

House Committee on Civil Law and Procedure

Minutes of Meeting
2026 Regular Session
April 7, 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 Wilford Dan Carter, Sr.
Representative Emily Chenevert
Representative Kathy Edmonston
Representative Brian Leonard Glorioso
Representative Ed Larvadain, III, vice chair
Representative Michael Melerine
Representative Sylvia Elaine Taylor

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Michael T. Johnson
Representative Mark Wright

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Ross Richard, committee administrative assistant
Cherly Domino, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 51 by Representative Villio

Representative Villio presented House Bill No. 51, a constitutional amendment which restricts post-conviction bail for certain offenders.

On behalf of the author, Representative Muscarello offered an amendment to revise the ballot language. Representative Muscarello offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Larvadain, and Taylor voted yea.

Representative Muscarello offered a motion to adopt the House Rule 6.8(A) Report to House Bill No. 51, which stated that the matter 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. 51 report was adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Larvadain, and Taylor voted yea.

Representative Glorioso offered a motion to report House Bill No. 51 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 51 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Larvadain, and Taylor voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 526 by Representative Dickerson

In accordance with committee rules, Chair Muscarello designated House Bill No. 526 as complex in nature and, therefore, established a three minute rule for testimony.

Representative Dickerson presented House Bill No. 526, which provides limitations relative to claims for general damages.

Doug Williams, Louisiana Motor Transport Association, 23rd Floor, One American Place, 301 Main St., Suite 2300, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of House Bill No. 526.

Shelby Dunbar, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, 500 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of House Bill No. 526.

Toni McAllister, Louisiana Loggers Association, P.O. Box 5, Winnfield, LA 71483, spoke in support of House Bill No. 526.

Rickie Guillory, Louisiana Motor Transport Association/Guillory Petroleum Transport, 1640 Hwy. 456, Lecompte, LA 71346, spoke in support of House Bill No. 526.

John McGee, John McGee Trucking, P.O. Box 87, Dubach, LA 71235, spoke in support of House Bill No. 526.

Andrew Lopez, Cajun Industries, LLC, 15635 Airline Hwy., Baton Rouge, LA 70817, spoke in support of House Bill No. 526.

Roger Gibboni, U.S. Chamber Institute for Legal Reform, 1615 H Street NW, Washington, DC 20062, spoke in support of House Bill No. 526.

Todd Hine, Hine Environment, 922 N. Prairie View Dr., Lake Charles, LA 70605, spoke in support of House Bill No. 526.

Renee Amar, Louisiana Motor Transport Association, 325 Florida Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of House Bill No. 526.

Morgan Lamandre, STAR, 5311 Dijon Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 526.

Luke Williamson, Louisiana Association for Justice, 955 McClung Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 526.

Dawn Simmons, 116 Bergeron Rd., Jeanerette, LA 70544, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 526.

Katie DeRouen, 406 Astor Place Dr., New Iberia, LA 70563, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 526.

Brian Katz, Louisiana Association for Justice, 909 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 526.

Representative Carlson offered an amendment to provide that the limitations on general damages apply per individual plaintiff and not delictual actions as a whole. Representative Carlson offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Larvadain, Melerine, and Taylor voted yea.

Representative Carlson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 526 with amendments, to which Representative Muscarello objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 4 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, and

Melerine voted yea. Representatives Muscarello, Wilford Carter, Glorioso, Larvadain, and Taylor voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 22 in support and 20 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 173 by Representative Bamburg

Representative Bamburg presented House Bill No. 173, which provides relative to uninsured motorist recovery limitations.

Representative Muscarello offered an amendment to make technical changes. Representative Muscarello offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Larvadain, Melerine, and Taylor voted yea.

Vice Chair Larvadain in the chair.

Jennifer Prescott, 16260 Airline Hwy., Street E, Prairieville, LA 70769, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 173.

Luke Williamson, Louisiana Association for Justice, 955 McClung Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 173.

Jared Dunahoe, Louisiana Association for Justice, 402 Second Street, Natchitoches, LA 71457, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 173.

Chairman Muscarello in the chair.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 173 with amendments, to which Representative Muscarello objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 4 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, and Melerine voted yea. Representatives Muscarello, Wilford Carter, Glorioso, Larvadain, and Taylor voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support and 11 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 37 by Representative Owen

Representative Muscarello offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 37, which prohibits foreign entities from conducting expropriation activities. Without objection, action on

House Bill No. 37 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Larvadain, Melerine, and Taylor voted yea.

House Bill No. 366 by Representative Edmonston

Representative Muscarello offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 366, which provides relative to continuance of hearings in domestic abuse matters. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 366 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Larvadain, Melerine, and Taylor voted yea.

House Bill No. 485 by Representative Amedee

Representative Muscarello offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 485, a constitutional amendment which provides relative to parental rights. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 485 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Larvadain, Melerine, and Taylor voted yea.

Prior action was taken by the committee on House Bill No. 485 at an earlier meeting held on March 30, 2026. Please check for the prior action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 485.

House Bill No. 817 by Representative McMakin

Representative Muscarello offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 817, which establishes the Louisiana Homeowner Bill of Rights. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 817 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Larvadain, Melerine, and Taylor voted yea.

House Bill No. 306 by Representative Edmonston

Representative Edmonston presented House Bill No. 306, which provides relative to court costs and fees in domestic abuse cases.

Representative Edmonston offered an amendment to make technical changes. Representative Edmonston offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Larvadain, Melerine, and Taylor voted yea.

Justice Jeff Hughes, P.O. Box 907, Walker, LA 70785, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 306.

Mariah Wineski, Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence, P.O. Box 77308, Baton Rouge, LA 70879, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 306.

Morgan Lamandre, Sexual Trauma Awareness Response, 5311 Dijon Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 306.

Pamela Baker, 8345 Kelwood Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 306.

Autumn Blache, Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement, 1002 N. Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 306.

Representative Muscarello offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 306. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 306 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Larvadain, Melerine, and Taylor voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Further action was taken by the committee at a meeting held on April 13, 2026. Please check for the subsequent action to complete the record of discussion and motion on House Bill No. 306.

House Bill No. 521 by Representative Wilder

Representative Wilder presented House Bill No. 521, a constitutional amendment which authorizes a taxing authority to levy a millage at a rate lower than the maximum authorized rate under certain circumstances.

Representative Muscarello offered a motion to adopt the House Rule 6.8(A) Report to House Bill No. 521, which stated that the matter 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. 521 was adopted by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Larvadain, Melerine, and Taylor voted yea.

Representative Muscarello offered a motion to report House Bill No. 521 without amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 521 was reported without amendments by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Larvadain, Melerine, and Taylor voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 14 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 752 by Representative Green

Representative Green presented House Bill No. 752, a constitutional amendment which provides that the timing and duration of regular sessions of the legislature may be set by joint rule of the legislature.

Representative Muscarello offered a motion to adopt the House Rule 6.8(A) Report to House Bill No. 752, which stated that the matter 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. 752 was adopted by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Larvadain, and Taylor voted yea.

Representative Muscarello offered a motion to report House Bill No. 752 without amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 752 was reported without amendments by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Larvadain, and Taylor voted yea.

House Bill No. 638 by Representative Jacob Landry

Representative Jacob Landry presented House Bill No. 638, which provides relative to payments to contractors and subcontractors.

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

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Provide that the penalties provided by proposed law are in addition to any other lawful remedies and other agreements.
- (3) Clarify that the penalty rate is 1.5% of the unpaid amount per month and provide that the penalty begins to accrue the day after the date on which the payment is due.
- (4) Add an exception to a provision of proposed law regarding nullification of agreements waiving rights provided by proposed law.
- (5) Provide that proposed law does not supercede the provisions for penalties regarding contracts with a public entity.

- (6) Remove the exception to application of proposed law for construction or improvements to immovable property used for residential purposes.
- (7) Provide for the date payment is due in certain circumstances.
- (8) Provide that proposed law does not apply to certain agreements.
- (9) Define the terms "agreement" and "well or mine services" as it pertains to the exemptions from the provisions of proposed law.

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

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 638 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 638 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Larvadain, Melerine, and Taylor voted yea.

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. 180 by Representative Owen

Representative Owen presented House Bill No. 180, which provides relative to expropriation by private entities.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 180 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 180 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Larvadain, Melerine, and Taylor voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support and 9 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 180.

House Bill No. 192 by Representative Owen

Representative Owen presented House Bill No. 192, a constitutional amendment which prohibits expropriation of property by foreign adversaries.

Representative Muscarello offered a motion to adopt the House Rule 6.8(A) Report to House Bill No. 192, which stated that the matter 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. 192 was adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Larvadain, Melerine, and Taylor voted yea.

Representative Muscarello offered a motion to report House Bill No. 192 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 192 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Larvadain, Melerine, and Taylor voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support and 9 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 393 by Representative Fontenot

Representative Fontenot presented House Bill No. 393, a constitutional amendment which provides for eligible election dates for bond and tax elections.

Representative Muscarello offered a motion to adopt the House Rule 6.8(A) Report to House Bill No. 393, which stated that the matter 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. 393 was adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Larvadain, Melerine, and Taylor voted yea.

Representative Muscarello offered a motion to report House Bill No. 393 without amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 393 was reported without amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Larvadain, Melerine, and Taylor voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 1044 by Representative LaCombe

Representative LaCombe presented House Bill No. 1044, which provides relative to classification of separate property.

Representative Melerine offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1044 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 1044 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Larvadain, Melerine, and Taylor voted yea.

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. 976 by Representative Taylor

Representative Taylor presented House Bill No. 976, which creates liability for recklessly throwing from a parade float.

Representative Taylor offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 976. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 976 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Larvadain, Melerine, and Taylor voted yea.

House Bill No. 516 by Representative Wilford Carter

At the request of Representative Wilford Carter, Representative Muscarello offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 516, which provides relative to recovery limitations for failure to maintain compulsory motor vehicle liability security. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 516 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Larvadain, Melerine, and Taylor voted yea.

House Bill No. 1006 by Representative Wilford Carter

Representative Wilford Carter presented House Bill No. 1006, which extends the time delay for filing of oppositions to motions for summary judgment.

Representative Muscarello offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1006 favorably, to which Representative Melerine objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 1006 was reported favorably by a vote of 5 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Wilford Carter, Glorioso, Larvadain, and Taylor voted yea. Representatives Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, and Melerine voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in opposition. 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 12:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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