

House Committee on Judiciary

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
April 11, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Robby Carter, chairman of the House Committee on Judiciary, called the meeting to order at 9:05 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 Jason Hughes
Representative Edmond Jordan
Representative Jeremy S. LaCombe
Representative Vanessa Caston LaFleur
Representative Mandie Landry
Representative Shane Mack
Representative Joseph A. Orgeron
Representative Jeffrey Fons "Jeff" Wiley
Representative Jerome Zeringue

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Troy Jude Hebert
Representative Lauren Ventrella

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robert A. Singletary, division director
Gabrielle Lewis, attorney
Megan Sanders, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Myrtus Jarrell, sergeant at arms
Michael McCain, clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 496 by Representative Horton**

On behalf of the author, Representative Robby Carter offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 496, which provides relative to compensation for assistance with veterans benefits. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 496 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 834 by Representative Brass

On behalf of the author, Representative Robby Carter offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 834, which provides relative to the St. James Parish Retired Employees Insurance Fund. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 834 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 876 by Representative Beaulieu

On behalf of the author, Representative Robby Carter offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 876, which provides relative to the definition of "alternative nicotine product". Without objection, action on House Bill No. 876 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 464 by Representative Mike Johnson

Representative Mike Johnson presented House Bill No. 464, which provides relative to certain witness fees.

On behalf of the author, Representative Zeringue offered an amendment to transfer surplus monies in the witness fee fund of Pineville City Court that exceed \$15,000 at the end of each calendar year to the general fund of the city of Pineville. Representative Zeringue offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Chief of Police Darrel Basco, Louisiana Fraternal Order of Police, 2201 Military Hwy., Pineville, LA 71360, spoke in support of House Bill No. 464.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to report House Bill No. 464 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 464 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 746 by Representative McMahan

Representative McMahan presented House Bill No. 746, which provides relative to the Bossier Parish Retired Employees Insurance Fund.

Representative Wiley offered a motion to report House Bill No. 746 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 746 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 669 by Representative Boyd

Representative Boyd presented House Bill No. 669, which provides relative to judicial security.

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

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Add the definition of "publish".

Representative LaFleur offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Judge Tiffany Gautier Chase, Louisiana Supreme Court, Judicial Security Committee, 4th Circuit Court of Appeal, 400 Royal St., New Orleans, LA 70130, appeared for information only and provided handouts Exhibit A, Exhibit B, Exhibit C, and Exhibit D, which are included in the committee records.

Representative LaFleur offered a motion to report House Bill No. 669 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 669 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 669 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 40 by Representative Boyd

Representative Boyd presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 40, which creates the Judicial Security Task Force.

On behalf of the author, Representative LaFleur offered an amendment to change a member of the task force from a clerk appointed by the supreme court to the president of the Louisiana Clerks of Court Association. Representative LaFleur offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Judge Tiffany Gautier Chase, Louisiana Supreme Court, Judicial Security Committee, 4th Circuit Court of Appeal, 400 Royal St., New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 40.

Representative LaFleur offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 40 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 40 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Concurrent Resolution No. 40 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 23 by Representative Emerson

Representative Emerson presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 23, which designates the city of Carencro as the Seasoning Capital of the World.

Charlotte Clavier, Mayor of Carencro, no address provided, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 23.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 23 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 23 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, 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.

House Bill No. 288 by Representative Amedée

Representative Amedée presented House Bill No. 288, which provides relative to the inclusion of immunization records on autopsy reports of infants.

Jill Hines, Health Freedom Louisiana, 3301 17th St., Metairie, LA 70010, spoke in support of House Bill No. 288 and provided a handout, Exhibit E, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Mack offered a motion to report House Bill No. 288 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 288 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support and 3 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 288 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 573 by Representative Davis

On behalf of the author, Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 573, which provides relative to container sizes for beverages of high alcohol content.

On behalf of the author, Representative Zeringue offered an amendment to authorize distilled spirits domestically bottled or imported in 1.00 liter containers to be packed with not more than twelve containers per shipping case. Representative Zeringue offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Jamee Blink, Diageo North America, 620 Florida St., Ste. 110, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of House Bill No. 573.

Representative Mack offered a motion to report House Bill No. 573 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 573 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 642 by Representative Orgeron

Representative Orgeron presented House Bill No. 642, which updates standards for surveying and mapping.

J. Anthony Cavell, 11646 Rue Concord, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, spoke in support of House Bill No. 642.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to report House Bill No. 642 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 642 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Galle, Green, Hughes, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 326 by Representative Horton

Representative Horton presented House Bill No. 326, which provides relative to occupational diseases for the division of state police.

Hack Willis, Louisiana State Troopers Association, 8120 Jefferson Hwy., Baton Rouge, LA 70809 spoke in support of House Bill No. 326.

Representative Hughes offered a motion to report House Bill No. 326 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 326 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Green, Hughes, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Wiley, 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.

House Bill No. 882 by Representative LaCombe

Representative LaCombe presented House Bill No. 882, which provides with respect to microbreweries.

John Williams, Beer Industry League, 575 North 8th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 882.

Cary Koch, Louisiana Craft Brewers Guild, 504 Lakeland Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 882.

Representative Jordan offered a motion to report House Bill No. 882 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 882 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby

Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 905 by Representative Freiberg

Representative Freiberg presented House Bill No. 905, which permits jurors to donate their per diem compensation to the Capital Area Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA).

Crystal French, Capital Area CASA Association, 8550 Anselmo Ln., Baton Rouge, LA 70810, spoke in support of House Bill No. 905.

Bea McNamee, Capital Area CASA, 4918 Lura Ln., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in support of House Bill No. 905.

Representative LaFleur offered a motion to report House Bill No. 905 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 905 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 905 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 65 by Representative Hilferty

Representative Hilferty presented House Bill No. 65, which provides for the certification by the Council on Peace Officer Standards and Training of the New Orleans inspector general and his investigators.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 65 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 65 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 373 by Representative Dickerson

Representative Dickerson presented House Bill No. 373, which provides relative to veterans' service offices.

Jerome Buller, M.D., Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, 602 North 5th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 373.

Connor Junkin, Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, 602 North 5th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 373.

Representative Wiley offered a motion to report House Bill No. 373 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 373 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 528 by Representative Egan

Representative Egan presented House Bill No. 528, which establishes the position of director of medical affairs of the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs.

Dustin Guy, Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, 602 North 5th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 528.

Representative Galle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 528 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 528 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hughes, 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 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 715 by Representative Robby Carter

Representative Robby Carter offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 715, which creates a new parish court in St. Helena. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 715 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hughes, Jordan, LaCombe, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Resolution No. 3 by Representative Zeringue

On behalf of the author, Representative Robby Carter offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Resolution No. 3, which provides for the continuation of the Judicial Structure Task Force as established by House Resolution No. 30 of the 2022 Regular Session. Without objection, action on House Resolution No. 3 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hughes, Jordan, LaCombe, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 380 by Representative Zeringue

On behalf of the author, Representative Robby Carter offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 380, which provides relative to electronic filings. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 380 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hughes, Jordan, LaCombe, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 472 by Representative Zeringue

On behalf of the author, Representative Robby Carter offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 472, a constitutional amendment which provides relative to discipline of judges. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 472 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hughes, Jordan, LaCombe, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 772 by Representative Zeringue

Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 772, which provides relative to cemetery emergency assistance and disaster relief.

Representative Zeringue offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Add provisions relative to members of the task force and the appointment of a chairperson.
- (3) Add that the La. Dept. of Health, office of public health shall be advised of any public health or other concerns related to disinterred remains.
- (4) Add provisions relative to the powers and duties of the task force.
- (5) Remove provisions relative to authorizing the task force at the discretion of the chairman.

Representative Zeringue 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, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hughes, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Dr. Ryan M. Seidemann, Louisiana Cemetery Response Task Force, 1885 North 3rd St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 772.

Representative Orgeron offered a motion to report House Bill No. 772 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 772 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Jordan, LaCombe, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 433 by Representative Zeringue

Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 433, which provides with respect to annual financial reports on state and local court funding and expenses.

Representative Mack offered a motion to report House Bill No. 433 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 433 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Jordan, LaCombe, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 39 by Representative Zeringue

Representative Zeringue presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 39, which provides for the continuation of the Judicial Structure Task Force as established by House Resolution No. 30 of the 2022 Regular Session.

Sandra Vujnovich, judicial administrator, Louisiana Supreme Court, 400 Royal St., New Orleans, LA 70120, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 39.

Katherine Diamond, 2105 Kleinert Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 39.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 39 favorably, to which Representative Jordan objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Concurrent Resolution No. 39 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas, 5 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Hughes, Mandie

Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea. Representatives Brown, Green, Jordan, LaCombe, and LaFleur voted nay. Representative Robby Carter abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 557 by Representative McMakin

Representative McMakin presented House Bill No. 557, which provides relative to the Louisiana Protective Order Registry.

Representative Hughes offered a motion to report House Bill No. 557 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 557 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hughes, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 358 by Representative Bacala

Representative Bacala presented House Bill No. 358, which creates an additional judgeship for the 23rd Judicial District Court.

Judge Jason Verdigets, 23rd Judicial District Court, Ascension Parish, 607 E. Worthy, Gonzales, LA 70731, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 358.

Jennifer Eagan, Louisiana Supreme Court Judicial Admin., 400 Royal St., New Orleans, LA 70130, provided a handout, Exhibit F, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Green offered a motion to report House Bill No. 358 favorably, to which Representative Zeringue objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 358 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas, 1 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hughes, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mack, Orgeron, and Wiley voted yea. Representative Zeringue voted nay. Representative Robby Carter abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 439 by Representative Bacala

Representative Bacala presented House Bill No. 439, which provides relative to salary increases for clerks of court.

Louis Perret, Louisiana Clerks of Court Association, P.O. Box 2009, Lafayette, LA 70506, spoke in support of House Bill No. 439.

Representative Robby Carter provided a handout, Exhibit G, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 439 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 439 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Edmonston, Galle, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 20 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 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Robby Carter
House Committee on Judiciary