

House Committee on Civil Law and Procedure

Minutes of Meeting
2025 Regular Session
May 12, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Nicholas Muscarello, Jr., chair of the House Committee on Civil Law and Procedure, called the meeting to order at 9:41 a.m. in Room 4, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Nicholas Muscarello, Jr., chair
Representative Chad Brown
Representative Josh Carlson
Representative Wilford Dan Carter, Sr.
Representative Emily Chenevert
Representative Kathy Edmonston
Representative Peter F. Egan, Sr.
Representative Brian Leonard Glorioso
Representative Michael T. Johnson
Representative Michael Melerine
Representative Sylvia Elaine Taylor
Representative Christopher Turner, vice chair
Representative Lauren Ventrella
Representative John E. Wyble

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Ed Larvadain, III
Representative Mark Wright

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Allison Alonzo, attorney
Jennifer Nguyen, attorney
Andrea Jerezano, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Michael McCain, clerk
Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms
Amelia Carman, clerk
Don-Trae Davis, clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 343 by Representative Davis**

Representative Davis presented House Bill No. 343, which provides relative to condominium associations.

Steve Bradshaw, Village Charmant Condominium, 7111 Village Charmant #25, spoke in support of House Bill No. 343.

Representative Carlson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 343 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 343 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Brown, Carlson, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Egan, Mike Johnson, Melerine, Taylor, and Turner voted yea.

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

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 343.

Senate Bill No. 35 by Senator Price

Senator Price presented Senate Bill No. 35, which provides for legal servitudes.

Professor Ronald J. Scalise, Jr., Louisiana State Law Institute, Room W127 LSU Law Center, 1 E. Campus Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 35.

Representative Brown offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 35 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 35 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Brown, Carlson, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Egan, Mike Johnson, Melerine, Taylor, and Turner voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 197 by Representative Mike Johnson

Representative Mike Johnson offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 197, which expands the application of medical malpractice to include physical therapist assistants and occupational therapist assistants. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 197 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Brown, Carlson, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Egan, Mike Johnson, Melerine, Taylor, and Turner voted yea.

House Bill No. 74 by Representative Mike Johnson

Representative Mike Johnson presented House Bill No. 74, which provides for the termination of manufacturer vehicle tracking services in certain cases of domestic abuse, sexual assault, or stalking.

Representative Mike Johnson offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes
- (2) Change the name of the fund from "Christine Dowdall Fund" to "Survivor Empowerment Fund".
- (3) Provide that proposed law shall not apply to a motor vehicle manufacturer that technologically is unable to disable the remote access technology on a motor vehicle.
- (4) Provide that a motor vehicle manufacturer and any officer, director, employee, vendor, or agent thereof shall not be subject to liability for any claims deriving from the motor vehicle manufacturer's technological inability to disable the remote access technology.

Representative Mike Johnson offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Brown, Carlson, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Egan, Mike Johnson, Melerine, Taylor, and Turner voted yea.

Kelly Downey, Office of Bossier Sheriff, P.O. Box 850, Benton, LA 71006, spoke in support of House Bill No. 74.

Christine Dowdall, 515 Southwood Dr., Bossier City, LA 71111, spoke in support of House Bill No. 74.

Laurie Marien, Governor's Office of Women's Policy, 900 N. Third St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 74.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 74 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 74 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Brown, Carlson, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Egan, Mike Johnson, Melerine, Taylor, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follow: 15 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 49 by Senator Miller

On behalf of Senator Miller, Professor Ron Scalise, Louisiana State Law Institute, presented Senate Bill No. 49, which provides for validity of testaments.

Representative Brown offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 49 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 49 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Brown, Carlson, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Egan, Melerine, Taylor, Turner, and Wyble voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 575 by Representative Ventrella

Representative Ventrella presented House Bill No. 575, which provides relative to liability for the unlawful termination of a pregnancy.

Liz Murrill, Attorney General, Department of Justice, 1885 N. Third St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 575.

Erica Bayles Inzina, Louisiana Right to Life, 200 Allen Toussaint Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70124, spoke in support of House Bill No. 575.

Representative Ventrella offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Define "substantially facilitates".
- (3) Add an exemption to liability for any mental health professional or advocate in certain circumstances.

Representative Ventrella offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Brown, Carlson, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Egan, Glorioso, Melerine, Taylor, Turner, Ventrella, and Wyble voted yea.

Ellie Schilling, 909 Poydras St., New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 575.

Morgan Lamandre, STAR, 5615 Corporate Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 575.

Kaitlyn Joshua, 12296 Oak Colony Dr., Geismar, LA 70734, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 575.

Mariah Bowen, Louisiana State Medical Society, 5555 Hilton Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 575.

Julie Schwam Harris, 1208 Pine St., New Orleans, LA 70118, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 575.

Representative Carlson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 575 with amendments, to which Representative Wilford Carter objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 575 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas, 2 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Carlson, Edmonston, Egan, Glorioso, Melerine, Turner, Ventrella, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Wilford Carter and Taylor voted nay. Representative Muscarello abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follow: 7 in support and 7 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 575.

House Bill No. 259 by Representative Taylor

Representative Taylor presented House Bill No. 259, which provides relative to bonds for notaries public.

Representative Taylor offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Provide for an effective date of February 1, 2026.

- (3) Remove the provision in present law which provides that the provisions of proposed law shall not be applicable to notarial bonds which are currently valid and enforceable until such bonds expire and are required to be renewed.

Representative Taylor offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Wilford Carter, Edmonston, Egan, Glorioso, Taylor, Turner, and Wyble voted yea.

Alan Jennings, Louisiana Notary Association, 5411 S. Afton Pkwy., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in support of House Bill No. 259.

Mindi Keith, State Police, 7919 Independence Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 259.

Ryan Beard, State Police, 7919 Independence Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 259.

Representative Wyble offered a motion to report House Bill No. 259 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 259 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Brown, Carlson, Wilford Carter, Edmonston, Egan, Taylor, Turner, and Wyble voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follow: 1 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 67 by Senator Foil

On behalf of Senator Foil, Professor Ron Scalise, Louisiana State Law Institute, presented Senate Bill No. 67, which provides for the continuous revision of successions.

Representative Brown offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 67 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 67 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Brown, Carlson, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Melerine, Taylor, Turner, and Wyble voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 93 by Senator Lambert

On behalf of Senator Lambert, Professor Ron Scalise, Louisiana State Law Institute, presented Senate Bill No. 93, which provides for enforceability of penalty clauses in wills.

Representative Brown offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 93 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 93 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Brown, Carlson, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Melerine, Taylor, Turner, and Wyble voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 175 by Representative Wilford Carter

Representative Wilford Carter presented House Bill No. 175, which provides for the partition of property.

Professor Ronald J. Scalise, Jr., Louisiana State Law Institute, Room W127 LSU Law Center, 1 E. Campus Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 175.

Jacqueline L. Jones, 7521 Kings Hill Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70810, spoke in support of House Bill No. 175.

Toya Avery, no address provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 175.

Adrienne Wheeler, Louisiana Appleseed, 935 Gravier St., New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke in support of House Bill No. 175.

Ella M. Morgan, 1021 N. 44th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 175.

Jonathan Reynolds, Louisiana Appleseed, 935 Gravier St., New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke in support of House Bill No. 175.

Katie Belanger, Louisiana Land Title Association, 433 Metairie Rd., Metairie, LA 70005, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 175.

Lesli Bolner, Louisiana Land Title Association, 200 N. Casa St., Hammond, LA 70403, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 175.

Representative Taylor offered a motion to report House Bill No. 175 favorably, to which Representative Muscarello objected and offered a substitute motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 175, to which Representative Wilford Carter objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and action on House Bill No. 175 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 8 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Egan, Glorioso, Melerine, and Turner voted yea. Representatives Brown, Wilford Carter, Taylor, and Wyble voted nay.

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

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 175.

Senate Bill No. 116 by Senator Kleinpeter

On behalf of Senator Kleinpeter, Representative Brown presented Senate Bill No. 116, which provides for reciprocal notarial authority of notaries qualified in St. Martin Parish and St. Landry Parish.

Representative Carlson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 116 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 116 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Brown, Carlson, Wilford Carter, Edmonston, Egan, Glorioso, Melerine, Taylor, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follow: 1 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 295 by Representative Tarver

Representative Tarver presented House Bill No. 295, a constitutional amendment, which limits the amount of State General Fund (Direct) revenues that may be appropriated in a fiscal year for recurring expenses and restricts use of such revenues above that limit.

Representative Muscarello offered a motion to adopt the House Rule 6.8(A) Report to House Bill No. 295, which stated that the measure could not be accomplished statutorily and would, therefore, require a constitutional amendment. Without objection, the House Rule 6.8(A) Report to House Bill No. 295 was adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Brown, Carlson, Wilford Carter, Edmonston, Egan, Glorioso, Melerine, Taylor, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Muscarello offered a motion to report House Bill No. 295 without amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 295 was reported without amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Brown, Carlson, Wilford Carter, Edmonston, Egan, Glorioso, Melerine, Taylor, Turner, and Wyble voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follow: 2 in support, 1 in opposition, and 1 designee of an elected official. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 295.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Nicholas Muscarello, Jr.
House Committee on Civil Law and Procedure