

House Committee on Judiciary

Minutes of Meeting
2025 Regular Session
April 24, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Robby Carter, chair of the House Committee on Judiciary, called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. in Room 1, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Kyle M. Green, Jr.
Representative Shane Mack
Representative Lauren Ventrella

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Karen Winfrey, attorney
Paula Jones, committee administrative assistant
Robert Singletary, director

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms
Michael McCain, clerk
Andrea Jerezano, committee administrative assistant
Cheryl Domino, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 545 by Representative Fisher**

At the request of the author, Representative Zeringue offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 545, which provides relative to certain pretrial intervention or diversion programs. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 545 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Edmonston, Gallé, LaCombe, Mandie Landry, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 361 by Representative Riser

Representative Riser presented House Bill No. 361, which provides relative to the payment of insurance premium costs by the Franklin Parish Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff David Rigdon, Franklin Parish Sheriff's Office, 6556 Main St., Winnsboro, LA 71295, spoke in support of House Bill No. 361.

Representative LaCombe offered a motion to report House Bill No. 361 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 361 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Edmonston, Gallé, LaCombe, Mandie Landry, 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 Resolution No. 30 by Representative Butler

Representative Butler presented House Resolution No. 30, which designates the city of Opelousas as the Horse Capital of Louisiana.

Daniel Lyons, Louisiana Equine Industry, 1438 Jessie Richard Rd., Church Point, LA 70525, spoke for information only on House Resolution No. 30.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 30 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 30 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Dickerson, Edmonston, Gallé, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 66 by Representative Romero

Representative Romero presented House Bill No. 66, which provides relative to qualifications for participation in the Employee Insurance Fund for the Jefferson Davis Parish Sheriff's Office.

Kyle Miers, Jefferson Davis Sheriff's Office, 13050 Abell Rd., Welsh, LA 70591, spoke in support of House Bill No. 66.

Representative Wiley offered a motion to report House Bill No. 66 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 66 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Dickerson, Edmonston, Gallé, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, 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. 189 by Representative Travis Johnson

Representative Travis Johnson presented House Bill No. 189, which provides relative to certain retirees of the East Carroll Parish Sheriff's Dept.

Sheriff Kevin Cobb, Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, no address provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 189.

Representative Wiley offered a motion to report House Bill No. 189 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 189 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Dickerson, Edmonston, Gallé, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, 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. 249 by Representative Dewitt

On behalf of Representative Dewitt, Speaker Pro Tempore Mike Johnson presented House Bill No. 249, which provides relative to the use of court costs and civil filing fees in the City Court of Alexandria.

Judge Richard E. Starling, Jr., Alexandria City Court, 515 Washington St., Alexandria, LA 71301, spoke in support of House Bill No. 249.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 249 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 249 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Dickerson, Edmonston, Gallé, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, 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. 387 by Representative Dickerson

Representative Dickerson presented House Bill No. 387, which provides relative to care for nonveterans.

Connor Junkin, executive counsel, Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs (LDVA), 605 N. Fifth St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 387.

Representative Orgeron offered a motion to report House Bill No. 387 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 387 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Dickerson, Edmonston, Gallé, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, 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. 468 by Representative Adams

Representative Adams presented House Bill No. 468, which provides relative to the Civilian Honor Medal Program.

Connor Junkin, LDVA, 605 N. Fifth St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 468.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 468 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 468 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Dickerson, Edmonston, Gallé, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 60 by Representative Gallé

Representative Gallé presented House Bill No. 60, which provides relative to healthcare facilities operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs for war veterans.

Connor Junkin, LDVA, 605 N. Fifth St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 60.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to report House Bill No. 60 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 60 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Dickerson, Edmonston, Gallé, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 123 by Representative Carlson

Representative Carlson presented House Bill No. 123, which provides relative to deferral of costs and fees associated with electronic filing requirements.

Representative Zeringue offered an amendment to provide that costs charged by third party vendors are included in the definition of "court costs". Representative Zeringue 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, Dickerson, Edmonston, Gallé, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Alex Reinboth, Louisiana Department of Justice, 1885 N. 3rd St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke as a designee of Attorney General Liz Murrill in support of House Bill No. 123.

Larry Frieman, Louisiana Department of Justice, 1885 N. 3rd St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke as a designee of Attorney General Liz Murrill in support of House Bill No. 123.

Representative Gallé offered a motion to report House Bill No. 123 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 123 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Dickerson, Edmonston, Gallé, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 155 by Representative Muscarello

Representative Muscarello presented House Bill No. 155, which provides for a statewide revision of court reporter fees.

Jennifer Eagan, Louisiana Supreme Court, 400 Royal St., New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 155, and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Representative LaCombe offered amendments to change the number of lines per page from thirty-one to thirty-two lines per page. Representative LaCombe offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Brown, Dickerson, Edmonston, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Orgeron, and Wiley voted yea.

Peter Gilberti, Louisiana Court Reporters Association, P.O. Box 6705, Metairie, LA 70009, spoke in support of House Bill No. 155.

Guy Cormier, Police Jury Association of Louisiana, 707 N. Seventh St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 155.

Representative Wiley offered a motion to report House Bill No. 155 with amendments, to which Representative Robby Carter objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 155 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Gallé, Hebert, LaFleur, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea. Representatives Robby Carter, Edmonston, LaCombe, and Mandie Landry voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 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 10:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Robby Carter
House Committee on Judiciary