

House Committee on Judiciary

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
April 5, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Robby Carter, chairman of the House Committee on Judiciary, called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. in Room 5, 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 Kyle M. Green, Jr.
Representative Troy Jude Hebert
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:

Representative Jack "Jay" William Gallé, Jr.
Representative Jason Hughes
Representative Michael T. Johnson, speaker pro tempore

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gabrielle Lewis, attorney
Jennifer Watson, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Cheryl Domino, sergeant at arms
Elizabeth Douglas, sergeant at arms
Michael McCain, clerk

III. OTHER BUSINESS

Representative Carter presented an amendment to Judiciary Committee Rule of Procedure VI, which would require that lengthy or complicated amendments be requested and delivered to staff at least twenty-four hours in advance of the meeting.

Representative LaFleur offered a motion to adopt the amendment to Judiciary Committee Rule of Procedure VI. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Hebert, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, and Wiley voted yea.

IV. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 471 by Representative Carrier**

On behalf of the author, Representative Robby Carter offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 471, which provides relative to fees for an emergency certificate issued by the Allen Parish coroner. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 471 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Hebert, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, and Wiley voted yea.

House Bill No. 51 by Representative Dewitt

Representative Dewitt presented House Bill No. 51, which increases the fees for the Alexandria City Marshal in criminal matters.

Jerome Hopewell, Alexandria City Marshal's Office, 515 Washington St., Alexandria, LA 71301 spoke in support of House Bill No. 51.

Jennifer Eagan, Louisiana Supreme Court Judicial Admin., 400 Royal St., New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 51.

Representative Wiley offered a motion to report House Bill No. 51 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 51 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, 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.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 51 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 470 by Representative St. Blanc

Representative St. Blanc presented House Bill No. 470, which provides relative to the Coroner's Operational Fund for St. Mary Parish.

Jennifer Eagan, Louisiana Supreme Court Judicial Admin., 400 Royal St., New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 470.

Representative LaFleur offered amendments to make technical changes and to require Judicial Council approval of the additional court fee. Representative LaFleur offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 470 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 470 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 470 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 102 by Representative Firment

Representative Firment presented House Bill No. 102, which creates an Employee Insurance Fund for the LaSalle Parish Sheriff's Office.

Gary Bennett, assistant director, Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, 1175 Nicholson Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 102.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 102 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 102 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, 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. 149 by Representative Travis Johnson

Representative Travis Johnson presented House Bill No. 149, which provides for the sale of certain alcoholic beverages in the town of Winnsboro.

Representative Wiley offered a motion to report House Bill No. 149 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 149 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, 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. 752 by Representative Carrier

Representative Carrier presented House Bill No. 752, which provides relative to membership in the Sheriffs' Pension and Relief Fund.

Gary Bennett, assistant director, Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, 1175 Nicholson Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 752.

Representative Mack offered a motion to report House Bill No. 752 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 752 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, 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. 359 by Representative Deshotel

Representative Deshotel presented House Bill No. 359, which provides relative to justice of the peace courts and constables in Avoyelles.

Representative LaCombe offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative LaCombe offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 359 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 359 was reported by substitute by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 328 by Representative McFarland

Representative McFarland presented House Bill No. 328, which provides relative to the salaries of assistant district attorneys.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to report House Bill No. 328 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 328 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 519 by Representative Farnum

Representative Farnum presented House Bill No. 519, which provides relative to marshals and constables.

On behalf of the author, Representative LaCombe offered amendments to:

- (1) Require the city or cities or parish, or all governing authorities to bear necessary expenses or obligations incurred by the marshal and the court.
- (2) Remove the requirements that the marshal and the court comply with applicable budgetary requirements in order to have certain expenses or obligations borne by the city or cities or parish, or all governing authorities.

Representative LaCombe offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative LaCombe offered a motion to report House Bill No. 519 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 519 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 12 in support and 1 for information only.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 519 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 369 by Representative Lyons

Representative Lyons presented House Bill No. 369, which repeals the environmental docket for the 24th JDC.

Representative Orgeron offered a motion to report House Bill No. 369 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 369 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 552 by Representative Braud

Representative Braud presented House Bill No. 552, which authorizes the Twenty-Fifth Judicial District Court to hold certain sessions of court west of the Mississippi River.

Representative Orgeron offered a motion to report House Bill No. 552 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 552 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 552 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 576 by Representative Braud

Representative Braud presented House Bill No. 576, which provides relative to justices of the peace in Plaquemines Parish.

Representative Braud offered a technical amendment to House Bill No. 576. Representative Braud offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Mack offered a motion to report House Bill No. 576 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 576 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 576 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 462 by Representative Egan

Representative Egan presented House Bill No. 462, which provides relative to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Jerome Butler, Deputy Secretary Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, 602 North 5th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 462.

Connor Junkin, Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, 602 North 5th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 462.

Representative Edmonston offered amendments to change the provision of proposed law relative to the duties and functions of the assistant secretary of the office of military affairs. Representative Edmonston offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 462 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 462 was reported with amendments by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 500 by Representative Green

This is a continuation of the discussion on House Bill No. 500 from an earlier meeting held on March 28, 2024. Please check for the prior action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 500.

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

Representative Green offered amendments to:

- (1) Increase compensation amount for jurors, in criminal cases, for each day of attendance in court once impaneled.
- (2) Increase compensation amount for jurors, in civil cases, beginning the second day of attendance in court.

Representative Green 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,

Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Orgeron, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Orgeron offered a motion to report House Bill No. 500 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 500 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mack, Orgeron, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 163 by Representative Bourriaque

On behalf of Representative Bourriaque, Representative Wiley presented House Bill No. 163, which provides for an increase in membership to the investment advisory board of the Cameron Parish Sheriff's Office.

Gary Bennett, assistant director, Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, 1175 Nicholson Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 163.

Representative Brown offered amendments to make technical changes and to change provisions relative to the investment of monies and the withdrawal of earnings by the sheriff. Representative Brown offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 163 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 163 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, Mack, Orgeron, 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. 59 by Representative Brown

Representative Brown presented House Bill No. 59, which provides relative to the Council on Peace Officer Standards and Training.

Representative Brown offered a motion to report House Bill No. 59 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 59 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, 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 3 for information only.

House Bill No. 636 by Representative Ventrella

Representative Ventrella presented House Bill No. 636, which creates a new city court in Central.

Roger Corcoran, 11333 North Flintridge Pl., Baton Rouge, LA 70818, spoke in support of House Bill No.636.

Jennifer Eagan, Louisiana Supreme Court Judicial Admin., 400 Royal St., New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 636.

Representative Edmonston offered an amendment to require Judicial Council approval to create a new judgeship. Representative Edmonston offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Green offered a motion to report House Bill No. 636 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 636 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, 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.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 636 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 147 by Representative Glorioso

Representative Glorioso presented House Bill No. 147, which provides relative to administrative adjudication procedures in the city of Slidell.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 147 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 147 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Robby Carter
House Committee on Judiciary