

House Committee on Civil Law and Procedure

Minutes of Meeting
2026 Regular Session
April 13, 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 9:34 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 Michael T. Johnson
Representative Ed Larvadain, III, vice chair
Representative Michael Melerine
Representative Mark Wright

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Sylvia Elaine Taylor

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Anna Kate Jackson, clerk
Amelia Carman, clerk
Cherly Domino, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 446 by Representative Boyer

Representative Boyer presented House Bill No. 446, 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. 446, 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. 446 was adopted by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Larvadain, and Melerine voted yea.

Representative Muscarello offered a motion to report House Bill No. 446 without amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 446 was reported without amendments by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Larvadain, and Melerine voted yea.

House Bill No. 244 by Representative Green

Representative Green presented House Bill No. 244, a constitutional amendment which provides for the election of constitutional convention delegates and vote requirements necessary for the adoption of a new constitution.

Representative Muscarello offered a motion to adopt the House Rule 6.8(A) Report to House Bill No. 244, 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. 244 was adopted by a vote of 6 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Larvadain, and Melerine voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

Representative Larvadain offered an amendment to the ballot language. Representative Larvadain offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 6 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Larvadain, and Melerine voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

Representative Larvadain offered a motion to report House Bill No. 244 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 244 was reported with amendments by a vote of 6 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Larvadain, and Melerine voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

House Bill No. 1043 by Representative Green

Representative Green presented House Bill No. 1043, which provides relative to civil jurisdictional amounts for parish courts.

On behalf of Representative Green, Representative Melerine offered amendments to:

- (1) Remove language that would revise the civil jurisdictional limits for all parish courts.
- (2) Change the civil jurisdictional limit of the First and Second Parish Courts of Jefferson Parish from \$20,000 to \$35,000.
- (3) Make technical changes.

Representative Melerine offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 6 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Larvadain, and Melerine voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

Representative Larvadain offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1043 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 1043 was reported with amendments by a vote of 6 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Larvadain, and Melerine voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

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

House Bill No. 473 by Representative Green

This is a continuation of the discussion on House Bill No. 473 from a meeting held on March 30, 2026. Please check for the prior action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 473.

Representative Green presented House Bill No. 473, which provides relative to custody and child support.

Representative Muscarello offered a motion to withdraw the previously adopted amendments which removed the reference to voluntary unemployment or underemployment. Without objection, the amendments were withdrawn by a vote of 5 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, and Melerine voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

Laurie Marien, Governor's Office on Women's Policy, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 473.

Representative Glorioso offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Glorioso offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 6 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Larvadain, and Melerine voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

Representative Carlson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 473 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 473 was reported by substitute by a vote of 6 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Larvadain, and Melerine voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

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

Senate Bill No. 127 by Senator Miller

Senator Miller presented Senate Bill No. 127, which provides for donations that a curator may make on behalf of an interdict and limitations on forced portion to forced heirs with disabilities.

Representative Muscarello offered amendments to:

- (1) Specify that a charitable donation does not constitute a breach of fiduciary duty or conflict of interest by the curator even if the curator, undercurator, parent, direct descendant, sibling, or descendant of a sibling of the interdict is affiliated with the charity or a recipient of the donation.
- (2) Make technical changes.

Representative Muscarello offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 6 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Larvadain, and Melerine voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

Leon Rittenberg, III, Liskow Law Firm, 701 Poydras, New Orleans, LA 70139, appeared in support of Senate Bill No. 127.

Representative Muscarello offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 127 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 127 was reported with amendments by a vote of 6 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Larvadain, and Melerine 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. 214 by Representative Chance Henry

Representative Chance Henry presented House Bill No. 214, a constitutional amendment which authorizes a property tax exemption for blighted or derelict properties that have been rehabilitated.

Representative Muscarello offered a motion to adopt the House Rule 6.8(A) Report to House Bill No. 214, 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. 214 was adopted by a vote of 6 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Larvadain, and Melerine voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 214 without amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 214 was reported without amendments by a vote of 6 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Larvadain, and Melerine voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 514 by Representative Farnum

Representative Farnum presented House Bill No. 514, a constitutional amendment which authorizes an additional ad valorem tax exemption for certain property owners aged sixty-five and older.

Representative Muscarello offered a motion to adopt the House Rule 6.8(A) Report to House Bill No. 514, 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. 514 was adopted by a vote of 6 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Larvadain, and Melerine voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

Representative Muscarello offered a motion to report House Bill No. 514 without amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 514 was reported without amendments by a vote of 6 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Larvadain, and Melerine 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. 71 by Representative Carlson

Representative Carlson presented House Bill No. 71, which adds an armed security officer as an authorized person subject to a limitation of liability under certain circumstances.

Carl Saizan, Louisiana State Board of Private Security Examiners, 15703 Old Hammond Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70448, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 71.

Becky Andrews, Mom's Demand Action for Gun Sense, 455 Court Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 71.

Trinity Patterson, 3926 Teal Run Place Ct., no city or state provided, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 71.

Representative Carlson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 71 favorably, to which Representative Larvadain objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 71 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 1 nay. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Melerine, and Wright voted yea. Representative Larvadain voted nay.

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

House Bill No. 1082 by Representative Dewitt

Representative Dewitt presented House Bill No. 1082, which provides for venue with respect to the Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System.

Jason Dimarco, MPERS, 7722 Office Park Boulevard, no city or state provided, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1082.

James L. Bradford, III, MPERS, 227 Highway 21, Madisonville, LA 70447, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1082.

Taylor Camp, MPERS, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1082.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1082 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 1082 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Melerine, and Wright voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

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. 27 by Representative McMakin

Representative McMakin presented House Bill No. 27, a constitutional amendment which provides relative to application of nonrecurring state monies to state retirement system unfunded accrued liabilities.

Representative Muscarello offered a motion to adopt the House Rule 6.8(A) Report to House Bill No. 27, 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. 27 was adopted by a vote of 8 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Melerine, and Wright voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

Representative Melerine offered a motion to report House Bill No. 27 without amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 27 was reported without amendments by a vote of 8 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Melerine, and Wright 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. 225 by Representative Bayham

Representative Bayham presented House Bill No. 225, a constitutional amendment which provides for gubernatorial term limits.

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 6 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Carlson, Edmonston, Glorioso, Larvadain, Melerine, and Wright voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

Representative Muscarello offered a motion to adopt the House Rule 6.8(A) Report to House Bill No. 225, 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. 225 was adopted by a vote of 7 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Carlson, Edmonston, Glorioso, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Melerine, and Wright voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

Mary S. Susie Labry, 850 North 5th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 225.

Representative Muscarello offered a motion to report House Bill No. 225 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 225 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 Wright voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

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

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 225.

House Bill No. 306 by Representative Edmonston

This is a continuation of the discussion on House Bill No. 306 from an earlier meeting held on April 7, 2026. Please check for the prior action to complete the record of discussion and actions on House Bill No. 306.

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

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

Representative Muscarello offered a motion to withdraw the previously adopted amendments which provided that attorney fees, evaluation fees, and expert witness fees are not paid by the perpetrator of the violence. Representative Muscarello offered a motion to withdraw the amendments. Without objection, the amendments were withdrawn by a vote of 5 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Carlson, Edmonston, Glorioso, Larvadain, and Wright voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

Representative Muscarello offered amendments to:

- (1) Modify present law to provide for a reasonable attorney fee and to specify that evaluation fees be court approved.
- (2) Remove the language that provides that each party is responsible for attorney fees after the initial hearing.
- (3) Make technical changes.

Representative Muscarello offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 5 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Melerine, and Wright voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

Autumn Perron, Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement, 601 North Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 306.

Kim Sport, 2135 Magnolia, New Orleans, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 306.

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

Pam Baker, 2425 Fiero Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to 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.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 306 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 306 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 Wright voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, 12 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 306.

House Bill No. 366 by Representative Edmonston

Representative Edmonston presented House Bill No. 366, which provides relative to continuance of hearings in domestic abuse matters.

Jeff Hughes, Justice, P.O. Box 907, Walker, LA 70785, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 366.

Representative Edmonston offered amendments to:

- (1) Prohibit the continuance of a temporary restraining order beyond one period of fifteen days.
- (2) Provide that if the defendant has not been served and fails to appear at the hearing, the hearing may be continued and reset within twenty-one days from the date of service of the petition. Further require any order made or extended pursuant to present law to remain in effect until the hearing.

Representative Edmonston 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 Wright voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

Pamela Baker, 2475 Fiero Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 366.

Representative Larvadain in the chair.

Morgan Lamandre, STAR, 5317 Dijon Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 366.

Kim Sport, 2135 Magnolia, New Orleans, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 366.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 366 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 366 was reported with amendments by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Melerine, and Wright voted yeas.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, 13 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 366.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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