

House Committee on Civil Law and Procedure

Minutes of Meeting
2026 Regular Session
March 23, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Nicholas Muscarello, Jr., chair of the House Committee on Civil Law and Procedure, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. in Room 4, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Nicholas Muscarello, Jr., chair
Representative Josh Carlson
Representative Emily Chenevert
Representative Kathy Edmonston
Representative Brian Leonard Glorioso
Representative Michael T. Johnson
Representative Ed Larvadain, III, vice chair
Representative Michael Melerine
Representative Sylvia Elaine Taylor

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Wilford Dan Carter, Sr.
Representative Mark Wright

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Allison Alonzo, attorney
Jennifer Nguyen, attorney
Andrea Jerezano, committee administrative assistant
Rashida Keith, division director

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Amelia Carman, clerk
Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 135 by Representative Mandie Landry

Representative Mandie Landry presented House Bill No. 135, which provides relative to certain exemptions from seizure with respect to motor vehicles.

Representative Muscarello offered a motion to report House Bill No. 135 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 135 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Larvadain, Melerine, and Taylor voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

Rachel Vogeltanz, 428 W. 21st Ave., Covington, LA 70433, spoke after the final motion in support of House Bill No. 135.

House Bill No. 297 by Representative Mandie Landry

Representative Mandie Landry presented House Bill No. 297, which expands early lease termination to include stalking and cyberstalking.

Monique Blossom, Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center, 1340 Poydras St., Suite 710, New Orleans 70112, spoke in support of House Bill No. 297.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 297 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 297 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Larvadain, Melerine, and Taylor voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

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

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 297.

House Bill No. 292 by Representative Boyd

Representative Boyd presented House Bill No. 292, which provides relative to the return of security deposits.

On behalf of the author, Representative Muscarello offered amendments to:

- (1) Remove proposed language that would permit the landlord or lessor and tenant or lessee to agree upon a date for the return of the security deposit.

- (2) Permit the landlord or lessor to send the itemized statement accounting for the retained security deposit within an additional fifteen days after the date that is one month after the tenancy terminates.

Representative Muscarello offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 7 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Larvadain, Melerine, and Taylor voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

Representative Larvadain offered a motion to report House Bill No. 292 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 292 was reported with amendments by a vote of 7 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Larvadain, Melerine, and Taylor voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support, 1 in opposition, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 215 by Representative Robby Carter

Representative Robby Carter presented House Bill No. 215, which provides relative to small successions.

Debbie Hudnall, Louisiana Clerks of Court Association, 10202 Jefferson Hwy., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 215.

Representative Muscarello offered a motion to report House Bill No. 215 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 215 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Larvadain, Melerine, and Taylor voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

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. 226 by Representative Robby Carter

Representative Robby Carter presented House Bill No. 226, which provides relative to requests for admissions.

On behalf of the author, Representative Muscarello offered amendments to make technical changes and to provide a Rule 10.1 Conference be held before a request for admission is deemed admitted. Representative Muscarello offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives

Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Melerine, and Taylor voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

Representative Mike Johnson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 226 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 226 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Melerine, and Taylor voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

House Bill No. 216 by Representative Robby Carter

Representative Robby Carter presented House Bill No. 216, which provides relative to service of process.

James Donohue, Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel, 450 Laurel Street, Suite 1825, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 216.

Representative Taylor offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 216. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 216 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 8 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Melerine, and Taylor voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

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

House Bill No. 609 by Representative Chassion

Representative Chassion presented House Bill No. 609, which provides for the exemption of fees for health records when requested for the federal and state veterans affairs departments.

Connor Junkin, Louisiana Department of Veteran Affairs, 602 N. 5th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 609.

Representative Carlson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 609 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 609 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Melerine, and Taylor voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

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. 170 by Representative Riser

At the request of Representative Riser, Representative Muscarello offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 170, which provides relative to construction contracts. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 170 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 8 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Melerine, and Taylor voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

House Bill No. 194 by Representative Riser

At the request of Representative Riser, Representative Muscarello offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 194, which provides relative to peremptive periods. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 194 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 8 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Melerine, and Taylor voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

Representative Larvadain in the chair.

House Bill No. 284 by Representative Wyble

Representative Wyble presented House Bill No. 284, which authorizes certain parishes and municipalities to expropriate blighted property by declaration of taking.

On behalf of the author, Representative Larvadain offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical corrections.
- (2) Provide that the intent of proposed law is to serve a public purpose and to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.
- (3) Redefine "abandoned property" and "blighted property".
- (4) Require certain notices be published on the governing authority's official website.

Representative Larvadain offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Melerine, and Taylor voted yea.

Debbie Henton, Police Jury Association of Louisiana, 707 N. 7th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 284.

Representative Glorioso offered a motion to report House Bill No. 284 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 284 was reported with amendments by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Larvadain, Melerine, and Taylor voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support and 3 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 142 by Representative Muscarello

On behalf of Representative Muscarello, Judge Guy Holdridge, director and reporter, Louisiana State Law Institute, Room W127, LSU Law Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, presented House Bill No. 142, which provides for the continuous revision of the Code of Civil Procedure.

Representative Mike Johnson offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Increase the time for an appellant to designate, in a written notice filed with the trial court, the portion of record to be included in the appeal from three days to ten days.
- (3) Increase the time for an appellee to designate, in a written notice filed with the trial court, portions of the record the appellee considers necessary from five days to fourteen days.
- (4) Require the appellant to pay the amount of the estimated costs to the clerk within twenty days after transmission of the revised notice of estimated costs if the parties have not designated the record on appeal and permit extension of payment for not more than twenty days for good cause.
- (5) Remove facsimile as a method in transmitting a notice for a rehearing in an appellate or Louisiana Supreme Court judgment rehearing.
- (6) Provide for applicability.
- (7) Require certain provisions of proposed law to have prospective application.

Representative Mike Johnson offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Melerine, and Taylor voted yea.

Debbie Hudnall, Louisiana Clerks of Court Association, 10202 Jefferson Hwy., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 142.

Representative Melerine offered a motion to report House Bill No. 142 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 142 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Melerine, and Taylor 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.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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