

**THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL  
OF THE  
SENATE  
OF THE  
STATE OF LOUISIANA**

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**FOURTH DAY'S PROCEEDINGS**

**Fifty-First Extraordinary Session of the Legislature  
Under the Adoption of the  
Constitution of 1974**

Senate Chamber  
State Capitol  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Thursday, January 18, 2024

The Senate was called to order at 8:10 o'clock P.M. by Hon. Regina A. Barrow, President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

**Morning Hour**

**CONVENING ROLL CALL**

PRESENT

Allain	Fesi	Miller
Barrow	Fields	Mizell
Bass	Foil	Morris
Boudreaux	Harris	Owen
Bouie	Hensgens	Pressly
Cathey	Hodges	Price
Cloud	Jenkins	Reese
Connick	Kleinpeter	Talbot
Coussan	Lambert	Wheat
Duplessis	Luneau	Womack
Edmonds	Miguez	
Total - 32		

ABSENT

Mr. President	Jackson	Stine
Abraham	McMath	
Carter	Seabaugh	
Total - 7		

The President Pro Tempore of the Senate announced there were 32 Senators present and a quorum.

**Prayer**

The prayer was offered by Senator Valarie Hodges, following which the Senate joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

**Reading of the Journal**

On motion of Senator Talbot, the reading of the Journal was dispensed with and the Journal of January 17, 2024, was adopted.

**Reports of Committees**

The following reports of committees were received and read:

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON**

**SENATE AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

Senator Cleo Fields, Chairman on behalf of the Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs, submitted the following report:

January 18, 2024

To the President and Members of the Senate:

I am directed by your Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs to submit the following report:

**HOUSE BILL NO. 8—**

BY REPRESENTATIVES MIKE JOHNSON, BEAULLIEU, BILLINGS, CARLSON, CARVER, GADBERRY, LYONS, MARCELLE, NEWELL, SCHAMERHORN, WRIGHT, AND WYBLE  
AN ACT

To enact R.S. 13:101.2 and 101.3 and to repeal R.S. 13:101, 101.1, and 312.4, relative to the supreme court; to provide relative to redistricting supreme court justice districts; to provide for the filling of vacancies; to eliminate statutory provisions for a temporary additional judgeship for the Court of Appeal for the Fourth Circuit and such judge's appointment to the supreme court; and to provide for related matters.

Reported with amendments.

**HOUSE BILL NO. 17—**

BY REPRESENTATIVES EMERSON, AMEDEE, BAYHAM, BEAULLIEU, BILLINGS, CARLSON, DEVILLIER, GALLE, GLORIOSO, HORTON, MIKE JOHNSON, MACK, MCCORMICK, SCHAMERHORN, WILDER, AND WRIGHT  
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 18:2(12), 401(B), 423(E), 441(C)(1), 467(introductory paragraph), 481, 511(A) and (B), 521(A), 1254(A), 1272(A), 1278(B), 1280.22(A), 1401(A), 1461(A)(1) and to enact R.S. 18:2(12), (13), and (14), 401(C), Part I-A of Chapter 5 of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 18:410.1 through 410.10, and Part I-B of Chapter 5 of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 18:411.1 through 411.3, relative to elections; to provide for a party primary system of elections for certain offices, including provisions to provide for nomination of candidates for general elections by party primary elections; to provide for qualification of candidates unaffiliated with a recognized political party in the general election; to provide for voting by voters registered as affiliated with the party in the party primary election and for voting by voters unaffiliated with a recognized political party if allowed by the party central committee; to provide for election dates; to provide relative to certain qualifying fees; to provide relative to the compensation of boards of elections supervisors; and to provide for related matters.

Reported with amendments.

Respectfully submitted,  
CLEO FIELDS  
Chairman

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON**

**FINANCE**

Senator Glen Womack, Chairman on behalf of the Committee on Finance, submitted the following report:

January 18, 2024

To the President and Members of the Senate:

I am directed by your Committee on Finance to submit the following report:

**HOUSE BILL NO. 16—**

BY REPRESENTATIVE MCFARLAND  
AN ACT

To appropriate funds and to make certain reductions from certain sources to be allocated to the designated agencies and purposes in specific amounts for the making of supplemental appropriations and reductions for said agencies and purposes for Fiscal Year 2023-2024; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Reported with amendments.

Respectfully submitted,  
GLEN WOMACK  
Chairman

January 18, 2024

House Bills and Joint Resolutions on Second Reading Just Reported by Committees

Senator Fields asked for and obtained a suspension of the rules to take up House Bills and Joint Resolutions just reported by Committees.

HOUSE BILL NO. 8— BY REPRESENTATIVES MIKE JOHNSON, BEAULLIEU, BILLINGS, CARLSON, CARVER, GADBERRY, LYONS, MARCELLE, NEWELL, SCHAMERHORN, WRIGHT, AND WYBLE AN ACT

To enact R.S. 13:101.2 and 101.3 and to repeal R.S. 13:101, 101.1, and 312.4, relative to the supreme court; to provide relative to redistricting supreme court justice districts; to provide for the filling of vacancies; to eliminate statutory provisions for a temporary additional judgeship for the Court of Appeal for the Fourth Circuit and such judge's appointment to the supreme court; and to provide for related matters.

Reported with amendments by the Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs.

SENATE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

Amendments proposed by Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs to Engrossed House Bill No. 8 by Representative Mike Johnson

AMENDMENT NO. 1 On page 1, delete lines 13 through 21, and insert: "(1) District 1 is composed of Precincts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 105, 106, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130 and 132 of Jefferson Parish; Precincts 3-20, 4-7, 4-8, 4-9, 4-11, 4-14, 4-15, 4-17, 4-17A, 4-18, 4-20, 4-21, 4-22, 4-23, 5-12, 5-13, 5-15, 5-16, 5-17, 5-18, 9-45, 9-45A, 17-17, 17-18, 17-18A, 17-19 and 17-20 of Orleans Parish; Plaquemines Parish; St. Bernard Parish; St. Tammany Parish; Precincts 33, 40A, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45A, 45B, 46, 47, 49, 70, 70A, 71, 72, 72A, 73, 74, 102, 104, 106, 106A, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 117, 118, 118A, 119, 120, 120A, 120B, 121, 121A, 122A, 122B, 122C, 123, 124, 125, 127, 129A, 133, 133A, 137, 137A, 137B, 137C, 137D, 139, 141, 141A, 143, 143A, 145, 147, 149, 149A and 151 of Tangipahoa Parish and Washington Parish."

AMENDMENT NO. 2 On page 4, delete lines 3 through 23, and insert: "(6) District 6 is composed of Ascension Parish; Assumption Parish; Precincts 1-7, 1-8, 1-12, 1-33, 1-34, 1-35, 1-39, 1-40, 1-41, 1-42, 1-43, 1-44, 1-47, 1-48, 1-49, 1-56, 1-57, 1-59, 1-64, 1-65, 1-69, 1-74, 1-75, 1-76, 1-79, 1-81, 1-89, 1-90, 1-97, 1-98, 1-99, 1-103, 1-105, 1-107, 2-6, 2-7, 2-8, 2-33, 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-5, 3-6, 3-7, 3-9, 3-10, 3-12, 3-14, 3-15, 3-16, 3-17, 3-18, 3-19, 3-20, 3-21, 3-22, 3-23, 3-25, 3-26, 3-28, 3-30, 3-31, 3-32, 3-33, 3-34, 3-36, 3-37, 3-38, 3-39, 3-40, 3-41, 3-43, 3-44, 3-45, 3-46, 3-47, 3-48, 3-49, 3-50, 3-51, 3-53, 3-54, 3-56, 3-57, 3-58, 3-59, 3-61, 3-62, 3-63, 3-64, 3-65, 3-66, 3-67, 3-68, 3-69, 3-70, 3-71, 3-72, 3-73, 3-75 and 3-76 of East Baton Rouge Parish; Precincts 175, 176, 177, 178, 182, 183, 184, 185A, 189, 190, 192, 193A, 194A, 198, 199, 202, 204, 246, 247, 248, 1-GI, 1-K, 2-K, 3-K, 4-K, 5-K, 6-KA, 6-KB, 7-KA, 7-KB, 8-K, 9-K, 10-K, 11-K, 12-K, 13-KA, 14-K, 15-K, 16-K, 17-K, 18-K, 19-K, 20-K, 25-K, 27-K, 28-K, 29-K, 34-K, 35-K and 1-L of Jefferson Parish; Precincts 2-15, 5-2, 6-1, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4, 6-5, 7-1 and 7-2 of Lafourche Parish; Livingston Parish; Precincts 1-6, 2-5, 2-6, 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 4-1, 4-2, 4-3, 4-4, 4-5, 5-5, 6-1, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4, 6-6, 6-8, 7-1, 7-2 and 7-3 of St. Charles Parish and Precincts 1-6, 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 3-3, 5-4 and 5-5 of St. John the Baptist Parish."

On motion of Senator Fields, the committee amendment was adopted. The amended bill was read by title and referred to the Legislative Bureau.

HOUSE BILL NO. 16— BY REPRESENTATIVE MCFARLAND AN ACT

To appropriate funds and to make certain reductions from certain sources to be allocated to the designated agencies and purposes in specific amounts for the making of supplemental appropriations and reductions for said agencies and purposes for Fiscal Year 2023-2024; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Reported with amendments by the Committee on Finance.

SENATE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

Amendments proposed by Senate Committee on Finance to Reengrossed House Bill No. 16 by Representative McFarland

AMENDMENT NO. 1 On page 1, delete lines 13 through 21

AMENDMENT NO. 2 On page 1, delete line 24, and insert the following:

"to Congressional redistricting mailings only in the event that Senate Bill No. 8 of the 2024 First Extraordinary Session of the Legislature is enacted into law \$1,401,377"

AMENDMENT NO. 3 On page 2, delete lines 1 through 5

AMENDMENT NO. 4 On page 2, at the beginning of line 6, change "Section 3." to "Section 2."

On motion of Senator Womack, the committee amendment was adopted. The amended bill was read by title and referred to the Legislative Bureau.

HOUSE BILL NO. 17— BY REPRESENTATIVES EMERSON, AMEDEE, BAYHAM, BEAULLIEU, BILLINGS, CARLSON, DEVILLIER, GALLE, GLORIOSO, HORTON, MIKE JOHNSON, MACK, MCCORMICK, SCHAMERHORN, WILDER, AND WRIGHT AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 18:2(12), 401(B), 423(E), 441(C)(1), 467(introductory paragraph), 481, 511(A) and (B), 521(A), 1254(A), 1272(A), 1278(B), 1280.22(A), 1401(A), 1461(A)(1) and to enact R.S. 18:2(12), (13), and (14), 401(C), Part I-A of Chapter 5 of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 18:410.1 through 410.10, and Part I-B of Chapter 5 of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 18:411.1 through 411.3, relative to elections; to provide for a party primary system of elections for certain offices, including provisions to provide for nomination of candidates for general elections by party primary elections; to provide for qualification of candidates unaffiliated with a recognized political party in the general election; to provide for voting by voters registered as affiliated with the party in the party primary election and for voting by voters unaffiliated with a recognized political party if allowed by the party central committee; to provide for election dates; to provide relative to certain qualifying fees; to provide relative to the compensation of boards of elections supervisors; and to provide for related matters.

Reported with amendments by the Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs.

## SENATE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

Amendments proposed by Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs to Reengrossed House Bill No. 17 by Representative Emerson

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, line 2, after "reenact" delete "R.S. 18:2(12), 401(B)," and insert "R.S. 18:401(B),"

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, line 3, after "481" and before "521(A)," delete "511(A) and (B)," and insert "511(A),"

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 1, line 4, after "1401(A)," and before "1461(A)(1)" insert "and"

AMENDMENT NO. 4

On page 1, line 6, after "410.10," delete the remainder of the line and delete line 7 and insert "relative"

AMENDMENT NO. 5

On page 1, at the beginning of line 19, change "511(A) and (B)," to "511(A)," and after "1401(A)," and before "1461(A)(1)" insert "and"

AMENDMENT NO. 6

On page 2, line 3, after "410.10," delete the remainder of the line and on line 4, delete "comprised of R.S. 18:411.1 through 411.3,"

AMENDMENT NO. 7

On page 2, line 10, after "Congress" delete the period "." and insert "and the office of justice of the supreme court."

AMENDMENT NO. 8

On page 5, delete line 6 and insert:  
"A. The candidate who receives the majority of votes in the party primary"

AMENDMENT NO. 9

On page 5, between lines 9 and 10, insert:  
"B. In the event that no candidate receives a majority vote in the first party primary, the two candidates from each political party who received the greatest number of votes in the first party primary shall be voted on in the second party primary.

(1) In the case of a tie vote for first place in the first party primary of a recognized political party, all candidates affiliated with the same political party who received the same highest number of votes qualify for the second party primary.

(2) In the case of a tie vote for second place in the first party primary of a recognized political party, all of the candidates affiliated with the same political party who received the same second highest number of votes and the candidate affiliated with the same political party who received the highest number of votes qualify for the second party primary.

(3) If one of the persons receiving the highest number of votes in the first party primary withdraws his candidacy, dies, or is otherwise disqualified, thereby leaving only one candidate from the same political party in the race, the remaining candidate who has received the highest number of votes for the office for which he was a candidate shall be declared the nominee of the party.

C. There shall be no third party primary. For any situation not specifically provided for herein, the state central committee of the recognized political party involved shall provide for the selection of a nominee from the candidates and shall provide notice of the selection of a nominee to the secretary of state no later than five business days after the second party primary election."

AMENDMENT NO. 10

On page 6, line 13, delete "Beginning in 2025, party" and insert "Party"

AMENDMENT NO. 11

On page 6, delete lines 15 through 29 and on page 7, delete lines 1 through 8

AMENDMENT NO. 12

On page 8, line 6, after "Part I-A" and before "of" delete "and I-B"

AMENDMENT NO. 13

On page 8, delete lines 17 through 26 and insert:  
\*\* \* \*

AMENDMENT NO. 14

On page 12, delete lines 1 through 18 and insert the following:  
"Section 2. This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2026."

On motion of Senator Fields, the committee amendment was adopted. The amended bill was read by title and referred to the Legislative Bureau.

**Privileged Report of the  
Legislative Bureau**

January 18, 2024

To the President and Members of the Senate:

I am directed by your Legislative Bureau to submit the following report:

The following instruments are approved as to construction and duplication.

**HOUSE BILL NO. 8—**

BY REPRESENTATIVES MIKE JOHNSON, BEAULLIEU, BILLINGS, CARLSON, CARVER, GADBERRY, LYONS, MARCELLE, NEWELL, SCHAMERHORN, WRIGHT, AND WYBLE

## AN ACT

To enact R.S. 13:101.2 and 101.3 and to repeal R.S. 13:101, 101.1, and 312.4, relative to the supreme court; to provide relative to redistricting supreme court justice districts; to provide for the filling of vacancies; to eliminate statutory provisions for a temporary additional judgeship for the Court of Appeal for the Fourth Circuit and such judge's appointment to the supreme court; and to provide for related matters.

Reported without amendments.

**HOUSE BILL NO. 16—**

BY REPRESENTATIVE MCFARLAND

## AN ACT

To appropriate funds and to make certain reductions from certain sources to be allocated to the designated agencies and purposes in specific amounts for the making of supplemental appropriations and reductions for said agencies and purposes for Fiscal Year 2023-2024; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Reported without amendments.

**HOUSE BILL NO. 17—**

BY REPRESENTATIVES EMERSON, AMEDEE, BAYHAM, BEAULLIEU, BILLINGS, CARLSON, DEVILLIER, GALLE, GLORIOSO, HORTON, MIKE JOHNSON, MACK, MCCORMICK, SCHAMERHORN, WILDER, AND WRIGHT

## AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 18:2(12), 401(B), 423(E), 441(C)(1), 467(introductory paragraph), 481, 511(A) and (B), 521(A), 1254(A), 1272(A), 1278(B), 1280.22(A), 1401(A), 1461(A)(1) and to enact R.S. 18:2(12), (13), and (14), 401(C), Part I-A of Chapter 5 of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 18:410.1 through 410.10, and Part I-B of Chapter 5 of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 18:411.1 through 411.3, relative to elections; to provide for a party primary system of elections for certain offices, including provisions to provide for nomination of candidates for general elections by party primary

January 18, 2024

elections; to provide for qualification of candidates unaffiliated with a recognized political party in the general election; to provide for voting by voters registered as affiliated with the party in the party primary election and for voting by voters unaffiliated with a recognized political party if allowed by the party central committee; to provide for election dates; to provide relative to certain qualifying fees; to provide relative to the compensation of boards of elections supervisors; and to provide for related matters.

Reported without amendments.

Respectfully submitted,  
GREG MILLER  
Chairman

Adoption of Legislative Bureau Report

On motion of Senator Miller, the Bills and Joint Resolutions were read by title and passed to a third reading.

Rules Suspended

HOUSE BILL NO. 8—

BY REPRESENTATIVES MIKE JOHNSON, BEAULLIEU, BILLINGS, CARLSON, CARVER, GADBERRY, LYONS, MARCELLE, NEWELL, SCHAMERHORN, WRIGHT, AND WYBLE  
AN ACT

To enact R.S. 13:101.2 and 101.3 and to repeal R.S. 13:101, 101.1, and 312.4, relative to the supreme court; to provide relative to redistricting supreme court justice districts; to provide for the filling of vacancies; to eliminate statutory provisions for a temporary additional judgeship for the Court of Appeal for the Fourth Circuit and such judge's appointment to the supreme court; and to provide for related matters.

Senator Womack asked for and obtained a suspension of the rules relative to Rule 13.5.1 of the Senate relative to dual referrals.

The Chair declared the rules were suspended and the amended bill was read by title and passed to a third reading.

Without objection, so ordered.

Rules Suspended

HOUSE BILL NO. 17—

BY REPRESENTATIVES EMERSON, AMEDEE, BAYHAM, BEAULLIEU, BILLINGS, CARLSON, DEVILLIER, GALLE, GLORIOSO, HORTON, MIKE JOHNSON, MACK, MCCORMICK, SCHAMERHORN, WILDER, AND WRIGHT  
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 18:2(12), 401(B), 423(E), 441(C)(1), 467(introductory paragraph), 481, 511(A) and (B), 521(A), 1254(A), 1272(A), 1278(B), 1280.22(A), 1401(A), 1461(A)(1) and to enact R.S. 18:2(12), (13), and (14), 401(C), Part I-A of Chapter 5 of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 18:410.1 through 410.10, and Part I-B of Chapter 5 of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 18:411.1 through 411.3, relative to elections; to provide for a party primary system of elections for certain offices, including provisions to provide for nomination of candidates for general elections by party primary elections; to provide for qualification of candidates unaffiliated with a recognized political party in the general election; to provide for voting by voters registered as affiliated with the party in the party primary election and for voting by voters unaffiliated with a recognized political party if allowed by the party central committee; to provide for election dates; to provide relative to certain qualifying fees; to provide relative to the compensation of boards of elections supervisors; and to provide for related matters.

Senator Womack asked for and obtained a suspension of the rules relative to Rule 13.5.1 of the Senate relative to dual referrals.

The Chair declared the rules were suspended and the amended bill was read by title and passed to a third reading.

Without objection, so ordered.

ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL

ROLL CALL

The roll was called with the following result:

PRESENT

Allain	Fesi	Miller
Barrow	Fields	Mizell
Bass	Foil	Morris
Boudreaux	Harris	Owen
Bouie	Hensgens	Pressly
Cathey	Hodges	Price
Cloud	Jenkins	Reese
Connick	Kleinpeter	Talbot
Coussan	Lambert	Wheat
Duplessis	Luneau	Womack
Edmonds	Miguez	
Total - 32		

ABSENT

Mr. President	Jackson	Stine
Abraham	McMath	
Carter	Seabaugh	
Total - 7		

Leaves of Absence

The following leaves of absence were asked for and granted:

Henry	1 Day	Abraham	1 Day
Carter	1 Day	Jackson	1 Day
McMath	1 Day	Seabaugh	1 Day
Stine	1 Day		

Adjournment

On motion of Senator Talbot, at 8:17 o'clock P.M. the Senate adjourned until Friday, January 19, 2024, at 9:00 o'clock A.M.

The President of the Senate declared the Senate adjourned.

YOLANDA J. DIXON  
Secretary of the Senate  
FRANCINE K. OGNIBENE  
Journal Clerk