

House Committee on Judiciary

Minutes of Meeting
2026 Regular Session
March 19, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Robby Carter, chair of the House Committee on Judiciary, called the meeting to order at 9:18 a.m. in Room 1, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Robby Carter, chair
Representative Jacob Braud
Representative Emily Chenevert
Representative Kellee Hennessy Dickerson
Representative Kathy Edmonston, vice chair
Representative Jack "Jay" William Gallé, Jr.
Representative Kyle M. Green, Jr.
Representative Troy Jude Hebert
Representative Edmond Jordan
Representative Jeremy S. LaCombe
Representative Vanessa Caston LaFleur
Representative Mandie Landry
Representative Shane Mack
Representative Candace N. Newell
Representative Joseph A. Orgeron
Representative Charles Anthony Owen
Representative Lauren Ventrella
Representative Jeffrey Fons "Jeff" Wiley
Representative Jerome Zeringue

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Karen Winfrey, attorney
Paula Jones, committee administrative assistant
Rashida Keith, division director

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Cheryl Dominio, sergeant at arms
Riley Fitzmorris, clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 436 by Representative Dickerson**

Representative Dickerson presented House Bill No. 436, which authorizes the appointment of veterans as wardens at state and municipal parks.

Representative Dickerson offered amendments to:

- (1) Provide that the veteran is an honorably discharged former member of the military.
- (2) Provide that a veteran employed by a municipality, local governing authority, or office of state parks, the veteran must meet all training requirements and qualifications for employment.
- (3) Require a veteran provided for in proposed law to be certified by the Council on Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) or be qualified by P.O.S.T.

Representative Dickerson offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, Mandie Landry, Newell, Orgeron, and Owen voted yea.

Elena Branzaro, representing Mayor Sid Edwards of Baton Rouge, 222 St. Louis Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 436.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 436 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 436 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 16 by Representative St. Blanc

Representative St. Blanc presented House Bill No. 16, which extends the jurisdiction of the City Court of Franklin.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 16 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 16 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Robby Carter, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 44 by Representative Bayham

Representative Bayham presented House Bill No. 44, which provides jurisdictional exceptions for constables and justices of peace.

Beau Bowman, justice of the peace, 19 Queens Court, Chalmette, LA 70043, spoke in support of House Bill No. 44.

Representative Orgeron offered a motion to report House Bill No. 44 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 44 was reported favorably by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 61 by Representative Bayham

Representative Bayham presented House Bill No. 61, which creates the holiday of the Battle of New Orleans Day.

On behalf of Representative Bayham, Representative Zeringue offered amendments to:

- (1) Delete references to Presidents' Day as a day of public rest and legal holiday.
- (2) Specify the volunteers and other militia that assisted the United States in its victory over Great Britain in the War of 1812.
- (3) Permit the governor or local governing authority to declare the Battle of New Orleans a holiday.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Green offered a motion to report House Bill No. 61 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 61 was reported with amendments by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 233 by Representative Dewitt

Representative Dewitt presented House Bill No. 233, which provides relative to jury duty mileage reimbursement.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to report House Bill No. 233 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 233 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Newell, Owen, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 164 by Representative Hebert

Representative Hebert presented House Bill No. 164, which provides for the powers and duties of the commissioner in the 15th Judicial District Court.

Thomas J. Frederick, 15th Judicial District Court, 100 South State Street, Suite 220, Abbeville, LA 70510, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 164.

Representative LaFleur offered a motion to report House Bill No. 164 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 164 was reported favorably by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 455 by Representative Carver

Representative Carver presented House Bill No. 455, which provides relative to the definition of "first responder".

Stuart Seiler, American Public Works Association - Greater New Orleans, 6269 Colbert Street, New Orleans, LA 70124, spoke in support of House Bill No. 455.

Jim O'Berry, American Public Works Association, Northshore Branch, no address provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 455.

Mason Macaluso, American Public Works Association, 1608 Labarre Street, Mandeville, LA 70448, spoke in support of House Bill No. 455.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 455. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 455 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Further action was taken by the committee on House Bill No. 455 at a meeting held on April 29, 2027. Please check for the subsequent action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 455.

House Bill No. 242 by Representative Carver

Representative Carver presented House Bill No. 242, which provides with respect to deputy constables in St. Tammany Parish.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 242 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 242 was reported favorably by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue 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.

House Bill No. 10 by Representative Chance Henry

Representative Chance Henry presented House Bill No. 10, which provides for the annual closure of the Acadia Parish Courthouse in recognition of the International Rice Festival.

Representative Chenevert offered a motion to report House Bill No. 10 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 10 was reported favorably by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue 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. 594 by Representative LaCombe

Representative LaCombe presented House Bill No. 594, which designates February 24 as SCN2A awareness day.

Jaclyn B. Dedon, 8598 Tina Lane, Maringouin, LA 70757, spoke in support of House Bill No. 594.

Jacob Dedon, 8598 Tina Lane, Maringouin, LA 70757, spoke in support of House Bill No. 594.

Representative LaCombe offered an amendment to provide that the bill may be cited as the "Emily Katherine Dedon Act". Representative LaCombe offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Jordan,

LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Ventrella offered a motion to report House Bill No. 594 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 594 was reported with amendments by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 9 by Representative Walters

On behalf of Representative Walters, Representative Green presented House Bill No. 9, which designates Shreveport as the Stuffed Shrimp Capital of Louisiana.

Representative Green offered a motion to report House Bill No. 9 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 9 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 571 by Representative LaFleur

Representative LaFleur presented House Bill No. 571, which provides relative to creating the Complex Litigation Section Program in the Nineteenth Judicial District Court.

Lauryn Stelly, deputy judicial administrator, 19th JDC, 300 North Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of House Bill No. 571.

Judge Tarvald Smith, 19th JDC, 300 North Boulevard, Suite 9101, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 571.

Representative LaFleur offered a motion to report House Bill No. 571 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 571 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue 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.

House Bill No. 46 by Representative Bagley

Representative Bagley presented House Bill No. 46, which provides relative to premium costs of group hospital and health insurance for retired sheriffs and retired deputy sheriffs in DeSoto Parish.

Sheriff Jayron Richardson, DeSoto Parish, 239 McCoy Lane, Gloster, LA 71070, spoke as an elected official in support of House Bill No. 46.

Representative Green offered a motion to report House Bill No. 46 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 46 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, LaCombe, Mandie Landry, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, and Wiley voted yeas.

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. 126 by Representative Mandie Landry

Representative Mandie Landry presented House Bill No. 126, which provides relative to the use of a facility dog by a witness during certain circumstances.

Brad Scott, Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office, 619 South White Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in support of House Bill No. 126.

Representative Mandie Landry offered amendments to:

- (1) Provide that a witness in a trial of a sex offense may be accompanied by a facility dog.
- (2) Require that the presence of the dog be obstructed from the jury's view.
- (3) Require the entry and exit of the dog from the courtroom to be outside of the presence of the jury.

Representative Mandie Landry offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yeas.

Representative Mandie Landry offered amendments to make technical changes and to cite proposed law as the "Duvall and Karissa's Law". Representative Mandie Landry offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yeas.

Zachary T. Daniels, executive director, Louisiana District Attorneys Association, 2525 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808-9042, spoke in support of House Bill No. 126.

Representative Mandie Landry offered a motion to report House Bill No. 126 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 126 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Owen, and Wiley voted yeas.

House Bill No. 153 by Representative Mandie Landry

Representative Mandie Landry presented House Bill No. 153, which provides with respect to the collection of criminal court fines and fees.

Representative Mandie Landry offered amendments to exclude violations of any traffic law found in Title 32 of the Revised Statutes of 1950 or municipal law. No vote was taken on the amendments.

Peter Robins-Brown, Louisiana Progress Action, 650 North Sixth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 153.

Merrilee Montgomery, Louisiana Progress Action, 650 North Sixth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 153.

Tiffany Simpson, office of the state public defender, 301 Main Street, Suite 700, Baton Rouge, LA 70825, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 153.

Representative Mandie Landry offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 153. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 153 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Further action was taken by the committee on House Bill No. 153 at a meeting held on April 29, 2026. Please check for the subsequent action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 153.

House Bill No. 101 by Representative McMakin

Representative McMakin presented House Bill No. 101, which recognizes the mottled duck as the official state waterfowl.

Cole Garrett, executive counsel, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 101.

Tyler Bosworth, secretary, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 101.

Representative Green offered an amendment to specify that the scientific name of the mottled duck is *Anas fulvigula maculosa*. Representative Green offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to report House Bill No. 101 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 101 was reported with amendments by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue 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.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Robby Carter
House Committee on Judiciary