

House Committee on Judiciary

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
May 1, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Robby Carter, chairman of the House Committee on Judiciary, called the meeting to order at 9:13 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 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 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 Kellee Hennessy Dickerson
Representative Jeremy S. LaCombe

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Michael McCain, clerk
Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms
Angela Mamou, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Resolution No. 133 by Representative Owen**

Representative Owen presented House Resolution No. 133, which requests the House Select Committee on Homeland Security to review state government actions during the COVID-19 Pandemic and postpandemic period and make recommendations to improve the government's response in future health emergencies.

Representative Orgeron offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 133 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 133 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Brown, Chenevert, Hebert, 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.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Resolution No. 133 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 496 by Representative Horton

Representative Horton presented House Bill No. 496, which provides relative to compensation for assistance with veterans benefits.

On behalf of the author, Representative Zeringue offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Zeringue offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Brown, Chenevert, Hebert, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Charlton Meginley, secretary, Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, 602 North 5th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 496.

Connor Junkin, Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, 602 North 5th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 496.

Michael Figlioli, VFW National Headquarters, 200 Maryland Ave. NE, Washington D.C. 20002, spoke in support of House Bill No. 496

Charles Aucoin, American Legion, 807 Hudson Dr., Westlake, LA 70669, spoke in support of House Bill No. 496.

Deron Santiny, Military Order of the Purple Heart, 214 Norine St., Lafayette, LA 70506, spoke in support of House Bill No. 496.

Hilmer Hermann, Jr., Disabled American Veterans, 602 North 5th St., Room 226, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 496.

Don Reber, VFW, 212F Brickell Way, Lafayette, LA 70508, spoke in support of House Bill No. 496.

Bobby Lovergne, VFW, 140 Angus Dr., Luling, LA 70070, spoke in support of House Bill No. 496.

Ray Bass, state quarter master, VFW, 22 Summerlin Dr., LaPlace LA 70068, spoke in support of House Bill No. 496.

Ray Colas, Veteran Benefits Guide, no address provided, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 496.

Peter O'Rourke, president, National Association for Veterans Rights, 2001 K St. NW, Washington, D.C., 20006, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 496.

Mark Christianson, chief of staff, Veterans Guardian, 75 Trotter Hills Cir., Pinehurst, NC 28374, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 496.

Milford Monroe, 496 Cross Gate Blvd., Slidell, LA 70461, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 496.

Representative LaFleur offered a technical amendment to House Bill No. 496. Representative LaFleur 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, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Hughes, Jordan, LaFleur, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative LaFleur offered a motion to report House Bill No. 496 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 496 was reported by substitute by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, 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: 6 in support and 13 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 915 by Representative Wyble

Representative Wyble presented House Bill No. 915, which prohibits the procurement of certain unmanned aircraft systems.

At the request of the author, Representative Robby Carter offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 915. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 915 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, 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: 3 in support and 4 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 915 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 60 by Representative Jordan

Representative Jordan presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 60, which requests a study of the feasibility and practicality of mayor's courts.

Representative Hughes offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 60 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 60 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Green, Hebert, Hughes, Jordan, LaFleur, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 370 by Representative Orgeron

Representative Orgeron presented 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, and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Daniel Pritchett, Rouses Markets, 179 Rouses Dr., Shriever, LA 70395, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 370.

Adam Acquistapace, Acquistapace's, 125 E. 21st Ave., Covington, LA 70433, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 370.

Nick Selby, Uncorked, 3140 Eads St., New Orleans, LA 70122, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 370.

John Williams, Beer Industry League, 575 North 8th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 370.

Representative Jordan offered a motion to report House Bill No. 370 favorably, to which Representative Mack objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas, 10 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Brown, Green, Jordan, Mandie Landry, and Orgeron voted yea. Representatives Braud, Chenevert, Edmonston, Hebert, Hughes, LaFleur, Mack, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted nay. Representative Robby Carter abstained.

Representative Robby Carter offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 370. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 370 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, 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, 14 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 370 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 380 by Representative Zeringue

Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 380, which provides relative to electronic filings.

Debbie Hudnall, Louisiana Clerks of Court Association, 10202 Jefferson Hwy., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 380.

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

- (1) Add the requirement of maintenance in order to support a statewide portal with a universal interface system for secure remote access by internet users to certain records maintained by Louisiana Clerks' Remote Access Authority (LCRAA) members.
- (2) Provide that the LCRAA adopt the uniform filing standards.

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

Representative Hughes offered a motion to report House Bill No. 380 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 380 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Edmonston, Green, Hebert, Hughes, 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.

House Bill No. 54 by Representative Newell

Representative Newell presented House Bill No. 54, which provides relative to the regulation of cannabis.

Kevin Caldwell, Marijuana Policy Project, 2370 Champlain St. NW, Ste. 12, Washington, D.C. 20009, spoke in support of House Bill No. 54.

Beau Druilhet, Gulf Coast Cannabis Solutions, 148 Levee View, River Ridge, LA 70123, spoke in support of House Bill No. 54.

On behalf of the author, 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 was adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Edmonston, Green, Hughes, Jordan, LaFleur, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Dr. Will Hall, Louisiana Baptist Office of Public Policy, 1250 MacArthur Dr., Alexandria, LA 71309, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 54, and provided handouts, Exhibit B and Exhibit C, which are included in the committee records.

Mike Ranatza, executive director, Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, 1175 Nicholson Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 54.

Representative Green offered a motion to report House Bill No. 54 by substitute, to which Representative Mack objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 54 was reported by substitute by a vote of 8 yeas and 6 nays. Representatives Braud, Brown, Green, Hebert, Hughes, Jordan, LaFleur, and Orgeron voted yea. Representatives Chenevert, Edmonston, Galle, Mack, Wiley, and Zeringue voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 9 in support, 1 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 54 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

Senate Bill No. 439 by Senator Mizell

Senator Mizell presented Senate Bill No. 439, which requires in-person trauma-informed training for law enforcement officers.

Representative Green offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 439 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 439 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Hughes, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support and 3 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 447 by Senator Mizell

Senator Mizell presented Senate Bill No. 447, which provides relative to coroners.

Representative Green offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 447 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 447 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, 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.

Senate Bill No. 223 by Senator Owen

Senator Owen presented Senate Bill No. 223, which provides for the definition of "solicitor" with respect to alcohol.

Representative Green offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 223 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 223 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Mack, Orgeron, Ventrella, and Wiley voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 227 by Senator Hodges

Senator Hodges presented Senate Bill No. 227, which provides for training requirements for part-time and reserve peace officers.

Mike Ranatza, executive director, Louisiana Sheriffs Association 1175 Nicholson Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 277.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 227 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 227 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Mack, Orgeron, Ventrella, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support and 3 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 177 by Senator Morris

Senator Morris presented Senate Bill No. 177, a constitutional amendment to increase the non-lawyer membership of and provide for the selection of judiciary commission members and to require investigations be conducted by directive of the supreme court.

On behalf of the author, Representative Robby Carter offered amendments to make technical changes. 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, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Orgeron, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Edward J. Walters, Jr., Judiciary Commission, 12345 Perkins Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70810, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 177.

Kelly Blackwell, Judiciary Commission, 400 Royal St., New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 177.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 177 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 177 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mack, 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.

Senate Bill No. 78 by Senator Morris

Senator Morris presented Senate Bill No. 78, a constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature, by law, to establish additional courts enacted by a two-thirds vote.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 78 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 78 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mack, Ventrella, and Zeringue voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 402 by Senator Duplessis

On behalf of Senator Duplessis, Representative Green presented Senate Bill No. 402, which provides that victims be allowed to directly address a defendant when providing a victim impact statement.

Representative Green offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 402 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 402 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mack, Orgeron, Ventrella, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 5 by Senator Fesi

On behalf of Senator Fesi, Representative Orgeron presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 5, which requests state and local law enforcement agencies to cooperate with federal authorities in discovering and closing clandestine branches of the Chinese Ministry of Public Security.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 5 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 5 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, LaFleur, Mack, Orgeron, Ventrella, 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.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 5 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

Senate Bill No. 159 by Senator Cathey

Senator Cathey presented Senate Bill No. 159, which creates the Preserving Lawful Utilization of Services for Veterans Act.

Peter O'Rourke, National Association for Veteran Rights, 2001 K St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20006, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 159. Peter O'Rourke provided a handout, Exhibit D, which is included in the committee records.

Ray Colas, Veteran Benefits Guide, no address provided, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 159.

Mark Christensen, Veterans Guardian, 75 Trotter Hills Cir., Pinehurst, NC 28374, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 159.

Charlton Meginley, Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, 602 North 5th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 159.

Connor Junkin, Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, 602 North 5th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 159.

Bobby Lovergne, VFW, 140 Angus Dr., Luling, LA 70070, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 159.

Michael Figlioli, VFW National Headquarters, 200 Maryland Ave. NE, Washington, D.C. 20002, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 159.

Don Reber, VFW, 212F Brickell Way, Lafayette, LA 70508, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 159.

Charles Aucoin, American Legion, 807 Hudson Dr., Westlake, LA 70669, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 159.

Hilmer P. Hermann, Jr., Disabled American Veterans, 602 North 5th St., Rm. 226, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 159.

Deron Santiny, Military Order of the Purple Heart, 214 Norine St., Lafayette, LA 70506, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill 159.

Representative Orgeron offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 159 favorably, to which Representative Mack objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 159 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas, 3 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Hebert, Mandie Landry, Orgeron, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea. Representatives Edmonston, Galle, and Mack voted nay. Representative Robby Carter abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support, 7 in opposition, and 5 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No.159 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 951 by Representative Jordan

Representative Robby Carter 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 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 452 by Senator McMath

On behalf of Senator McMath, Representative Robby Carter offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on Senate Bill No. 452, which provides relative to the coroner of St. Tammany Parish. Without objection, action on Senate Bill No. 452 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 208 by Senator Miguez

Senator Miguez presented Senate Bill No. 208, which provides for sanctuary policies.

Brian Sikma, Opportunity Solutions Project, 1181 Lowell Dr., Apt. 2, Oconomowoc, WI 53066, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 208.

Representative Jordan offered amendments to:

- (1) To make technical changes.
- (2) To add a definition of consent decree.
- (3) To add language concerning conflicts of laws.

Representative Jordan offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Ventrella objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 1 yeas, 10 nays, and 1 abstention. Representative Jordan voted yea. Representatives Braud, Chenevert, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Mack, Orgeron, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted nay. Representative Robby Carter abstained.

Tom Costanza, Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2431 South Acadian Thruway, Ste. 250, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 208.

Matthew Vogel, National Immigration Project, 4505 South Claiborne Ave., New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 208.

Walter Lemus, 3006 Bank St., New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 208.

Will Harrell, Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office, 2800 Perdido, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 208.

Tia Fields, NAACP, 12163 Strauss Dr, Baton Rouge, LA 70811, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 208.

Cristina Casas, CORI, 25316 Plantation Ave., Denham Springs, LA 70726, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 208.

Mary Yanik, 6329 Freret St., New Orleans, LA 70118, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 208.

Axel Rosa, 2540 Mississippi Ave., Metairie, LA 70003, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 208.

Sara Louis-Ayo 13632 House of Lancaster Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70816, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 208.

Representative Ventrella offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 208 favorably, to which Representative Jordan objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 208 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas, 3 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Braud, Chenevert, Edmonston, Galle, Hebert, Mack, Orgeron, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea. Representatives Green, Jordan, and LaFleur voted nay. Representative Robby Carter abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support and 21 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 208 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Robby Carter
House Committee on Judiciary