

## **House Committee on Judiciary**

Minutes of Meeting  
2020 Regular Session  
May 14, 2020

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

Representative Randal L. Gaines, chairman of the House Committee on Judiciary, called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. in Room 1, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Representative Randal L. Gaines, chairman  
Representative Kathy Edmonston  
Representative Jason Hughes  
Representative Michael T. Johnson  
Representative Frederick Douglass Jones  
Representative Mandie Landry  
Representative Sherman Q. Mack, vice chairman  
Representative Joseph A. Marino, III  
Representative Nicholas Muscarello, Jr.  
Representative Thomas A. Pressly  
Representative John M. Stefanski

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Robby Carter  
Representative Edmond Jordan

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

Sadie Becnel, attorney  
Diane Merritt, committee administrative assistant

#### **ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

### III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

*Vice Chairman Mack in the chair.*

#### **House Bill No. 356 by Representative Landry**

Representative Landry presented House Bill No. 356, which provides relative to the subject matter jurisdiction of certain courts.

*Chairman Gaines in chair.*

On behalf of Representative Landry, Representative Jones offered an amendment to change proposed law criteria that the court has jurisdiction irrespective of the amount in dispute or the value of the property involved to provide instead that the court has jurisdiction up to the jurisdictional limitations as provided in present law. Representative Jones offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gaines, Edmonston, Hughes, Jones, Landry, Mack, Marino, Pressly, and Stefanski voted yea.

Allain F. Hardin, 3203 Prytania St., New Orleans, LA 70115, (504) 522-1188, testified in support of House Bill No. 356.

Representative Landry offered a motion to report House Bill No. 356 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 356 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gaines, Edmonston, Hughes, Mike Johnson, Jones, Landry, Mack, Marino, Muscarello, Pressly, and Stefanski voted yea.

#### **House Bill No. 726 by Representative Fontenot**

On behalf of the author, Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 726, which provides relative to court reporter fees.

Representative Gaines offered an amendment to change the maximum amount charged for the annual renewal of a certificate from \$250 to \$175. Representative Gaines offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gaines, Edmonston, Hughes, Mike Johnson, Jones, Landry, Mack, Marino, Muscarello, Pressly, and Stefanski voted yea.

Representative Mack offered a motion to report House Bill No. 726 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 726 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gaines, Edmonston, Hughes, Mike Johnson, Jones, Landry, Mack, Marino, Muscarello, Pressly, and Stefanski voted yea.

**House Bill No. 769 by Representative Bryant**

On behalf of the author, Representative Gaines offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 769, which provides relative to the regulation of cannabis. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 769 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gaines, Edmonston, Hughes, Mike Johnson, Jones, Landry, Mack, Marino, Muscarello, Pressly, and Stefanski voted yea.

**House Bill No. 799 by Representative Hughes**

On behalf of the author, Representative Gaines offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 799, which provides relative to e-liquid and vapor products. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 799 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gaines, Edmonston, Hughes, Mike Johnson, Jones, Landry, Mack, Marino, Muscarello, Pressly, and Stefanski voted yea.

**House Bill No. 417 by Representative James**

On behalf of the author, Representative Stefanski presented House Bill No. 417, which provides relative to the waiver of certain court costs and fees.

Representative Hughes offered a motion to report House Bill No. 417 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 417 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gaines, Edmonston, Hughes, Mike Johnson, Jones, Landry, Mack, Marino, Muscarello, Pressly, and Stefanski voted yea.

Will Harrell, representing VOTE, 1221 Kerlerec St., New Orleans, LA 70116, (512) 695-7519, testified in support of House Bill No. 417.

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. 136 by Representative Mincey**

Representative Mincey presented House Bill No. 136, which creates the crime of adulterating a food product.

Matthew Derbes, Louisiana Department of Justice, criminal division deputy director, 1885 N. Third St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 326-6757, testified in support of House Bill No. 136.

Representative Mike Johnson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 136 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 136 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Gaines, Edmonston, Hughes, Mike Johnson, Jones, Landry, Mack, Marino, Muscarello, Pressly, and Stefanski 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.

**IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Randal L. Gaines  
House Committee on Judiciary

Date adopted: