

House Committee on Civil Law and Procedure

Minutes of Meeting
2023-2024 Interim
November 14, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Gregory A. Miller, chairman of the House Committee on Civil Law and Procedure, called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. in Room 6, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Gregory A. Miller, chairman
Representative Beryl A. Amedée
Representative Delisha Boyd
Representative Michael Charles Echols
Representative Julie Emerson
Representative Valarie Hodges
Representative Alonzo L. Knox
Representative Nicholas Muscarello, Jr.
Representative Richard James Nelson

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Robby Carter
Representative Wilford Dan Carter, Sr.
Representative Lawrence "Larry" Frieman
Representative Raymond E. Garofalo, Jr.
Representative Patrick O. Jefferson
Representative Sam L. Jenkins, Jr.
Representative Michael T. Johnson, vice chairman
Representative Danny McCormick
Representative Alan Seabaugh

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Allison Alonzo, attorney
Megan Sanders, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Michael McCain, clerk
Rebecca Marshall, sergeant at arms
Danny Leming, sergeant at arms

III. BUSINESS**To study the provisions relative to filiation as provided by House Study Request No. 3 of the 2023 Regular Session.**

Chairman Miller discussed House Study Request No. 3 of the 2023 Regular Session.

Allison Alonzo, staff attorney for the House Committee on Civil Law and Procedure, provided information regarding the filiation research conducted and the information requested in House Study Request No. 3 of the 2023 Regular Session.

Chairman Miller discussed House Bill No. 91 by Representative Ansardi of the 2005 Regular Session as it relates to House Study Request No. 3 of the 2023 Regular Session.

To study venue provisions related to foreign or alien insurers and forum non conveniens as provided by House Resolution No. 260 of the 2023 Regular Session.

Allison Alonzo, staff attorney, provided the committee with an overview of House Resolution No. 260 of the 2023 Regular Session and research conducted regarding foreign or alien insurers and forum non conveniens.

Chairman Miller and staff discussed typical exceptions to the direct action statute and court cases discussing the issue of foreign or alien insurers and forum non conveniens.

Representative Echols asked for clarification regarding the venue of lawsuits filed by his constituents. Chairman Miller responded to Representative Echols. Representative Echols commented on potential legislation. Representative Echols and Chairman Miller continued to discuss the next steps in changing the current venue statutes regarding foreign or alien insurers and forum non conveniens, and how the committee will proceed with the study.

Rodney Braxton, State Farm, 543 Spanish Town Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only. Mr. Braxton discussed the percentage of cases filed in the 19th Judicial District which have occurred outside of East Baton Rouge Parish. Mr. Braxton stated that the most current percentage of cases is from a study conducted in 2016.

Chairman Miller and Rodney Braxton discussed current rulings by the court on the issue of venue and the trend of where suits are being filed relative to the place of the accident.

Mr. Braxton answered questions from Representative Amedee regarding the number of cases filed in the 19th Judicial District Court.

Chairman Miller and Representative Amedee discussed the exceptions to the venue statute.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Miller announced the next meeting for the House Committee on Civil Law and Procedure would be held on Thursday, December 14, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Gregory A. Miller
House Committee on Civil Law and Procedure