

House Committee on Judiciary

Minutes of Meeting
2025 Regular Session
May 15, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Robby Carter, chair of the House Committee on Judiciary, called the meeting to order at 9:07 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 Kyle M. Green, Jr.
Representative Troy Jude Hebert
Representative Jason Hughes
Representative Edmond Jordan
Representative Vanessa Caston LaFleur
Representative Mandie Landry
Representative Joseph A. Orgeron
Representative Lauren Ventrella
Representative Jeffrey Fons "Jeff" Wiley
Representative Jerome Zeringue

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Jeremy S. LaCombe
Representative Shane Mack

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms
Johane Connor, sergeant at arms
Andrea Jerezano, administrative assistant
Michael McCain, clerk
Amelia Carman, clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**Motion to Limit Debate**

Representative Wiley offered a motion to invoke the three-minute rule. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Dickerson, Edmonston, Gallè, Green, Hebert, Hughes, Jordan, LaFleur, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yeas.

House Bill No. 64 by Representative Mike Johnson

Representative Mike Johnson presented House Bill No. 64, which provides relative to legal representation of sovereign interests of the state.

Attorney General Liz Murrill, Department of Justice, 1885 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 64.

Max Martin, Power Coalition, 5527 North Afton Parkway, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 64.

Representative Gallè offered a motion to report House Bill No. 64 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 64 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Dickerson, Edmonston, Gallè, Green, Hebert, Hughes, Jordan, LaFleur, Orgeron, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yeas.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in opposition and 1 designee of an elected official. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 64.

House Bill No. 27 by Representative Gallè

At the request of the author, Representative Robby Carter 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 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Dickerson, Edmonston, Gallè, Green, Hebert, Hughes, Jordan, LaFleur, Orgeron, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 63 by Representative Green

Representative Green presented House Bill No. 63, a constitutional amendment which provides relative to the mandatory retirement of judges.

Representative Green offered an amendment to provide that a judge shall not remain in office after reaching seventy years of age and his maximum retirement compensation. Representative Green 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, Brown, Dickerson, Edmonston, Galle, Green, Hebert, Hughes, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Glenn Ansardi, Louisiana District Judges Association, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 63.

Representative Green offered a motion to report House Bill No. 63 with amendments, to which Representative Zeringue objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 63 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas, 3 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Braud, Brown, Dickerson, Edmonston, Gallè, Green, Hebert, Hughes, Jordan, LaFleur, Ventrella, and Wiley voted yea. Representatives Mandie Landry, Orgeron, and Zeringue voted nay. Representative Robby Carter abstained.

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. 303 by Representative Bayham

Representative Bayham presented House Bill No. 303, which creates the Fugitive Apprehension Unit within the office of the attorney general.

Attorney General Liz Murrill, Department of Justice, 1885 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 303.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 303 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 303 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Dickerson, Edmonston, Gallè, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Orgeron, Ventrella, and Wiley 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. 481 by Representative Phelps

Representative Phelps presented House Bill No. 481, which provides relative to limitations on the issuance of certain alcoholic beverage permits.

Representative Edmonston offered amendments to provide that the limitation on the issuance of permits shall apply only to Class B or Class C permits for licensed premises that contain less than 5,000 square feet of public habitable floor area and that beginning on August 1, 2025, and ending on December 31, 2026, no permits for the sale of high or low alcoholic beverages issued under present law shall be granted within the boundaries of District 3 of the Louisiana House of Representatives.

Representative Edmonston 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, Dickerson, Edmonston, Gallè, Hebert, Hughes, LaFleur, Orgeron, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Orgeron offered a motion to report House Bill No. 481 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 481 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Dickerson, Edmonston, Gallè, Hebert, Hughes, LaFleur, Orgeron, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 310 by Representative Zeringue

Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 310, which provides relative to filings in civil and criminal courts.

William Sherman, 1455 Aris Avenue, Metairie, LA 70005, spoke in support of House Bill No. 310. Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 310 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 310 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Dickerson, Edmonston, Gallè, Hebert, LaFleur, 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. 120 by Representative Wiley

Representative Wiley presented House Bill No. 120, which provides relative to death benefits for members of the Louisiana State Guard.

Connor Junkin, Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, 602 N. Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 120.

Further action was taken by the committee on House Bill No. 120 at a later point in the meeting. Please check for the subsequent action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 120.

House Bill No. 116 by Representative Egan

Representative Egan presented House Bill No. 116, which provides relative to the Louisiana Military Family Assistance Fund.

Connor Junkin, Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, 602 N. Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 116.

On behalf of the author, Representative Edmonston offered an amendment to provide that payment for burial fees and costs may be paid for the spouses of deceased indigent veterans. Representative Edmonston 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, Gallè, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Orgeron, Ventrella, and Wiley voted yea.

Representative LaFleur offered a motion to report House Bill No. 116 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 116 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Gallè, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Orgeron, Ventrella, and Wiley 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. 120 by Representative Wiley

This is a continuation of the discussion on House Bill No. 120 from earlier in the meeting. Please check for the prior action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 120.

Representative Wiley offered amendments to provide for death and disability benefits for any declared national emergency or contingency operations where activation was ordered between September 11, 2001, and September 11, 2021, and to provide that all claims for disability benefits for injuries incurred while on Title 10 or Title 32 of United States Code duty shall be submitted no later than June 30, 2026.

Representative Wiley 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, Gallè, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Major General Thomas Friloux, Louisiana National Guard, 6400 Saint Claude Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70117, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 120.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 120 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 120 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Gallè, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, 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. 409 by Representative LaFleur

Representative LaFleur presented House Bill No. 409, which provides relative to court commissioners of the 19th Judicial District Court.

Representative LaFleur offered an amendment to remove the authority of commissioners to handle protective orders and matters of domestic violence in civil matters. Representative LaFleur 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, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Gallè, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Orgeron, Ventrella, and Wiley voted yea.

Representative LaFleur offered a motion to report House Bill No. 409 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 409 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Gallè, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Orgeron, Ventrella, and Wiley 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.

House Resolution No. 149 by Representative McMakin

Representative McMakin presented House Resolution No. 149, which directs the Louisiana State Law Institute to study the justice of peace courts in Louisiana.

Representative Jordan offered an amendment to remove certain language regarding the need for their existence and the process necessary to abolish the courts. No vote was taken.

Representative Robby Carter offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Resolution No. 149. Without objection, action on House Resolution No. 149 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Gallè, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Orgeron, Ventrella, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

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

Prepared statements were received via email for House Resolution No. 149.

Further action was taken by the committee on House Resolution No. 149 at a meeting held on May 22, 2025. Please check for the subsequent action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Resolution No. 149.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Robby Carter
House Committee on Judiciary