

House Committee on Civil Law and Procedure

Minutes of Meeting
2026 Regular Session
April 27, 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 Michael Melerine

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Ed Larvadain, III, vice chair
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
Cherly Domino, sergeant at arms
Amelia Carman, clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Senate Bill No. 476 by Senator Pressly

Senator Pressly presented Senate Bill No. 476, which provides relative to garnishment.

Representative Glorioso offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 476 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 476 was reported favorably by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Muscarello, Carlson, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Glorioso, and Melerine voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 260 by Senator Edmonds

Senator Edmonds presented Senate Bill No. 260, which provides relative to youth athletics.

Representative Muscarello offered an amendment to remove proposed law that authorized the Louisiana Department of Health to spend donated funds to purchase the courses. Representative Muscarello offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 5 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Carlson, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Glorioso, and Melerine voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

Representative Chenevert offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 260 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 260 was reported with amendments by a vote of 6 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Carlson, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Glorioso, Mike Johnson, and Melerine voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 designee of an elected official. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 79 by Representative Robby Carter

Representative Robby Carter presented House Bill No. 79, which removes the damage threshold for carbon capture release.

Representative Muscarello offered a motion to report House Bill No. 79 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 79 was reported favorably by a vote of 6 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Carlson, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Glorioso, Mike Johnson, 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.

Senate Bill No. 424 by Senator Foil

Senator Foil presented Senate Bill No. 424, which provides for service by mail, delivery, or electronic means.

Representative Muscarello offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 424 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 424 was reported favorably by a vote of 6 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Carlson, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Glorioso, Mike Johnson, and Melerine voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

Senate Bill No. 180 by Senator Foil

Senator Foil presented Senate Bill No. 180, a constitutional amendment which authorizes the surviving spouse of a deceased veteran with a service connected disability who receives an expanded property tax exemption to transfer the exemption under certain circumstances.

Connor Junkin, Louisiana Department of Veteran Affairs, 602 N. 5th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 180.

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, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Glorioso, Mike Johnson, and Melerine voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

Representative Muscarello offered a motion to adopt the House Rule 6.8(A) Report to Senate Bill No. 180, 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. 180 was adopted by a vote of 6 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Carlson, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Glorioso, Mike Johnson, and Melerine voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

Representative Muscarello offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 180 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 180 was reported with amendments by a vote of 6 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Carlson, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Glorioso, Mike Johnson, and Melerine voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

House Bill No. 1089 by Representative Bamburg

Representative Bamburg presented House Bill No. 1089, which creates CARE Accounts for certain damages arising from delictual actions.

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

- (1) Expand the definition of "qualifying medical expenses" to include necessary travel expenses.
- (2) Provide that a third-party administrator of the CARE Account is not liable under certain circumstances.
- (3) Require an affidavit by the judgment creditor prior to the depositing of funds into the CARE Account.

Representative Carlson 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, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Glorioso, Mike Johnson, and Melerine voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

Shelby Dunbar, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, 500 Main St., Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1089.

Mark Behrens, U.S. Chamber Institute for Legal Reform, 615 H Street NW, Washington, DC 20062, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1089.

Jared Dunahoe, LAJ, 402 Second St., Natchitoches, LA 71457, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1089.

Greg Waddell, Louisiana Hospital Association, 9521 Brookline Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1089.

Michelle Johnson, Michelle Johnson Consulting, 1113 Range Ave., Suite 110, Denham Springs, LA 70786, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1089.

Morgan Lamandre, STAR, 5311 Dijon Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1089.

Audrey Wascome, STAR, 9503 Cabernet Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70817, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1089.

Adam Patrick, Louisiana Department of Insurance, 1702 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1089.

Representative Carlson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1089 with amendments, to which Representative Wilford Carter objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 1089 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 Wilford Carter voted nay. Representative Muscarello abstained.

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

House Bill No. 437 by Representative Melerine

Representative Melerine presented House Bill No. 437, which provides relative to expert witness fees.

Representative Melerine offered an amendment to specify that proposed law does not apply to criminal, traffic, or juvenile proceedings. Representative Melerine 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, Wilford Carter, Edmonston, Glorioso, Mike Johnson, and Melerine voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

Jared Dunahoe, LAJ, 402 Second St., Natchitoches, LA 71457, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 437.

Representative Melerine offered a motion to report House Bill No. 437 with amendments, to which Representative Wilford Carter objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 437 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 Wilford Carter voted nay. Representative Muscarello abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 15 in support and 3 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 1099 by Representative McFarland

Representative McFarland presented House Bill No. 1099, which prohibits certain actions for damages resulting from aerospace activities.

Representative Muscarello offered an amendment in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Muscarello offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 7 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Carlson, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Mike Johnson, and Melerine voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

Representative Muscarello offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1099 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 1099 was reported by substitute by a vote of 7 yeas, 0 nays, and 1

abstention. Representatives Carlson, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, Mike Johnson, and Melerine voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support and 3 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 173 by Senator Morris

Senator Morris presented Senate Bill No. 173, which provides for the garnishment process for banks.

David Boneno, Louisiana Bankers Association, 5555 Bankers Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 173.

Representative Muscarello offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 173 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 173 was reported favorably by a vote of 6 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Carlson, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, 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. 646 by Representative Beaulieu

On behalf of Representative Beaulieu, Representative Glorioso presented House Bill No. 646, a constitutional amendment which limits the amount of the state general fund that may be appropriated in a fiscal year.

Representative Muscarello offered a motion to adopt the House Rule 6.8(A) Report to House Bill No. 646, 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. 646 was adopted by a vote of 6 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Carlson, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, and Melerine voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

Representative Glorioso offered a motion to report House Bill No. 646 without amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 646 was reported without amendments by a vote of 6 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Carlson, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Glorioso, and Melerine voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support. 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 11:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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