

House Committee on Judiciary

Minutes of Meeting
2025 Regular Session
May 22, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Robby Carter, chair of the House Committee on Judiciary, called the meeting to order at 11:02 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 Shane Mack
Representative Joseph A. Orgeron
Representative Jeffrey Fons "Jeff" Wiley
Representative Jerome Zeringue

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Kyle M. Green, Jr.
Representative Lauren Ventrella

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Paula Jones, committee administrative assistant
Robert A. Singletary, division director

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Andrea Jerezano, committee administrative assistant
Don-Trae' Davis, clerk

Marcellus Veal, sergeant at arms
Rebecca Marshall, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 644 by Representative Brown

Representative Brown presented House Bill No. 644, which provides for the assessment of a fee for filing civil and criminal matters.

Representative Brown offered an amendment to provide an effective date of January 1, 2026, if approved by the Judicial Council. Representative Brown 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, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Gallé, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Judge Staci Wiley, Louisiana Judicial College, 119 W. Main Street Winnfield, LA 71483, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 644.

Judge Sharon Wilson, Judiciary Commission, 1000 Main Street, Lake Charles, LA 70616, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 644.

Representative LaCombe offered a motion to report House Bill No. 644 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 644 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Gallé, Hebert, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Bill No. 545 by Representative Fisher

Representative Fisher presented House Bill No. 545, which provides relative to certain pretrial intervention or diversion programs.

Zachary T. Daniels, executive director, Louisiana District Attorneys Association, 2525 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 545.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 545. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 545 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Gallé, Hebert, Hughes, LaCombe, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 52 by Representative Marcelle

On behalf of Representative Marcelle, Representative Hughes presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 52, which requests the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice and all Louisiana state and local law enforcement agencies to improve crime data reporting.

Rebekah Taylor Hill, Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement, 602 North 5th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 52.

Representative Hughes offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 52 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 52 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, 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: 3 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 66 by Senator Foil

On behalf of Senator Foil, Connor Junkin, Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, 602 N. Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, presented Senate Bill No. 66, which provides relative to discrimination based on military status in education, employment, public accommodations and housing options.

Monique Blossom, Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center, 1340 Poydras Street, Suite 710, New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 66.

Representative Edmonston offered amendments to define "military status" as it applies to Title 51 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 and add that term to certain provisions of that Title. Representative Edmonston offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Gallé, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Dickerson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 66 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 66 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Dickerson, Edmonston, Gallé, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mandie Landry, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 128 by Senator Carter

Senator Carter presented Senate Bill No. 128, which requires a written report when any law enforcement officer uses force on a member of the public.

Representative Jordan offered amendments to add that physical force includes force sufficient to cause or reasonably known to cause serious bodily harm and to remove the authorization to cite proposed law as "Shantel Arnold's Law". Representative Jordan 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, Gallé, Hebert, Jordan, LaCombe, LaFleur, Mack, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Shannon Dirmann, Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, 1175 Nicholson Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 128.

Kevin Cobb, Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, 1175 Nicholson Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 128.

Representative Galle offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 128 with amendments with the recommendation to recommit the bill to the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 128 was reported with amendments with the recommendation to recommit the bill to the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Braud, Brown, Chenevert, Edmonston, Gallé, Hebert, Hughes, Jordan, LaFleur, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yeas.

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

House Resolution No. 149 by Representative McMakin

This is a continuation of the discussion on House Resolution No. 149 from a meeting held on May 15, 2025. Please check for the prior action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Resolution No. 149.

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

Representative Brown offered an amendment to remove references relative to abolishing the courts. Representative Brown 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, Dickerson, Edmonston, Gallé, Hebert, Jordan, LaFleur, Mack, Orgeron, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yeas.

Connie G. Moore, Louisiana Justices of the Peace and Constables Association, 73477 Tammy Lane, Covington, LA 70435, spoke in opposition to House Resolution No. 149.

Judge Kevin J. Centanni, Louisiana Justices of the Peace and Constables Association, 1803 Williams Boulevard, Kenner, LA 70062, spoke in opposition to House Resolution No. 149.

Judge Matt Hagen, City Court Judges Association, 8046 Main Street, Houma, LA 70360, spoke for information only on House Resolution No. 149.

Judge Tamika Francis Garrison, 711 Oak Street, Donaldsonville, LA 70346, spoke for information only on House Resolution No. 149.

Representative LaFleur offered amendments to specify that the data collection is regarding methods of funding and expenditures and to change directions to the Louisiana State Law Institute to provide a report rather than to provide recommendations. Representative LaFleur 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, Edmonston, Gallé, Hebert, Hughes, Jordan, LaFleur, Mack, Wiley, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Zeringue offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 149 with amendments, to which Representative Wiley objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Resolution No. 149 was reported with amendments by a vote of 7 yeas, 6 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Braud, Chenevert, Edmonston, Gallé, Hebert, Orgeron, and Zeringue voted yea. Representatives Brown, Hughes, Jordan, LaFleur, Mack, and Wiley voted nay. Representative Robby Carter abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in opposition and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for 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 1:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Robby Carter
House Committee on Judiciary