

House Committee on Judiciary

Minutes of Meeting
2025 Regular Session
April 30, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Robby Carter, chair of the House Committee on Judiciary, called the meeting to order at 9:09 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 Emily Chenevert
Representative Kellee Hennessy Dickerson
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 Jeffrey Fons "Jeff" Wiley
Representative Jerome Zeringue

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Chad Brown
Representative Kathy Edmonston, vice chair
Representative Lauren Ventrella

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Michael McCain, clerk
Andrea Jerezano, staff
Cheryl Domino, sergeant at arms
Rebecca Marshall, sergeant at arms
Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 80 by Representative Dewitt**

Representative Dewitt presented House Bill No. 80, which provides relative to first responders.

Ryan Haney, Shelton Energy Services, P.O. Box 44032, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke in support of House Bill No. 80.

Representative Hughes offered a motion to report House Bill No. 80 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 80 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Gallé, Hebert, Hughes, 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. 273 by Representative Spell

Representative Spell presented House Bill No. 273, which establishes the official state children's book.

Representative LaCombe offered an amendment to clarify that the book shall be the state children's "Christmas" book. Representative LaCombe offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Gallé, Hebert, Hughes, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Austin Lewis, Office of Governor Jeff Landry, 900 N. 3rd St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke as the designee of Governor Jeff Landry in support of House Bill No. 273.

Scott Campbell, Pelican Publishing, 900 Corporate Dr., New Orleans, LA 70123, spoke in support of House Bill No. 273.

Representative LaCombe offered a motion to report House Bill No. 273 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 273 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Gallé, Hebert, Hughes, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 27 by Representative Gallé

Representative Gallé offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 27, which provides relative to the release of inmates during a declared disaster. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 27 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Gallé, Hebert, Hughes, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 481 by Representative Phelps

At the request of the author, Representative LaCombe offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 481, which provides relative to limitations on the issuance of certain alcoholic beverage permits. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 481 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Gallé, Hebert, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 26 by Representative Wyble

Representative Wyble presented House Bill No. 26, which provides relative to legal holidays in recognition of the Washington Parish Free Fair.

Representative LaCombe offered a motion to report House Bill No. 26 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 26 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Gallé, Hebert, 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. 113 by Representative Wyble

Representative Wyble presented House Bill No. 113, which provides relative to the sale of alcoholic beverages in Washington Parish.

Representative LaCombe offered a motion to report House Bill No. 113 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 113 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Gallé, Hebert, Hughes, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 563 by Representative LaCombe

Representative LaCombe presented House Bill No. 563, which provides relative to manufacturing brewers.

Representative LaCombe offered amendments to clarify that only the products brewed at the facility may be sold at the facility and provide that in addition to selling the products at the facility, products may be served and sold at a local farmer's market. Representative LaCombe 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, Chenevert, Dickerson, Hebert, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Cary Koch, Louisiana Craft Brewers Guild, 633 Lakeland Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 563.

Representative Orgeron offered a motion to report House Bill No. 563 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 563 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Hebert, 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 and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 307 by Representative Henry

Representative Henry presented House Bill No. 307, which requires individuals requesting public assistance who are not United States citizens be reported to United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

On behalf of Representative Henry, Representative LaCombe offered an amendment to provide that the Secretary of State shall also receive an annual report from the agencies on the results of the verification requirements including the number of individuals reported to ICE and the number of individuals whose benefits were terminated. Representative LaCombe 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, Chenevert, Dickerson, Hebert, LaCombe, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Allen Cambon, FGA Action, 423 Dumas Rd., Forsyth, GA 31029, spoke in support of House Bill No. 307.

Representative Orgeron offered a motion to report House Bill No. 307 with amendments, to which Representative Mandie Landry objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 307 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas, 5 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Gallé, Hebert, LaCombe, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea. Representatives Green, Hughes, Jordan, LaFleur, and Mandie Landry voted nay. Representative Robby Carter abstained.

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

Prepared statements were received via email.

House Bill No. 212 by Representative Orgeron

Representative Orgeron presented House Bill No. 212, which provides relative to container sizes for beverages of high alcohol content.

Representative Orgeron offered an amendment to provide that wine container sizes of two hundred milliliters shall be packed with not more than forty-eight wine containers per shipping case. Representative Orgeron 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, Chenevert, Dickerson, Gallé, Green, Hebert, Hughes, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Orgeron offered an amendment to provide that the container size per shipping container shall not apply to package distilled spirit-based beverages with an alcohol content below six percent. Representative Orgeron 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, Chenevert, Dickerson, Gallé, Green, Hebert, Hughes, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Bernie Ralston, Select Brands, 3221 Canard Rd., Kenner, LA 70065, spoke in support of House Bill No. 212.

Representative Green offered a motion to report House Bill No. 212 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 212 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Gallé, Green, Hebert, 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: 6 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 134 by Representative Wilford Carter

Representative Wilford Carter presented House Bill No. 134, which provides relative to the marshal of the city court of Lake Charles.

Representative LaFleur offered a motion to report House Bill No. 134 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 134 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Gallé, Green, Hebert, Hughes, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 412 by Representative Romero

Representative Romero presented House Bill No. 412, which provides relative to alternative nicotine products.

Ashlie Kuehn, ITG Brands, 888 17th St., Washington D.C. 20007, spoke in support of House Bill No. 412.

Ryan Haynie, Altria, P.O. Box 44032, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 412.

Commissioner Ernest Legier, Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control, 7979 Independence Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 412.

Chad M. Rogers, 1817 Flood St., New Orleans, LA 70117, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 412.

Representative Green offered a motion to report House Bill No. 412 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 412 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Gallé, Green, Hebert, 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: 4 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 96 by Representative Knox

Representative Knox presented House Bill No. 96, which adds the United States Space Force to various statutory definitions of United States Armed Forces.

Connor Junkin, Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, 605 North 5th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 96.

Representative Green offered a motion to report House Bill No. 96 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 96 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Gallé, Green, Hebert, Hughes, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, 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 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Robby Carter
House Committee on Judiciary