district of the First Circuit Court of Appeal.

Donald Johnson, 3114 Jefferson Avenue, no city or state provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 443.

Representative Marcelle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 443 favorably, to which Representative Thomas objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas, 5 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, and Walters voted yea. Representatives Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, Thomas, and Wyble voted nay. Representative Beaulieu abstained.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

The committee stood at ease at 11:30 a.m. The committee reconvened at 11:39 a.m.

Consider and discuss a proposed rule promulgation by the Board of Ethics regarding the food and drink limit (LAC 52:1.1703)

Representative Beaulieu discussed an update of the food and drink limit from \$81 to \$84.

Representative Larvadain offered a motion to find the rule acceptable. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Newell, Thomas, Walters, and Wyble voted yea.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Beaulieu announced that House Resolution No. 285 by Representative Brass, which requests the legislative auditor to conduct a study of compensation authorized for parish assessors and clerks of court, had been deferred.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Lyons offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Beaulieu, Billings, Farnum, Gadberry, Larvadain, Lyons, Marcelle, Newell, Thomas, Walters, and Wyble voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: