

## **House Committee on Judiciary**

Minutes of Meeting  
2024 Regular Session  
April 18, 2024

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

Representative Robby Carter, chairman of the House Committee on Judiciary, called the meeting to order at 10:01 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 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 A. Singletary, division director  
Gabrielle Lewis, attorney  
Jennifer Watson, committee administrative assistant

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Michael McCain, clerk  
Elizabeth Douglas, sergeant at arms  
Stephan Louis, sergeant at arms

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION****House Bill No. 831 by Representative Egan**

On behalf of the author, Representative Robby Carter offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 831, which provides relative to mandatory judicial training. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 831 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Hebert, LaFleur, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

**House Bill No. 145 by Representative Bagley**

Representative Bagley presented House Bill No. 145, which provides relative to group health insurance coverage for retired employees of the Sabine Parish District Attorney's Office.

On behalf of the author, Representative Robby Carter offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Add provisions which provide relative to the Winn Parish district attorney's office.

Representative Robby Carter 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, Hebert, LaFleur, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Chris Nevils, Winn Parish District Attorney, 205 West Main St., Winnfield, LA 71483, spoke in support of House Bill No. 145.

Representative Brown offered a motion to report House Bill No. 145 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 145 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Hebert, LaFleur, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

**House Bill No. 759 by Representative Robby Carter**

Representative Robby Carter presented House Bill No. 759, which creates an additional judgeship for the 21st Judicial District Court.

Judge Jeff Oglesbee, 21st Judicial District Court, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 759.

Representative Mack offered a motion to report House Bill No. 759 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 759 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mack, Orgeron, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

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

**House Bill No. 754 by Representative LaFleur**

Representative LaFleur presented House Bill No. 754, which provides relative to filing fees for the Complex Litigation Section Pilot Program in the 19th Judicial District Court.

Representative LaFleur offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Authorize the 19th Judicial District Court to establish the Complex Litigation Section Pilot Program.
- (3) Change provisions which provide relative to the collection and placement of all monies generated pursuant to proposed law.
- (4) Change provisions which provide relative to an annual audit.

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, Mack, Orgeron, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Diana Gibbens, 19th Judicial District Court, 300 North Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of House Bill No. 754.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 754 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 754 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0

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

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

### **House Bill No. 757 by Representative LaFleur**

Representative LaFleur presented House Bill No. 757, which provides relative to the judicial expense fund for the 19th Judicial District Court.

Representative LaFleur offered a motion to report House Bill No. 757 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 757 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mack, Orgeron, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

### **House Bill No. 876 by Representative Beullieu**

Representative Beullieu presented House Bill No. 876, which provides relative to the definition of "alternative nicotine product".

On behalf of Representative Beullieu, Representative Edmonston offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Edmonston offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mack, Orgeron, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Ashley Keuhn, ITG Brands, 888 17th St. NW, Ste. 600, Washington, D.C. 20006, spoke in support of House Bill No. 876.

Ryan Haynie, Altria, P.O. Box 44032, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 876, and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Eric Weinzettle, American Lung Association, 14066 Winterset Dr., Greenwell Springs, LA 70739, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 876.

Ernest Legier, commissioner, ATC, 7979 Independence Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 876.

Representative Brown offered a motion to report House Bill No. 876 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 876 was reported by substitute by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Green, Hebert, Hughes, Jordan, 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. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

### **House Bill No. 789 by Representative Bourriaque**

Representative Bourriaque presented House Bill No. 789, which provides relative to court reporter fees in the Fourteenth Judicial District.

On behalf of the author, Representative Jordan offered an amendment to require the judges to determine certain fees to be paid to court reporters. Representative Jordan offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Green, Hebert, Hughes, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Jennifer Eagan, Louisiana Supreme Court, 400 Royal St., New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 789.

Representative LaFleur offered an amendment to require Judicial Council approval of the additional fee. Representative LaFleur offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Green, Hebert, Hughes, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Green offered a motion to report House Bill No. 789 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 789 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Green, Hebert, Hughes, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

### **House Bill No. 864 by Representative Green**

Representative Green presented House Bill No. 864, which provides relative to the drug division probation program.

Representative Green offered an amendment to remove the word "legal" from the eligibility requirement. Representative Green offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Green, Hughes, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, and Wiley voted yea.

Representative Green offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Change provisions which provide relative to conditions of drug division probation.
- (3) Change provisions which provide relative to assessing the effectiveness of the drug division probation program.

Judge Shayna Beevers Morvant, 24th Judicial District Court, 200 Derbigny St., Ste. 4100, Gretna, LA 70053, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 864.

Representative Green 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, Green, Hughes, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, and Wiley voted yea.

Representative Green offered a motion to report House Bill No. 864 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 864 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Green, Hughes, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, and Wiley voted yea.

#### **House Bill No. 766 by Representative Knox**

Representative Knox presented House Bill No. 766, which provides relative to educational benefits for beneficiaries of qualified veterans.

Connor Junkin, Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, 602 North 5th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 766.

On behalf of Representative Knox, Representative Robby Carter offered a motion to adopt amendments to:

- (1) Award educational benefits to beneficiaries based on the discretion of the secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs or his designee.
- (2) Require beneficiaries to show proof of need for benefits.

Charlton Meginley, Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, 602 North 5th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 766.

After discussion, Representative Knox withdrew the amendment.

Representative LaFleur offered a motion to report House Bill No. 766 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 766 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby

Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Green, Hughes, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Ventrella, and Zeringue voted yea.

**House Bill No. 821 by Representative Romero**

Representative Romero presented House Bill No. 821, which provides relative to brewing facilities located in the state, and provided a handout, Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Cary Koch, Louisiana Craft Brewers Guild, 504 Lakeland Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 821.

Eric Avery, Louisiana Craft Brewers Guild, 1165 East McNeese St., Lake Charles, LA 70607, spoke in support of House Bill No. 821.

Adam Acquistapace, Acquistapace's, 125 East 21st Ave., Covington, LA 70433, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 821.

*Representative Green in the chair.*

Daniel Pritchett, Rouses Markets, 179 Rouses Dr., Schriever, LA 70395, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 821.

John Williams, Beer League, 575 North 8th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 821.

*Chairman Robby Carter in the chair.*

Representative Orgeron offered a motion to report House Bill No. 821 favorably, to which Representative Wiley objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 6 yeas and 12 nays. Representatives Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Galle, Mandie Landry, and Orgeron voted yea. Representatives Robby Carter, Brown, Edmonston, Green, Hebert, Hughes, Jordan, LaFleur, Mack, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support and 14 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**Senate Bill No. 271 by Senator Foil**

Senator Foil presented Senate Bill No. 271, which provides for relative concurrent jurisdiction of federal military installations within the state.

Representative Hughes offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 271 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 271 was reported favorably by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby

Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Hughes, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Ventrella, 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.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 271 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

#### **Senate Bill No. 103 by Senator Duplessis**

On behalf of the Senator Duplessis, Guy Holdridge, director, Louisiana State Law Institute, Room W127, Louisiana State University Law Center, 1 East Campus Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70803, presented Senate Bill No. 103, which provides for the appointment of interpreters in court proceedings.

Representative Green offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 103 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 103 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mack, Orgeron, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

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

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 103 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

#### **Senate Bill No. 36 by Senator Kleinpeter**

On behalf of the Senator Kleinpeter, Representative Ventrella presented Senate Bill No. 36, which provides for funding of certain insurance costs for retirees of the West Feliciana Parish Sheriff's Office.

Representative Green offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 36 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 36 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Hughes, LaFleur, Mack, Orgeron, Ventrella, 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. 663 by Representative Green**

Representative Green presented House Bill No. 663, which provides relative to court proceedings to be conducted via remote technology.

Representative Green offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Green 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, Galle, Green, Hebert, Hughes, LaFleur, Mack, Orgeron, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Jordan offered an amendment to remove the requirement of the discretion of the court to remotely receive witness testimony. Representative Jordan offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Hughes, Jordan, LaFleur, Mack, Orgeron, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 663 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 663 was reported by substitute by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Hughes, Jordan, LaFleur, 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. 54 by Representative Newell**

On behalf of the author, Representative Jordan offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 54, which provides relative to the regulation of cannabis. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 54 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Hughes, Jordan, LaFleur, Mack, Orgeron, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

#### **House Bill No. 370 by Representative Orgeron**

Representative Orgeron offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 370, which allows any wine producer or manufacturer to sell sparkling and still wine on or off premises and ship directly to a consumer. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 370 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Hughes, Jordan, LaFleur, Mack, Orgeron, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

#### **House Bill No. 951 by Representative Jordan**

Representative Jordan offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 951, which provides for collection and reporting of data. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 951 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Hughes, Jordan, LaFleur, Mack, Orgeron, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

**IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Robby Carter  
House Committee on Judiciary