

House Committee on Judiciary

Minutes of Meeting
2026 Regular Session
April 16, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Robby Carter, chair of the House Committee on Judiciary, called the meeting to order at 12:24 p.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 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 Mandie Landry
Representative Shane Mack
Representative Candace N. Newell
Representative Charles Anthony Owen
Representative Jeffrey Fons "Jeff" Wiley
Representative Jerome Zeringue

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Jacob Braud
Representative Vanessa Caston LaFleur
Representative Joseph A. Orgeron
Representative Lauren Ventrella

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**Senate Bill No. 256 by Senator Morris**

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to invoke the committee three-minute rule for the discussion of Senate Bill No. 256, to which Representative Jordan objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas, 3 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, LaCombe, Mack, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea. Representatives Green, Jordan, and Mandie Landry voted nay. Representative Robby Carter abstained.

Senator Morris presented Senate Bill No. 256, which provides for a clerk of court in Orleans Parish.

Calvin Duncan, representing self and citizens of New Orleans, 1317 Feliciana Street, New Orleans, LA 70117, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 256.

Nziki Wiltz, 4930 Miles Drive, New Orleans, LA, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 256.

Emily Ratner, representing self, 8428 Sycamore Street, New Orleans, LA 70118, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 256.

Sarah Whittington, ACLU, P.O. Box 56152, New Orleans, LA 70156, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 256.

Commissioner Davante Lewis, 301 Main Street #1110, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 256.

Arthur A. Morrell, representing self, 4925 Moore Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70122, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 256.

Melody Davis, representing self, 4642 Pecan Street, New Orleans, LA 70126, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 256.

Michael Cahoon, 1601 Feliciana Street, New Orleans, LA 70117, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 256.

Manuel Castellon, 7045 Tullis Drive, New Orleans, LA 70131, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 256.

Nick Albares, 2415 Dreux Avenue, New Orleans, LA 0122, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 256.

Robyn Guillen, 1709 Manson Avenue, Metairie, LA 70001, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 256.

Edward L. Tarpley, Jr., representing self, 1960 Ivy Street, Pollock, LA 71467, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 256.

Lydia Hopewell, representing self, 1118 Mandeville Street, New Orleans, LA 70117, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 256.

Lindsay Garcia, representing the people of Louisiana, 20 Sullivan Place, New Orleans, LA 70131, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 256.

Checo Yancy, VOTE, 251 Florida Street #201, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 256.

Sara Gozalo, representing self, 5315 Saint Anthony Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70122, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 256.

Santrice Pope, NAACP LA State Conference and NAACP - New Orleans, 213 Fairfax Place, New Orleans, LA 70137, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 256.

James E. Samuels, representing Calvin Duncan, 10005 Robinson Avenue, Marrero, LA 70072, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 256.

Shawon Bernard, representing Lower Ninth Ward Voter's Coalition and NAACP - New Orleans, 5501 Norgate Drive, New Orleans, LA 70127, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 256.

Sherie Thomas, representing JAC, 7600 Airline Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70814, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 256.

Greta Anderson, representing citizens of New Orleans for Calvin Duncan, 1629 N. Rocheblave Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 256.

Darlene Jones, representing self, 2008 St. Philip Street, New Orleans, LA 70116, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 256.

Carolyn Leftwich, representing self, 531 Calhoun Street, New Orleans, LA 70118, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 256.

Gary Chamber, Jr., representing self, 6663 Willow Springs, Baton Rouge, LA 70811, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 256.

Valerie Jefferson, representing NAACP New Orleans, Labor-Industry Committee, no address provided, New Orleans, LA, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 256.

Chris Alexander, representing LACAG, P.O. Box 64952, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 256.

Chelsey Richard Napoleon, Clerk of Civil District Court, 421 Loyola Avenue, Room 402, New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 256.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 256 favorably, to which Representative Newell objected.

Representative Green offered a substitute motion to involuntarily defer action on Senate Bill No. 256, to which Representative Zeringue objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas, 9 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Edmonston, Green, Jordan, Mandie Landry, and Newell voted yea. Representatives Chenevert, Dickerson, Galle, Hebert, LaCombe, Mack, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted nay. Representative Robby Carter abstained.

The original motion by Representative Zeringue to report Senate Bill No. 256 favorably was considered, to which Representative Newell objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 256 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas, 5 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Chenevert, Galle, Hebert, LaCombe, Mack, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea. Representatives Edmonston, Green, Jordan, Mandie Landry, and Newell voted nay. Representative Robby Carter abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 38 in opposition and 1 designee of an elected official. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 256.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Robby Carter
House Committee on Judiciary