

House Committee on Health and Welfare

Minutes of Meeting
2020 First Extraordinary Session
June 16, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Lawrence A. "Larry" Bagley, chairman of the House Committee on Health and Welfare, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in Room 5, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Lawrence A. "Larry" Bagley, chairman
Representative Christopher Turner, vice chairman
Representative Roy Daryl Adams
Representative Raymond J. Crews
Representative Michael Charles Echols
Representative Jason Hughes
Representative C. Travis Johnson
Representative Ed Larvadain, III
Representative Wayne McMahan
Representative Patricia "Pat" Moore
Representative Robert "Bob" Owen
Representative Thomas A. Pressly
Representative Larry Selders

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Robby Carter
Representative Kenny R. Cox
Representative Julie Emerson
Representative Dustin Miller
Representative Joseph A. Stagni

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Shayla Cockerm, attorney
Drew Murray, legislative analyst
Felicie Jackson, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Blaine Sylvester, sergeant at arms

Faye Talbot, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Resolution No. 19 by Representative Willard**

Representative Willard presented House Resolution No. 19, which directs the La. Department of Health to implement certain policies for the health and safety of long-term care facility residents.

Representative Hughes offered amendments which:

1. Add the Department of Veterans Affairs (LDVA) as an agency that is subject to the directives of the Resolution;
2. Delete requirements for the establishment and administration of a statewide long-term care emergency response task force;
3. Revise provisions requiring long-term care facilities to establish and implement a COVID-19 testing protocol to require instead that the La. Department of Health (LDH) and LDVA provide all long-term care facilities the ability to follow protocols of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), or other federal or state protocols, to use testing to verify that all facility residents and staff are free of COVID-19 infection;
4. Delete a requirement that a state-operated web platform containing COVID-19 data from long-term care facilities make de-identified data available immediately upon reporting;
5. Delete requirements that LDH establish a protocol for steps that each long-term care facility must take once a resident or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 and that this protocol be implemented by each such facility;
6. Revise a requirement relative to establishment of an isolation protocol to require instead that LDH and LDVA provide CDC-recommended isolation protocols, including but not limited to cohorting, for long-term care facility residents who test positive for COVID-19;
7. Delete a requirement that LDH implement the use of personal information forms for each long-term care facility resident to allow all staff to quickly identify essential information about the person to help maintain a stable and comforting environment;

8. Require that LDH and LDVA establish a clear process for stakeholders and patient advocacy organizations to communicate pressing issues and implement solutions; and
9. Provide that the policies set forth in the resolution shall be implemented as long as LDH and LDVA accept state and federal funding to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

Representative Hughes offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Turner, Adams, Echols, Hughes, Larvadain, McMahan, Moore, Pressly, and Selders voted yea.

Brad Wellons, 3043 St Phillip St, New Orleans, LA 70119, (601) 422-9575, spoke in support of House Resolution No. 19.

Representative Bagley offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Resolution No. 19, to which Representative Hughes objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 1 yea, 11 nays, and 1 abstention. Representative Turner voted yea. Representatives Adams, Crews, Echols, Hughes, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, McMahan, Moore, Robert Owen, Pressly, and Selders voted nay. Representative Bagley abstained.

Representative Bagley offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 19 with amendments with recommendation that it be recommitted to the House Committee on Appropriations. Without objection, House Resolution No. 19 was reported with amendments with recommendation that it be recommitted to the House Committee on Appropriations by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Turner, Adams, Crews, Echols, Hughes, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, McMahan, Moore, Robert Owen, Pressly, and Selders voted yea.

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

House Resolution No. 16 by Representative Villio

Representative Villio presented House Resolution No. 16, which directs the Louisiana Department of Health to compile certain data regarding the implementation of a Medicaid managed long-term supports and services system.

Mark Berger, Louisiana Nursing Home Association, 7844 Office Park Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (504) 927-5642, spoke in opposition to House Resolution No. 16.

Representative Bagley offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Resolution No. 16. Without objection, action on House Resolution No. 16 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Turner, Adams, Crews, Hughes, Larvadain, McMahan, Moore, Robert Owen, Pressly, and Selders voted yea.

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

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 6 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Crews offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Turner, Adams, Crews, Hughes, Larvadain, McMahan, Moore, Robert Owen, Pressly, and Selders voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Lawrence A. "Larry" Bagley
House Committee on Health and Welfare

Date adopted: October 20, 2020