

## **House Committee on Civil Law and Procedure**

Minutes of Meeting  
2024 Regular Session  
March 19, 2024

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

Representative Nicholas Muscarello, Jr., chairman of the House Committee on Civil Law and Procedure, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. in Room 4, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Representative Nicholas Muscarello, Jr., chairman  
Representative Chad Brown  
Representative Josh Carlson  
Representative Wilford Dan Carter, Sr.  
Representative Emily Chenevert  
Representative Kathy Edmonston  
Representative Peter F. Egan, Sr.  
Representative Brian Leonard Glorioso  
Representative Michael T. Johnson  
Representative Ed Larvadain, III  
Representative Michael Melerine  
Representative Sylvia Elaine Taylor  
Representative Christopher Turner, vice chairman  
Representative Lauren Ventrella  
Representative Mark Wright  
Representative John E. Wyble

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None

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

Allison Alonzo, attorney  
Jennifer Nguyen, attorney  
Megan Sanders, committee administrative assistant

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Myrtus Jarrell, sergeant at arms  
Michael McCain, clerk  
Cheryl Domino, sergeant at arms

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION****House Bill No. 229 by Representative Green**

On behalf of Representative Green, Representative Muscarello offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 229, which requires a three-year prescription on torts. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 229 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Brown, Carlson, Chenevert, Glorioso, Egan, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Melerine, Taylor, Turner, Ventrella, and Wyble voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

**House Bill No. 336 by Representative Chenevert**

Representative Chenevert presented House Bill No. 336, which creates the Litigation Financing Disclosure Act.

Representative Chenevert offered amendments to:

- (1) Provide exceptions for nonprofit legal organizations from disclosing funding.
- (2) Provide that a litigation financing contract does not include funding provided by a nonprofit organization exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code by grant or otherwise.
- (3) Provide that proposed law shall not apply to nonprofit legal organizations funded by private donors that represent clients on a pro bono basis.

Representative Chenevert offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Brown, Carlson, Chenevert, Glorioso, Egan, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Melerine, Taylor, Turner, Ventrella, and Wyble voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

David Levitt, United States Chamber, Hinshaw and Culbertson, LLP, 151 N. Franklin, Ste. 2500, Chicago, IL, 60606, spoke in support of House Bill No. 336.

Randy P. Guillot, Triple G Express, no address provided, Jefferson, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 336.

Patrick Hay, Hay Bros., Inc., 2510 Opelousas St., Lake Charles, LA 70601, spoke in support of House Bill No. 336.

Larry Terrell, North Lake Moving, no address provided, Covington, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 336.

Toni McAllister, Louisiana Loggers Association, McManus Timber Co., Inc., P.O. Box 5, Winnfield, LA 71483, spoke in support of House Bill No. 336.

Jason P. Lemoine, Sr., JPL Land Management, LLC, 3018 Hwy. 107 South, Cottonport, LA 71327, spoke in support of House Bill No. 336.

Stephen F. Butterfield, LADC, 960 Chevreuil St., Mandeville, LA, 70448, spoke in support of House Bill No. 336.

Lauren Hadden, LABI, 500 Main St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 336.

Karl Mears, LMTA/Razorback Rentals, no address provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 336.

Josh McAllister, McManus Timber Co., Inc., 208 Shady Hills Lane, Winnfield, LA 71483, spoke in support of House Bill No. 336.

Cully Frisard, Frisard Committee, 705 E. Airline Hwy., Gramercy, LA 70052, spoke in support of House Bill No. 336.

Rickie Guillory, Guillory Petrol Transport, LLC, 1600 Hwy. 456, Cottonport, LA 71341, spoke in support of House Bill No. 336.

Robin Krumholt, representing injured workers, 6513 Perkins Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 336.

Gary Barnett, International Legal Finance Association, 2021 L St. NW, Ste. 101, #239, Washington, D.C. 20036, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 336.

Representative Chenevert offered a motion to report House Bill No. 336 with amendments, to which Representative Larvadain objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 336 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas, 4 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Brown, Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Egan, Glorioso, Mike Johnson, Melerine, Turner, Wright, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Wilford Carter, Larvadain, Taylor, and Ventrella voted nay. Representative Muscarello abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 37 in support and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

### **House Bill No. 170 by Representative Crews**

*This is a continuation of the discussion on House Bill No. 170 from an earlier meeting, held March 13, 2024. Please check for the prior action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 170.*

Representative Crews presented House Bill No. 170, which provides with respect to certain lease contracts between governmental entities and individuals.

At the request of the author, Representative Muscarello offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 170. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 170 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Brown, Carlson, Wilford Carter, Chenevert, Edmonston, Egan, Glorioso, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Taylor, Turner, and Wright voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 12 in opposition and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

### **House Bill No. 171 by Representative Crews**

*This is a continuation of the discussion on House Bill No. 171 from an earlier meeting, held March 13, 2024. Please check for the prior action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 171.*

Representative Crews presented House Bill No. 171, which provides relative to the maintenance of property leased by political subdivisions.

At the request of the author, Representative Muscarello offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 171. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 171 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Brown, Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Egan, Glorioso, Mike Johnson, Larvadain, Melerine, Taylor, Turner, and Wright voted yea. Representative Muscarello abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support, 12 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

*Vice Chair Turner in the chair.*

**House Bill No. 24 by Representative Melerine**

Representative Melerine presented House Bill No. 24, which provides relative to evidentiary presumptions in personal injury claims.

Representative Melerine offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Remove the exception that Louisiana Workers' Compensation Law does not apply to the provisions of proposed law.

Representative Melerine offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Brown, Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Egan, Glorioso, Larvadain, Melerine, Turner, Wright, and Wyble voted yea.

Rickie Guillory, Guillory Petrol Transport, LLC, 1600 Hwy. 456, Lecompte, LA 71346, spoke in support of House Bill No. 24.

Chad Major, Professional Firefighters, 8011 Merle Gustafson Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 24.

Joseph Jolissaint, injured workers, 9191 Siegen Lane, No. 4B, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 24.

*Chair Muscarello in the chair.*

Representative Melerine offered a motion to report House Bill No. 24 with amendments, to which Representative Wilford Carter objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 24 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas, 4 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Carlson, Chenevert, Edmonston, Egan, Glorioso, Mike Johnson, Melerine, Turner, Wright, and Wyble voted yea. Representatives Brown, Wilford Carter, Larvadain, and Taylor voted nay. Representative Muscarello abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 41 in support and 6 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 12:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Nicholas Muscarello, Jr.  
House Committee on Civil Law and Procedure