

House Committee on Judiciary

Minutes of Meeting
2026 Regular Session
March 26, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Robby Carter, chair of the House Committee on Judiciary, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. in Room 1, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Jacob Braud
Representative Kellee Hennessy Dickerson
Representative Jeremy S. LaCombe
Representative Lauren Ventrella

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Riley Fitzmorris, clerk
Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Representative Mack offered a motion to invoke the committee three minute rule, to which Representative Newell objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion passed by a vote of 6 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Chenevert, Mack, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea. Representatives Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Mandie Landry, and Newell voted nay.

House Bill No. 911 by Representative McMakin

Representative McMakin presented House Bill No. 911, which provides for the complete reform and modernization of the judicial components of Orleans Parish. Representative McMakin provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Laura Cannizzaro Rodrigue, attorney in New Orleans, no address provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 911.

Representative Green offered a motion to dispense with the three minute rule for discussion on House Bill No. 911, to which Representative Robby Carter objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 7 yeas and 8 nays. Representatives Edmonston, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, and Newell voted yea. Representatives Robby Carter, Chenevert, Galle, Mack, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted nay.

On behalf of Representative McMakin, Representative Zeringue offered amendments to make technical corrections. Representative Zeringue offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Sarah Whittington, ACLU Louisiana, P.O. Box 56157, New Orleans, LA 70156, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 911.

Michael Harrison, Jr., GNO Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, 1615 Poydras Street, Suite 1300, New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 911.

Hon. Kern A. Reese, judge, Civil District Court, 421 Loyola Avenue #308, New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 911.

Hon. Sidney H. Cates, IV, judge, New Orleans Civil District Court, 421 Loyola Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 911.

Chelsea Richard Napoleon, clerk, Civil District Court, 421 Loyola Avenue, Room 402, New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 911.

Hon. Juana Lombard, chief judge, Criminal District Court, 2700 Tulane Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 911.

Hon. Camille Buras, judge, Orleans Criminal District Court, 2700 Tulane Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 911.

Hon. Kimya Holmes, judge, Criminal District Court, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 911.

Representative Robby Carter offered a motion to limit questioning of witnesses to two times per member, to which Representative Newell objected. The motion was withdrawn.

Representative Sylvia Taylor, representing self, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 911.

Katherine Diamond, 2105 Kleinert Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 911, and provided a handout, Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Debbie D. Hudnall, Louisiana Clerks of Court Association, 10202 Jefferson Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 911.

Representative Chenevert offered a motion to report House Bill No. 911 with amendments, to which Representative Newell objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 911 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Mack, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea. Representatives Green, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, and Newell voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 911.

House Bill No. 782 by Representative Brass

Representative Brass presented House Bill No. 782, which provides relative to vapor products and alternative nicotine products.

Representative LaFleur offered an amendment to make technical corrections. Representative LaFleur offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Green, Hebert, LaFleur, Mack, Newell, Owen, and Wiley voted yea.

Representative LaFleur offered a motion to delete amendment six regarding the permit fees for a tobacconist from the substantive amendment set. Representative LaFleur offered a motion to adopt the proposed deletion. Without objection, the amendment deletion was adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Green, Hebert, LaFleur, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, and Wiley voted yea.

Representative LaFleur offered a motion to adopt the remaining amendments to make technical corrections and to provide penalties for violations of regulations in present and proposed law. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Green, Hebert, LaFleur, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, and Wiley voted yea.

Chad Brown, commissioner, Louisiana Alcohol and Tobacco Control, 7979 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 782.

Paisley Causey, no address provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 782.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 782 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 782 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, LaFleur, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

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.

House Bill No. 188 by Representative Muscarello

At the request of Representative Muscarello, Representative Jordan offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 188, which provides for digital and remote court reporting. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 188 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Jordan, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 178 by Representative Muscarello

At the request of Representative Muscarello, Representative Jordan offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 178, which provides relative to discretionary transcription of certain criminal court proceedings. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 178 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Jordan, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 141 by Representative Muscarello

Representative Muscarello presented House Bill No. 141, which provides relative to certain information on court filings.

On behalf of Representative Muscarello, Representative Edmonston offered amendments to clarify that nothing in present law (Code of Criminal Procedure Article 14.1) limits the information that is required to be provided by a prosecuting attorney and to make technical corrections. Representative Edmonston offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Jordan, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 141 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 141 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Jordan, 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. 179 by Representative Muscarello

Representative Muscarello presented House Bill No. 179, which provides relative to the retention of notes and recordings of court reporters.

On behalf of Representative Muscarello, Representative Edmonston offered an amendment to make technical corrections. Representative Edmonston offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Jordan, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 179 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 179 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0

nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Jordan, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 187 by Representative Muscarello

Representative Muscarello presented House Bill No. 187, which repeals the provisions of law establishing a court reporter pool employed by the supreme court.

Representative Edmonston offered an amendment to make technical corrections. Representative Edmonston offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Jordan, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Owen, and Wiley voted yea.

Jennifer Eagan, Louisiana Supreme Court, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 187.

Representative Chenevert offered a motion to report House Bill No. 187 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 187 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Jordan, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue 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. 527 by Representative Muscarello

Representative Muscarello presented House Bill No. 527, which provides for a statewide revision of court reporter fees.

Jennifer Eagan, Louisiana Supreme Court, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 527.

Katherine Diamond, 2105 Kleinert Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 527.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to report House Bill No. 527 favorably, to which Representative Wiley objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 527 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Chenevert, Hebert, Jordan,

LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, and Zeringue voted yea. Representatives Robby Carter, Edmonston, Galle, Owen, and Wiley voted nay.

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. 916 by Representative Muscarello

Representative Muscarello presented House Bill No. 916, which provides for an additional filing fee for recordation of documents with the clerk of court.

Representative Jordan offered an amendment to make technical corrections. Representative Jordan offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Jordan offered a motion to report House Bill No. 916 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 916 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Robby Carter
House Committee on Judiciary