

House Committee on Judiciary

Minutes of Meeting
2026 Regular Session
April 22, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Robby Carter, chair of the House Committee on Judiciary, called the meeting to order at 4:16 p.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:

Jabari Williams, sergeant at arms
Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms
Riley Fitzmorris, clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Concurrent Resolution No. 41 by Representative Zeringue**

Representative Zeringue presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 41, which amends administrative rules relative to alcohol rebates.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 41 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 41 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, 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. 1029 by Representative Phelps

Representative Phelps presented House Bill No. 1029, which provides relative to limitations on the issuance of certain alcoholic beverage permits.

Representative LaFleur offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1029 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 1029 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 660 by Representative Egan

Representative Egan presented House Bill No. 660, which provides for an increase in the dollar amount in warrants to provide for the salaries of assistant district attorneys.

On behalf of Representative Egan, Representative Chenevert offered amendments to:

- (1) Provide that effective July 1, 2026, the district attorneys throughout the state of Louisiana will receive an annual salary of \$65,000.

- (2) Provide that effective July 1, 2026, the assistant district attorneys throughout the state of Louisiana will receive an annual salary of \$60,000.

Representative Chenevert 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, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, 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. 660.

Representative Chenevert offered a motion to report House Bill No. 660 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 660 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yeas.

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

House Bill No. 719 by Representative Egan

Representative Egan presented House Bill No. 719, which provides relative to the number of assistant district attorneys in each judicial district.

On behalf of Representative Egan, Representative Zeringue offered amendments to add assistant district attorney positions in certain judicial districts of the state. Representative Zeringue offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, 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. 719.

Representative Galle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 719 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 719 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yeas.

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

House Bill No. 278 by Representative Edmonston

At the request of Representative Edmonston, Representative Robby Carter offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 278, which provides rules for live streaming proceedings in The Family Court for East Baton Rouge Parish. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 278 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 424 by Representative Firment

At the request of Representative Firment, Representative Robby Carter offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 424, which provides relative to alcoholic beverage permits. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 424 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 454 by Representative Butler

At the request of Representative Butler, Representative Robby Carter offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 454, which enacts the Gracey Claire Rushing Act which provides for the chain of custody for human remains and internal organs. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 454 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 455 by Representative Carver

At the request of Representative Carver, Representative Robby Carter offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 455, which provides relative to the definition of "first responder". Without objection, action on House Bill No. 455 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 1053 by Representative Ventrella

At the request of Representative Ventrella, Representative Robby Carter offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 1053, which provides relative to the definitions of a "dealer" and a "retail dealer". Without objection, action on House Bill No. 1053 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 227 by Representative Ventrella

Representative Ventrella presented House Bill No. 227, which provides that filings may be made on letter size rather than legal size paper.

Representative Mack offered a motion to report House Bill No. 227 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 227 was reported favorably by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yeas.

House Bill No. 335 by Representative Chance Henry

Representative Chance Henry presented House Bill No. 335, which provides relative to entities administering public benefits.

Conrad Cable, Current Farms, 526 Cable Lane, Marion, LA 71260, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 335.

Samantha Fleurinor, New Orleans Food Policy Council, 4125 South Broad Street, New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 335.

Madeline Edwards, Veggi Farmers Cooperative, 4262 Alcee Fortier Boulevard, Suite 1B, New Orleans, LA 70129, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 335.

Angelina Harrison, Market Umbrella/Greaux the Good, 200 Broadway Street, New Orleans, LA 70118, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 335.

Madeline Pears, Greaux the Good - Market Umbrella, 229 Wild Cherry, Lafayette, LA 70508, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 335.

Devin Wright, Sprout, 5231 Conti Street, New Orleans, LA 70129, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 335.

Representative Wiley offered a motion to suspend the rules regarding order of testimony for House Bill No. 335. Without objection, the motion was adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yeas.

Larry Frieman, chief deputy attorney general, 1885 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke as a designee of Attorney General Liz Murrill in support of House Bill No. 335.

Representative Jordan offered an amendment to exclude nonprofit organizations that distribute food from the requirement to verify citizenship status and other provisions of present and proposed law. Representative Jordan 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, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Edmonston in the chair.

Representative Newell offered a motion to suspend the rules of order regarding testimony to allow opponents to return to the witness table on House Bill No. 335. Without objection, the motion was adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Ventrella, and Wiley voted yea.

Sarah Jane Guidry, CrescentCare, 1631 Elysian Fields Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70716, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 335.

Tia Fields, Invest in Louisiana, 3609 Coolidge Street, Baker, LA 70714, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 335.

Representative Carter in the chair.

Representative Chenevert offered a motion to report House Bill No. 335 with amendments, to which Representative Newell objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 335 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas, 5 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Mack, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea. Representatives Green, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, and Newell voted nay. Representative Robby Carter abstained.

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

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 335.

House Bill No. 623 by Representative Chance Henry

Representative Chance Henry presented House Bill No. 623, which provides for a three-tier system of permitting for the producers, manufacturers, and wholesalers of tobacco and vapor products.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to implement the committee three-minute rule, to which Representative Jordan objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas, 6 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Chenevert, Dickerson, Galle, Hebert,

Mack, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea. Representatives Braud, Edmonston, Green, Jordan, LaFleur, and Newell voted nay. Representative Robby Carter abstained.

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

- (1) Remove tobacco products from the proposed three-tier permitting system for producers, manufacturers, and wholesalers of such products.
- (2) Exclude lawful marijuana or marijuana products authorized by the Louisiana Department of Health from the three-tier permitting system.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, LaFleur, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 623 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 623 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, LaFleur, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, 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. 708 by Representative Ventrella

Representative Ventrella presented House Bill No. 708, which authorizes concurrent jurisdiction for justice of the peace and city courts in East Baton Rouge Parish. Representative Ventrella provided a handout, Exhibit A, included in the committee records.

Jennifer Ansardi, Baton Rouge Apartment Association, P.O. Box 55815, Metairie, LA 70055, spoke in support of House Bill No. 708.

Representative Ventrella offered amendments to:

- (1) Remove a provision regarding the territorial jurisdiction of the justice of peace court in East Baton Rouge Parish coinciding with the district boundaries of the court.
- (2) Change the territorial jurisdiction and districts of the justice of the peace and constable districts in East Baton Rouge Parish and provide for the elections from such districts.

- (3) Provide for the retention of jurisdiction for matters properly filed with a justice of the peace court on and before the effective date of proposed law.
- (4) Add an effective date.

Representative Ventrella offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, LaFleur, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Mark Miley, 3211 Monterrey Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70814, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 708.

Amie Rabel, Rabel Properties, LLC, 1725 Cedar Lake Drive, Apartment D, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in support of House Bill No. 708.

Christopher Donley, Brookfield Enterprises, BAHC Properties, and as a property owner, 1015 Gloria Court, Mandeville, LA 70471, spoke in support of House Bill No. 708.

Carlos Kerrick, property ownership, 944 Monet Drive #12, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in support of House Bill No. 708.

Anthony Prest, PT's Properties and Development, 1171 Monet Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in support of House Bill No. 708.

MacKenzie Sanders, BRAA and A.C. Lewis Management, 16217 Chevernt Avenue, Greenwell Springs, LA 70739, spoke in support of House Bill No. 708.

Drexel P. Dorsey, RRP Titian LLC, 6867 Titian Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in support of House Bill No. 708.

Brian Brousseau, Brousseau Mgt., 6953 Titian Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in support of House Bill No. 708.

Chief Judge Yvette Mansfield Alexander, Baton Rouge City Court, 233 St. Louis, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 708.

Brittany B. Jordan, Judge, Baton Rouge City Court, 233 St. Louis Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 708.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 708 with amendments, to which Representative Jordan objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill

No. 708 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas, 3 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea. Representatives Jordan, LaFleur, and Newell voted nay. Representative Robby Carter abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 42 in support and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 940 by Representative Berault

Representative Berault presented House Bill No. 940, which provides relative to the unlawful use of an unmanned aircraft system.

Thomas Mule', Office of Technology Services, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, spoke in support of House Bill No. 940.

Representative Chenevert offered a motion to report House Bill No. 940 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 940 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 1069 by Representative Berault

Representative Berault presented House Bill No. 1069, which provides relative to shipping to consumers from local distillers.

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

- (1) Authorize a manufacturing distilling facility located in the state of Louisiana to transfer liquor through a wholesaler to another manufacturing distillery owned by the transferring facility under certain conditions.
- (2) Require the transferring facility to maintain no less than a five hundred liter still and the receiving facility to maintain no less than a one hundred liter still.
- (3) Limit the amount of distilled liquor to be transferred to no greater than ten percent of the total amount distilled monthly at the transferring facility or five hundred gallons.

- (4) Limit the quantity of liquor transferred to an amount that does not exceed fifty percent of the transferring facility's production of liquor for the previous month.
- (5) Require that all state and parish or municipal sales and excise taxes be paid to the proper tax collecting authority.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yeas.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1069 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 1069 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yeas.

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. 492 by Representative Spell

Representative Spell presented House Bill No. 492, which creates the Governor's Task Force on Impaired Driving.

On behalf of Representative Spell, Representative LaFleur offered amendments to add a representative from the American Automobile Association to the membership of the task force and to add an additional at-large representative appointed by the governor. Representative LaFleur 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, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yeas.

Lisa Freeman, Louisiana Highway Safety Commission, 7919 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 492.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to report House Bill No. 492 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 492 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yeas.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 243 by Representative Wilder

Representative Wilder presented House Bill No. 243, which provides relative to the appointment of a substitute for a recused district attorney.

Larry Frieman, chief deputy attorney general, 1885 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke as a designee of Attorney General Liz Murrill in support of House Bill No. 243.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to report House Bill No. 243 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 243 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yeas.

House Bill No. 1077 by Representative Martinez

On behalf of Representative Martinez, Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 1077, which provides relative to microbrewery sales at special events.

Cary Koch, Louisiana Craft Brewers Guild, 633 Lakeland Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1077.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1077 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 1077 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yeas.

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. 11 by Representative McCormick

On behalf of Representative McCormick, Representative Owen presented House Bill No. 11, which designates October 14th as a day of remembrance for Charlie Kirk.

Representative Galle offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 11. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 11 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yeas.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in opposition. 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 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Robby Carter
House Committee on Judiciary