

House Committee on Judiciary

Minutes of Meeting
2026 Regular Session
April 9, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Robby Carter, chair of the House Committee on Judiciary, called the meeting to order at 9:09 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:

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms
Riley Fitzmorris , clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Representative Shane Mack offered a motion to invoke the three minute committee rule. Without objection, the motion was adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 519 by Representative Mike Johnson

Representative Mike Johnson presented House Bill No. 519, which provides relative to the appointment of a special master by a trial court.

Loren Lampert, Louisiana District Judges Association, 701 Murray Street, Alexandria, LA 71301, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 519.

On behalf of the author, Representative LaFleur offered an amendment to provide that cases designated as complex pursuant to the Louisiana Supreme Court rules are subject to the supreme court's rules and the provisions of proposed law. Representative LaFleur offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative LaFleur offered a motion to report House Bill No. 519 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 519 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 29 by Representative Bacala

Representative Bacala presented House Bill No. 29, which provides for the creation of the Ascension Parish retired employee insurance fund.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 29 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 29 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 324 by Representative Villio

Representative Villio presented House Bill No. 324, which provides relative to judicial salaries.

Representative Jordan offered a motion to report House Bill No. 324 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 324 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 211 by Representative Villio

Representative Villio presented House Bill No. 211, which provides relative to the creation, administration, and eligibility requirements of the Homelessness Court program.

On behalf of the author, Representative LaFleur offered an amendment to authorize the Louisiana Department of Health to promulgate and adopt regulations regarding licensed group homes. Representative LaFleur offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

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

- (1) Eliminate enforcement provisions permitting parties to bring a civil action and receive awards of penalties, attorney fees, and expenses against a political subdivision or municipality to enjoin a violation of law.
- (2) Cite the act as the "Streets to Success Act".
- (3) Provide respective effective dates of proposed law.

Representative Orgeron 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, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Christopher Walters, deputy executive counsel, office of the governor, Louisiana State Capitol, Fourth Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke as a designee of Governor Jeff Landry in support of House Bill No. 211.

Pamela McKay, no address provided, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 211.

Carl Herrick, Daylight Foundation, 8550 United Plaza Boulevard, Suite 702, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 211.

LaShauna Williams, People's Council, 3901 Tulane Avenue #230, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 211.

Monique Blossom, Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center, 1340 Poydras Street, Suite 710, New Orleans, LA 70115, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 211.

Relester Cain, 1611 Basin Street, Apt. 108, New Orleans, LA 70116, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 211.

Angelia Ojea, Agape Center of Hope, 1242 Florida Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70815, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 211.

Vicki Judice, Louisiana Coalition on Homelessness, 4442 Arts, New Orleans, LA 70122, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 211.

David Wheaton, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, 700 14th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20001, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 211.

Maria Constantin, Random Human, 657 Spanish Town Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 211.

David Larsen, Peoples Council, 8520 Hickory #7, New Orleans, LA 70118, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 211.

Shaina Bessonnet, no address provided, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 211.

Joe Heeren-Mueller, Louisiana Advocacy Coalition on Homelessness, 2224 Valence Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 211.

Jennifer Carwile, Homeless Provider Strategy Corp. Baton Rouge, 1855 Old Carriage Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 211.

Y. Frank Southall, Jane's Place, 200 South Broad Street, Suite 200, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 211.

Lonnie Granier, Odyssey House Louisiana, 1125 North Tonti Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 211.

Tom Costanza, Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2431 South Acadian Thruway, Suite 250, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 211.

Checo Yancy, VOTE, 251 Florida Street, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 211.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 211 with amendments, to which Representative Jordan objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 211 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Mack, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea. Representatives Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, and Newell voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support, 30 in opposition, 1 for information only, 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. 211.

House Bill No. 559 by Representative Fisher

Representative Fisher presented House Bill No. 559, which increases court costs for the Fourth Judicial District.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 559 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 559 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 562 by Representative LaFleur

Representative LaFleur presented House Bill No. 562, which provides relative to transcript fee provisions for the Nineteenth Judicial District Court.

Representative LaFleur offered amendments to:

- (1) Provide that court reporter fees for civil and non-indigent criminal cases may be \$6 per 32-line page transcript and up to \$2 per page per certified copy reported.
- (2) Provide that court reporter fees for criminal indigent cases may be a fee not to exceed \$3.50 per 32-line page transcript and \$1 per page per certified copy reported.

- (3) Provide that a court reporter may charge for expedited transcription at the following rates: twice the allowable per-page rate for delivery within twenty-four hours, the allowable per-page rate plus \$3 per page for delivery within forty-eight hours, and the allowable per-page rate plus \$1 per page for delivery within five days.

Diana Gibbens, judicial administrator, Nineteenth JDC, 300 North Street, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 562 and to answer questions on the amendments.

Representative LaFleur 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, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Ventrella offered a motion to report House Bill No. 562 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 562 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, 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. 263 by Representative Farnum

Representative Farnum presented House Bill No. 263, which provides with respect to the magistrate judge of the Fourteenth Judicial District Court and authority relative to specialty court programs.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 263 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 263 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 39 by Representative Firment

Representative Firment presented House Bill No. 39, which requires peace officers to be citizens of the United States.

On behalf of Representative Firment, Representative Robby Carter offered an amendment to exclude current peace officers from the requirement to be current U.S. citizens if they are lawful permanent residents of the U.S. who become citizens no later than August 1, 2031. Representative Robby Carter 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, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Mandie Landry, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Owen offered a motion to report House Bill No. 39 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 39 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Mandie Landry, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, and Zeringue voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 533 by Representative Berault

Representative Berault presented House Bill No. 533, which requires the governing authority of St. Tammany Parish to transfer certain monies into the criminal court fund of the 22nd Judicial District Court.

Representative Mack offered a motion to report House Bill No. 533 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 533 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Mandie Landry, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 520 by Representative Wilford Carter

At the request of Representative Wilford Carter, Representative Robby Carter offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 520, which requires the clerk of court to grant access to officers of the court information regarding sex offenses and violent crimes. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 520 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Mandie Landry, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 1018 by Representative Jackson

Representative Jackson presented House Bill No. 1018, which provides relative to limitations on the issuance of certain alcoholic beverage permits.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1018 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 1018 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Mandie Landry, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, 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. 183 by Representative McMakin

Representative McMakin presented House Bill No. 183, which provides relative to the use of cellular devices in courts and courthouses.

Judge Matt Hagen, City/Parish Court Judges Association, 8046 Main Street, Houma, LA 70360, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 183.

Representative Mack offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 183. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 183 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, LaCombe, Mack, Newell, Ventrella, and Zeringue voted yea.

Further action was taken by the committee on House Bill No. 183 at a meeting held on April 28, 2026. Please check for the subsequent action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 183.

House Bill No. 538 by Representative Freiberg

Representative Freiberg presented House Bill No. 538, which provides relative to the judicial expense fund for the Juvenile Court for the parish of East Baton Rouge.

Gail Grover, East Baton Rouge Juvenile Court, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 538.

Representative LaCombe offered a motion to report House Bill No. 538 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 538 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, LaCombe, Mack, Newell, and Orgeron voted yea.

House Bill No. 1011 by Representative Freiberg

Representative Freiberg presented House Bill No. 1011, which permits jurors to donate their per diem compensation to the formal program of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA).

Representative LaCombe offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1011 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 1011 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, LaCombe, Mack, Newell, Owen, and Ventrella voted yea.

House Bill No. 299 by Representative Melerine

Representative Melerine presented House Bill No. 299, which provides relative to the filing of jury bonds by person, mail, or commercial courier.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to report House Bill No. 299 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 299 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, LaCombe, Mack, Newell, Owen, Ventrella, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 153 by Representative Mandie Landry

At the request of Representative Mandie Landry, Representative Robby Carter offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 153, which provides with respect to the collection of criminal court fines and fees. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 153 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Edmonston, Galle, LaCombe, Mack, Newell, Owen, Ventrella, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 1004 by Representative Bayham

On behalf of Representative Bayham, Representative Braud offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 1004, which increases the jurisdictional threshold for justice of peace courts. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 1004 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Edmonston, Galle, LaCombe, Mandie Landry, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 77 by Representative Turner

On behalf of Representative Turner, Representative Braud presented House Bill No. 77, which provides for the payment of certain insurance premiums for employees of the clerk of court in Lincoln Parish.

Representative Robby Carter offered an amendment to add the Lafourche Parish Clerk of Court to the requirement to pay the full amount of all insurance premiums for all retirees who have worked with the office for at least twenty years and who are at least fifty-five years old. Representative Robby Carter offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Edmonston, Galle, LaCombe, Mandie Landry, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Orgeron offered a motion to report House Bill No. 77 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 77 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Edmonston, Galle, LaCombe, Mandie Landry, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, 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. 805 by Representative Orgeron

Representative Orgeron presented House Bill No. 805, which provides for the standards of shipping containers for wines and distilled spirits.

Evan Alvarez, Diageo, 609 Lakeland Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 805.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to report House Bill No. 805 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 805 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Edmonston, Galle, LaCombe, Mandie Landry, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 9 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 823 by Representative Knox

Representative Knox presented House Bill No. 823, which establishes a homeless diversion pilot program in Orleans Parish.

Representative Mack offered a motion to report House Bill No. 823 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 823 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Edmonston, Galle, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, and Zeringue voted yea.

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

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 823.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Robby Carter
House Committee on Judiciary