

House Committee on Judiciary

Minutes of Meeting
2026 Regular Session
April 28, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Robby Carter, chair of the House Committee on Judiciary, called the meeting to order at 4:15 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 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 Jeffrey Fons "Jeff" Wiley
Representative Jerome Zeringue

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Emily Chenevert
Representative Lauren Ventrella

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Riley Fitzmorris, clerk
Jabari Williams, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 1165 by Representative Deshotel**

Representative Deshotel presented House Bill No. 1165, which provides relative to the court system in Avoyelles Parish.

On behalf of Representative Deshotel, Representative Jordan offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Jordan offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Dickerson, Galle, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mack, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Mack offered a motion to invoke the committee three-minute rule for debate on house bills, to which Representative Jordan objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion passed by a vote of 7 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Dickerson, Galle, Mack, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea. Representatives Braud, Hebert, Jordan, and LaFleur voted nay.

Judge Matt Hagen, Houma City Court, 8046 Main Street, Houma, LA 70360, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1165.

Judge Angelo J. Piazza, III, Marksville Ward 2 City Court, P.O. Box 429, Marksville, LA 71351, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1165.

District Attorney Charles Riddle III, 12th Judicial District, 417 North Main, Marksville, LA 71351, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1165.

Representative Mack offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1165 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 1165 was reported by substitute by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, 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: 22 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 1064 by Representative Freiberg

Representative Freiberg presented House Bill No. 1064, which provides relative to a domestic violence intervention court pilot program in the Nineteenth Judicial District Court.

Chris Csonka, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, 100 Lafayette, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1064.

Dianna Payton, YWCA Greater Baton Rouge, 8120 Kelwood Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1064.

Representative Green offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1064 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 1064 was reported favorably by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, 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: 5 in support and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 341 by Representative Freiberg

Representative Freiberg presented House Bill No. 341, which provides for rights of law enforcement officers while under investigation.

On behalf of Representative Freiberg, Representative Green offered amendments to make technical changes. Representative Green 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, Braud, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Chief Thomas S. Morse, Jr., Baton Rouge Police Department, 9000 Airline Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70805, spoke in support of House Bill No. 341.

Adrienne Bordelon, Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service, 7722 Office Park Boulevard, Suite 500, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 341.

Representative LaCombe offered a motion to report House Bill No. 341 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 341 was reported with amendments by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, 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: 4 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 64 by Representative Moore

Representative Moore presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 64, which requests a study to make recommendations regarding behavioral health courts.

On behalf of Representative Moore, Representative Jordan offered amendments to:

- (1) Expand the study to include the effectiveness, impact, and operational costs to implement behavioral health courts in Ouachita, East Baton Rouge, and Orleans parishes.
- (2) Require a report to the House and Senate committees on judiciary no later than January 1, 2027.
- (3) Make technical changes.

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

Representative LaCombe offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 64 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 64 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Dickerson, Edmonston, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 579 by Representative LaFleur

Representative LaFleur presented House Bill No. 579, which provides relative to the Sexual Assault Survivor Bill of Rights.

Representative LaFleur offered amendments to:

- (1) Allow a victim to direct a victim impact statement to the inmate or defendant unless the statement disturbs the decorum of the hearing.
- (2) Prohibit the disclosure of the name of a victim under eighteen years of age.

- (3) Permit the release of a minor victim's name when the crime committed against the victim includes the victim's death as an element, or when the offense is a sex offense or human trafficking related offense.
- (4) Authorize complaints of violations of present law (R.S. 46:1845) to be made to the House Select Committee on Women and Children.
- (5) Permit discretionary funds provided through the federal Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors (STOP) Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program to be used to update and provide information and notice required by law.
- (6) Require that notice be developed in consultation with sexual assault service providers and subject to approval by the Louisiana Sexual Assault Oversight Commission.

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, Dickerson, Edmonston, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Julia Hine, Sexual Trauma Awareness and Response (STAR), 5311 Dijon Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in support of House Bill No. 579.

Representative LaCombe offered a motion to report House Bill No. 579 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 579 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Dickerson, Edmonston, 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.

House Resolution No. 61 by Representative Bayham

At the request of Representative Bayham, Representative Robby Carter offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Resolution No. 61, which memorializes congress to fully fund the United States Department of Homeland Security. Without objection, action on House Resolution No. 61 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Dickerson, Edmonston, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 1004 by Representative Bayham

Representative Bayham presented House Bill No. 1004, which increases the jurisdictional threshold for justice of peace courts.

On behalf of Representative Bayham, Representative LaFleur offered amendments to increase the threshold from \$5,000 to \$7,500 for movable property, eviction proceedings, and manufactured homes. Representative LaFleur offered a motion to adopt the amendments. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Dickerson, Edmonston, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Beau Bowman, Justice of the Peace, St. Bernard Parish, 19 Queens Court, Chalmette, LA 70043, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1004.

Judge Matt Hagen, City Court Judges Association, 8046 Main Street, Houma, LA 70360, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1004.

Judge C. Britain Sledge, III, City Court Judges Association, 300 East Thomas Street, Hammond, LA 70401, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1004.

Representative Green offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1004 with amendments, to which Representative Zeringue objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas and 11 nays. Representatives Dickerson, Galle, Green, Orgeron, and Owen voted yea. Representatives Braud, Edmonston, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Newell, Wiley, and Zeringue voted nay.

Representative Galle offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 1004. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 1004 was voluntarily deferred 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: 7 in support and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 451 by Representative LaCombe

Representative LaCombe presented House Bill No. 451, which provides relative to notices of hearings required by the Alcohol and Tobacco Control commissioner.

Chad Brown, commissioner, Louisiana Alcohol and Tobacco Control, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 451.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 451 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 451 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, Newell, Orgeron, and Wiley 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. 541 by Representative LaCombe

Representative LaCombe presented House Bill No. 541, which provides relative to microdistillers.

On behalf of Representative Lacombe, Representative Edmonston offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Edmonston offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Edmonston, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Newell, Orgeron, and Wiley voted yea.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 541 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 541 was reported by substitute by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Edmonston, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Newell, Orgeron, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Resolution No. 2 by Representative Green

Representative Green offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Resolution No. 2, to demand the United States Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and all appropriate federal agencies to immediately release to the public all records, investigative files, correspondence, agreements, and related materials concerning Jeffrey Epstein and any co-conspirators, facilitators, and affiliated individuals.. Without objection, action on House Resolution No. 2 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Edmonston, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Newell, Orgeron, and Wiley voted yea.

House Bill No. 371 by Representative Jordan

Representative Jordan offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 371, which provides relative to requiring the attorney general to defend state elected officials and acts of the legislature. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 371 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Edmonston, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Newell, Orgeron, and Wiley voted yea.

House Bill No. 480 by Representative LaFleur

Representative LaFleur offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 480, which provides for participation in reentry courts. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 480 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Edmonston, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Newell, Orgeron, and Wiley 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 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Edmonston, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Newell, Orgeron, and Wiley voted yea.

House Bill No. 816 by Representative Galle

At the request of Representative Galle, Representative Robby Carter offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 816, which prohibits foreign adversaries from acquiring or owning property near military installations. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 816 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Edmonston, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Newell, Orgeron, and Wiley voted yea.

House Bill No. 183 by Representative McMakin

This is a continuation of the discussion on House Bill No. 183 from an earlier meeting held on April 9, 2026. Please check for the prior action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 183.

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

Representative Zeringue offered an amendment to include areas in the courthouse where fines, fees, or court costs are paid. Representative Zeringue 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, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to report House Bill No. 183 with amendments, to which Representative Green objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 7 yeas and 8 nays. Representatives Dickerson, Galle, Hebert, Mack, Orgeron,

Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Edmonston, Green, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, and Mandie Landry voted nay.

Representative Galle 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 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 597 by Representative McMakin

At the request of Representative McMakin, Representative Robby Carter offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 597, which provides relative to judicial compensation. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 597 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 44 by Senator Seabaugh

On behalf of Senator Seabaugh, Representative Wiley presented Senate Bill No. 44, which requires a law enforcement agency to approve firearms and ammunition carried by its tactical medical professionals.

Representative Wiley offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 44 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 44 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, 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 Resolution No. 37 by Representative Wiley

Representative Wiley presented House Resolution No. 37, which memorializes Congress to issue the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal to U.S. veterans who served in Honduras from 1981 to 1992.

Representative Wiley offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 37 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 37 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 89 by Representative Turner

On behalf of Representative Turner, Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 89, which provides relative to certain retirees of the office of the district attorney of the 3rd Judicial District.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to report House Bill No. 89 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 89 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 11 by Representative Mike Johnson

On behalf of Representative Mike Johnson, Representative Green offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Concurrent Resolution No. 11, which expresses support for the continued operations of the Louisiana National Guard at Camp Beauregard in Pineville and commends the accomplishments of the Louisiana National Guard Youth Challenge Program. Without objection, action on House Concurrent Resolution No. 11 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, 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 5:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Robby Carter
House Committee on Judiciary