

House Committee on Civil Law and Procedure

Minutes of Meeting
2026 Regular Session
April 22, 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 9:35 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 Mark Wright

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Wilford Dan Carter, Sr.
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
Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Concurrent Resolution No. 31 by Representative Domangue

Representative Domangue presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 31, which requests the Louisiana State Law Institute to study the use and application of the term "foreign" with respect to juridical persons provided for in state law.

Representative Glorioso offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 31 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 31 was reported favorably by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Chenevert, Glorioso, Larvadain, and Melerine voted yea.

House Bill No. 668 by Representative Muscarello

Representative Muscarello offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 668, which provides for the partition of property. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 668 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Chenevert, Glorioso, Larvadain, and Melerine voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 68 by Senator Morris

Senator Morris presented Senate Bill No. 68, a constitutional amendment to provide for jurisdiction of the Louisiana Supreme Court.

On behalf of Senator Morris, Representative Muscarello offered amendments to change the ballot language and to 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 and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Chenevert, Glorioso, Larvadain, and Melerine voted yea.

Representative Muscarello offered a motion to adopt the House Rule 6.8(A) Report to Senate Bill No. 68, 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 Senate Bill No. 68 was adopted by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Chenevert, Glorioso, Larvadain, and Melerine voted yea.

Representative Melerine offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 68 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 68 was reported with amendments by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Chenevert, Glorioso, Larvadain, and Melerine voted yea.

The committee stood at east at 9:43 a.m. The committee reconvened at 9:45 a.m.

House Resolution No. 38 by Representative Owen

Representative Owen presented House Resolution No. 38, which memorializes Congress to reform the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court and to restore the rights of privacy and protection against unreasonable searches and seizures.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 38 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 38 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Larvadain, and Melerine voted yea.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 61 by Representative Owen

Representative Owen presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 61, which authorizes and directs the Louisiana State Law Institute to study the constitutionality of expropriation as it pertains to carbon capture and sequestration.

Representative Carlson offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 61 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 61 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Larvadain, and Melerine voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 76 by Senator Miller

On behalf of Senator Miller, Professor Andi Carroll, reporter, Louisiana State Law Institute, Room W127, LSU Law Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, presented Senate Bill No. 76, which provides relative to the modification of child custody.

Representative Muscarello offered an amendment to specify that the judgment is what may be modified within a certain time period. Representative Muscarello 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, Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Larvadain, and Melerine voted yea.

Representative Larvadain offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 76 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 76 was reported with amendments by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Larvadain, and Melerine voted yea.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 19 by Senator Miller

On behalf of Senator Miller, Representative Glorioso presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 19, which requests the Louisiana State Law Institute to study the use of trusts with extended durations and report its findings and any recommendations for revisions to the Louisiana Trust Code and applicable Louisiana laws to the legislature.

Representative Carlson offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 19 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 19 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Larvadain, and Melerine voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 336 by Senator Luneau

On behalf of Senator Luneau, Larry Frieman, chief deputy attorney general, 1885 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, appearing as a designee of the attorney general, presented Senate Bill No. 336, which provides relative to civil investigative demands.

Matthew Stafford, office of the attorney general, 1885 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke as a designee of the attorney general in support of Senate Bill No. 336.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 336 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 336 was reported favorably by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Edmonston, Glorioso, Larvadain, and Melerine voted yea.

The committee stood at ease at 10:10 a.m. The committee reconvened at 10:12 a.m.

Senate Bill No. 139 by Senator Foil

On behalf of Senator Foil, Larry Frieman, chief deputy attorney general, 1885 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, appearing as a designee of the attorney general, presented Senate Bill No. 139, which provides for the amount of interest awarded on claims for personal injury or wrongful death in suits against the state or political subdivisions.

Taylor Simu, 1950 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70115, spoke as a designee of the attorney general in support of Senate Bill No. 139.

Representative Carlson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 139 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 139 was reported favorably by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Larvadain, and Melerine voted yea.

House Resolution No. 96 by Representative Lyons

Representative Lyons presented House Resolution No. 96, which directs the Louisiana State Law Institute to study current practices regarding the recall of civil bench warrants and the notification process in judgment debtor proceedings.

Representative Carlson offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 96 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 96 was reported favorably by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Larvadain, and Melerine voted yea.

The committee stood at ease at 10:17 a.m. The committee reconvened at 10:20 a.m.

House Bill No. 1198 by Representative Amedee

Representative Amedee presented House Bill No. 1198, which provides relative to child custody.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1198 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 1198 was reported favorably by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Larvadain, and Melerine 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.

Senate Bill No. 66 by Senator Hodges

Senator Hodges presented Senate Bill No. 66, which provides for testimony of medical experts in child custody and in need of care cases.

Morgan LaMandre, STAR, 5311 Dijon Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 66.

Lauren Bailey, Louisiana State Medical Society, 5555 Hilton Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 66.

Representative Larvadain offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 66 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 66 was reported favorably by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Larvadain, and Melerine 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.

The committee stood at ease at 10:40 a.m. The committee reconvened at 10:44 a.m.

Representative Larvadain in the chair.

House Resolution No. 160 by Representative Muscarello

Representative Muscarello presented House Resolution No. 160, which authorizes and requests the Louisiana State Law Institute to study provisions regarding transfer of property.

Representative Carlson offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 160 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 160 was reported favorably by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Larvadain, and Melerine voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 475 by Senator Miller

On behalf of Senator Miller, Representative Muscarello presented Senate Bill No. 475, which provides relative to fees for service of process.

Representative Melerine offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 475 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 475 was reported favorably by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Larvadain, and Melerine voted yea.

Chair Muscarello in the chair.

The committee stood at recess at 10:47 a.m. The committee reconvened at 10:59 a.m.

House Bill No. 578 by Representative Mike Johnson

Representative Mike Johnson presented House Bill No. 578, which provides for the Restoring Biological Truth Act.

Representative Mike Johnson offered amendments to make technical changes. Representative Mike Johnson offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Chenevert, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, and Melerine voted yea.

Gary Evans, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke as a designee of the governor in support of House Bill No. 578.

Melissa Flournoy, 10,000 Women, 650 North Sixth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 578.

Sarah Whittington, ACLU, P.O. Box 56152, New Orleans, LA 70156, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 578.

Peyton Rose Michelle, Louisiana Trans Advocates, P.O. Box 90851, Lafayette, LA 70509, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 578.

Sarah Jane Guidry, Crescent Care, 1631 Elysian Fields Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70716, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 578.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 578 with amendments, to which Representative Larvadain objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 578 was reported with amendments by a vote of 6 yeas, 1 nay, and 1 abstention. Representatives Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Mike Johnson, and Melerine voted yea. Representative Larvadain voted nay. Representative Muscarello abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support, 8 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. 578.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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