

## **House Committee on Judiciary**

Minutes of Meeting  
2026 Regular Session  
May 7, 2026

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Representative Robby Carter, chair of the House Committee on Judiciary, called the meeting to order at 9:48 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 Jack "Jay" William Gallé, 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:**

Representative Kathy Edmonston, vice chair  
Representative Kyle M. Green, Jr.

#### **STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Karen Winfrey, attorney  
Andrea Jerezano, committee administrative assistant  
Rashida Keith, division director

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Amelia Carman, clerk  
Anna Kate Jackson, clerk  
Rebecca Marshall, sergeant at arms  
Jabarie Moore, sergeant at arms

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION****Senate Bill No. 317 by Senator Reese**

Senator Reese presented Senate Bill No. 317, which provides relative to the membership of the Louisiana Military Advisory Council.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 317 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 317 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Galle, Hebert, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

**Senate Bill No. 357 by Senator Reese**

Senator Reese presented Senate Bill No. 357, which provides relative to the courts and the judiciary.

On behalf of Senator Reese, Representative Zeringue offered amendments to:

- (1) Provide for the use of working groups to develop a comprehensive and uniform plan for filing, case management, and related technology.
- (2) Permit the reimbursement of vouchered expenses actually incurred that would otherwise be reimbursable.
- (3) Provide for rules to be adopted for reimbursements, allowances, payment of expenses concerning mileage, and other travel related to performing official duties in the justices' districts when respective primary residences are more than a fifty-mile round trip from the courthouse.
- (4) Provide for security at the courts of appeal by the sheriff of the respective parishes of the courts.
- (5) Repeal present law that provides that the superintendent of police of New Orleans executes the orders of the court when the court is in open court.

- (6) Provide that justices are not prohibited from having a district office located within a parish from where they were elected.
- (7) Provide for an effective date of July 1, 2027, for security personnel provisions.
- (8) Provide for an effective date upon the signature of the governor for the remaining provisions of proposed law.

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, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Galle, Hebert, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Cade Cole, associate justice, Louisiana Supreme Court, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, LA 70118, spoke for information only Senate Bill No. 357.

Representative LaCombe offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 357 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 357 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Galle, Hebert, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

#### **Senate Bill No. 232 by Senator Miller**

Senator Miller presented Senate Bill No. 232, which provides for funding of the Judges' Supplemental Compensation Fund.

On behalf of the Senator Miller, Representative LaCombe offered an amendment to provide that the expenses to be accounted for before providing the additional employer's retirement contribution include those invoiced by the judicial administrator for services actually provided. Representative LaCombe offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Galle, Hebert, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative LaCombe offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 232 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 232 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Hebert, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

**Senate Bill No. 421 by Senator Miller**

Senator Miller presented Senate Bill No. 421, which provides relative to the filing of electronic records.

Debbie D. Hudnall, Louisiana Clerks of Court Association, 10202 Jefferson Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70807, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 421.

Representative Robby Carter offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 421 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 421 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Galle, Hebert, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

**House Bill No. 1190 by Representative Murray**

At the request of Representative Murray, Representative Robby Carter offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 1190, which provides with respect to the length of time coroners may retain a body. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 1190 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Galle, Hebert, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

**House Bill No. 1097 by Representative Marcelle**

At the request of Representative Marcelle, Representative Robby Carter offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 1097, which provides for the election of judges to the 19th Judicial District Court. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 1097 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Galle, Hebert, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

**Senate Bill No. 208 by Senator Cathey**

Senator Cathey presented Senate Bill No. 208, which provides relative to certain services provided to veterans.

Charlton Meginley, secretary, Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, 602 North 5th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 208.

John B. Wells, Military Veterans Advocacy, P.O. Box 5235, Slidell, LA 70469, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 208.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 208 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 208 was reported favorably by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Galle, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

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

#### **Senate Bill No. 510 by Senator Morris**

Senator Morris presented Senate Bill No. 510, which provides relative to certain acts on a licensed establishment.

Chad Brown, commissioner, Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control, 7979 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 510.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 510 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 510 was reported favorably by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Galle, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, 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 Bill No. 302 by Representative Chassion**

Representative Chassion presented House Bill No. 302, which prohibits the sale of vapor products near schools.

Chad Brown, commissioner, Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control, 7979 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 302.

Daisy Ellis, New Orleans Health Department, 1300 Perdido Street, Suite 18, New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in support of House Bill No. 302.

Representative Jordan offered a motion to report House Bill No. 302 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 302 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Dickerson, Galle, 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.

**Senate Bill No. 34 by Senator McMath**

On behalf of Senator McMath, Representative Hebert presented Senate Bill No. 34, which provides relative to alerts for missing persons.

Kelly Monroe, The Arc of Louisiana, 600 Colonial Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 34.

Chrisha Pool, 13069 Sevres Street, New Orleans, LA 70129, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 34.

Blake A. Cook, 73419 Warm Springs Drive, Abita Springs, LA 70402, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 34.

Representative Newell offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 34 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 34 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Galle, Hebert, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 21 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 34.

**Senate Bill No. 164 by Senator McMath**

On behalf of Senator McMath, Representative Galle presented Senate Bill No. 164, which provides relative to first responders.

Representative Galle offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 164 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 164 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Galle, Hebert, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mack, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

**House Bill No. 597 by Representative McMakin**

Representative McMakin presented House Bill No. 597, which provides relative to judicial compensation.

On behalf of Representative McMakin, Representative Robby Carter offered an amendment to provide for an effective date of July 1, 2028. Representative Robby Carter 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, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Galle, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Chenevert offered a motion to report House Bill No. 597 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 597 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Galle, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

#### **House Bill No. 371 by Representative Jordan**

At the request of Representative Jordan, Representative Robby Carter 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 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Galle, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mack, Newell, Orgeron, Owen, Ventrella, 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 11:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Robby Carter  
House Committee on Judiciary