

House Committee on Judiciary

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
March 28, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Robby Carter, chairman of the House Committee on Judiciary, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. in Room 1, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Robby Carter, chairman
Representative Jacob Braud
Representative Chad Brown
Representative Emily Chenevert
Representative Kellee Hennessy Dickerson
Representative Kathy Edmonston, vice chairman
Representative Jack "Jay" William Gallé, Jr.
Representative Kyle M. Green, Jr.
Representative Troy Jude Hebert
Representative Jason Hughes
Representative Edmond Jordan
Representative Jeremy S. LaCombe
Representative Vanessa Caston LaFleur
Representative Mandie Landry
Representative Shane Mack
Representative Joseph A. Orgeron
Representative Lauren Ventrella
Representative Jeffrey Fons "Jeff" Wiley
Representative Jerome Zeringue

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robert Singletary, division director
Gabrielle Lewis, attorney
Jennifer Watson, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Michael McCain, clerk
Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 44 by Representative Landry**

On behalf of Representative Mandie Landry, Representative Carter announced that action on House Bill No. 44, which requires coroners to report unidentified remains to the federal missing and unidentified persons database, was voluntarily deferred.

House Bill No. 621 by Representative Stagni

Representative Stagni presented House Bill No. 621, which provides relative to vapor products.

Luke Morris, Louisiana Department of Revenue, 617 North 3rd St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 621.

Hugh Raetzsch, Louisiana Association of Wholesalers, 17645 Cove Ln., Port Vincent, LA 70726, spoke in support of House Bill No. 621.

Representative Wiley offered a motion to report House Bill No. 621 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 621 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Galle, Hebert, Jordan, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 100 by Representative Carlson

Representative Carlson presented House Bill No. 100, which provides relative to jurisdiction of city and parish courts over eviction proceedings.

Judge Douglas Saloom, Louisiana City Judges Association, P.O. Box 3344, Lafayette, LA 70502, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 100.

Representative Galle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 100 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 100 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Jordan, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, and Wiley 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.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 100 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 61 by Representative Horton

Representative Horton presented House Bill No. 61, which provides relative to National Guard death and disability benefits.

Representative Robby Carter offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Modify the definition of "period of activation".
- (3) Add an effective date.

Representative Robby Carter offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Jordan, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, and Wiley voted yea.

Col. Dirk Thibodeaux, Louisiana National Guard, 6400 St. Claude Ave., Jackson Barracks, New Orleans, LA 70117 spoke for information only on House Bill No. 61.

Connor Junkin, Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, 602 North 5th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802 spoke for information only on House Bill No. 61.

Representative Hebert offered a motion to report House Bill No. 61 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 61 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Hughes, Jordan, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 747 by Representative Robby Carter

Representative Robby Carter presented House Bill No. 747, which provides with respect to judicial compensation.

Edwin Murray, Judicial Compensation Commission, 1540 North Broad St., New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 747.

Loren Scott, Judicial Compensation Commission, 743 Woodview Ct., Baton Rouge, LA 70810, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 747.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments to provide a one time increase on July 1, 2024, and to remove the subsequent increases. Representative Zeringue offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Robby Carter objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 6 yeas and 13 nays. Representatives Galle, Hughes, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, and Zeringue voted yea. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Ventrella, and Wiley voted nay.

Laurie Adams, Pelican Institute, 342 Lafayette St., Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 747.

Representative Green offered a motion to report House Bill No. 747 favorably. Representative Green withdrew his motion.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to report House Bill No. 747 favorably with recommendation that it be recommitted to the House Committee on Appropriations. Without objection, House Bill No. 747 was reported favorably with recommendation that it be recommitted to the House Committee on Appropriations by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Hughes, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support and 5 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 104 by Representative Muscarello

On behalf of Representative Muscarello, Representative Robby Carter presented House Bill No. 104, which repeals certain reporting requirements from the district courts to the judicial administrator of the supreme court.

Representative Robby Carter offered a motion to report House Bill No. 104 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 104 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Hebert, Hughes, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 500 by Representative Green

Representative Green presented House Bill No. 500, which increases the pay for jury duty.

Debbie Henton, Police Jury Association of Louisiana, 707 North 7th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 500.

Zach Daniels, Louisiana District Attorneys Association, 2525 Quail Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 500.

Guy Cormier, Police Jury Association of Louisiana, 707 North 7th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 500.

Representative Green offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 500. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 500 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Hughes, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Further action was taken by the committee on House Bill No. 500 at a meeting held on April 5, 2024. Please check for the subsequent action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 500.

House Bill No. 463 by Representative Egan

Representative Egan presented House Bill No. 463, which re-creates the Department of Justice.

Chief Deputy Larry Frieman, 1885 North 3rd St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, designee of the attorney general, spoke in support of House Bill No. 463.

Representative LaCombe offered a motion to report House Bill No. 463 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 463 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Ventrella, and Wiley voted yea.

House Bill No. 527 by Representative Egan

Representative Egan presented House Bill No. 527, which provides relative to veterans cemeteries burial fees.

Charlton Meginley, Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, 602 North 5th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 527.

Representative Wiley offered a motion to report House Bill No. 527 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 527 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Jordan, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Ventrella, and Wiley voted yea.

House Bill No. 16 by Representative Owen

Representative Owen presented House Bill No. 16, which provides relative to court-martial proceedings.

Col. Dirk Thibodeaux, Louisiana National Guard, 6400 St. Claude Ave., Jackson Barracks, New Orleans, LA 70117, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 16.

Representative Robby Carter offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 16. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 16 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Jordan, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Ventrella, and Wiley voted yea.

House Bill No. 385 by Representative Owen

Representative Owen presented House Bill No. 385, which provides relative to survivors' education benefits.

Charlton Meginley, Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, 602 North 5th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 385.

Connor Junkin, Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, 602 North 5th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 385.

Representative Jordan offered a motion to report House Bill No. 385 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 385 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Jordan, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 367 by Representative Freeman

Representative Freeman presented House Bill No. 367, which recognizes the month of April as Native Plant Month in Louisiana.

Dee McCloskey, New Orleans Gardeners, Shreveport Garden Study Club, Monroe Garden Study League, and Garden Study Club of New Orleans, 705 Nashville, New Orleans, LA 70115, spoke in support of House Bill No. 367 and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Caitlin Robbins, Louisiana Native Plant Society, 430 Westmoreland Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in support of House Bill No. 367.

Representative Mack offered a motion to report House Bill No. 367 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 367 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Ventrella, and Zeringue 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 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Robby Carter
House Committee on Judiciary