

House Committee on Health and Welfare

Minutes of Meeting
2021 Regular Session
May 18, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Lawrence A. "Larry" Bagley, chairman of the House Committee on Health and Welfare, called the meeting to order at 9:09 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 Roy Daryl Adams
Representative Robby Carter
Representative Kenny R. Cox
Representative Raymond J. Crews
Representative Michael Charles Echols
Representative Jason Hughes
Representative Ed Larvadain, III
Representative Wayne McMahan
Representative Dustin Miller
Representative Patricia "Pat" Moore
Representative Thomas A. Pressly
Representative Larry Selders
Representative Joseph A. Stagni
Representative Christopher Turner, vice chairman

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Julie Emerson
Representative C. Travis Johnson
Representative Robert "Bob" Owen

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Meah Johnson, attorney
Drew Murray, legislative analyst
Kristy Neubrandner, committee administrative assistant

Nevonda S. Reed, division director

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Faye Talbot, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Senate Bill No. 194 by Senator Boudreaux

Senator Boudreaux presented Senate Bill No. 194, which provides for an extension to the moratorium on additional beds for nursing facilities.

Representative Bagley offered amendments to revise proposed law providing that the prohibition on additional nursing facilities and beds shall not apply to the replacement of existing facilities so long as there is no increase in existing nursing home beds within the same service area to provide, simply, that the prohibition on additional nursing facilities and beds shall not apply to the replacement of existing facilities so long as there is no increase in existing nursing home beds (deleting the service area condition). Representative Bagley offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Robby Carter, Echols, Larvadain, McMahan, Dustin Miller, Moore, Pressly, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Mark Berger, Louisiana Nursing Home Association, 7844 Office Park Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 927-5647, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 194.

Representative Larvadain offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 194 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 194 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Robby Carter, Echols, Larvadain, McMahan, Dustin Miller, Moore, Pressly, Stagni, and Turner 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. 150 by Senator Barrow

On behalf of Senator Barrow, Senator Boudreaux presented Senate Bill No. 150, which requires the Office of Group Benefits to cover bariatric surgery techniques for the treatment of severe obesity.

Philip Gachassin, Louisiana Bariatric Surgery Association, 1000 Pinhook Road, Suite 310, Lafayette, LA 70503, (337) 233-9900, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 150.

David Couvillon, Office of Group Benefits, 1201 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9670, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 150.

Representative Bagley offered a technical amendment. Representative Bagley offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Robby Carter, Cox, Crews, Echols, Larvadain, McMahan, Dustin Miller, Moore, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Bagley offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 150 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 150 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Robby Carter, Cox, Crews, Echols, Larvadain, McMahan, Dustin Miller, Moore, Stagni, and Turner 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.

Senate Bill No. 48 by Senator Pope

Senator Pope presented Senate Bill No. 48, which provides relative to continuing education requirements imposed by the Louisiana Board of Hearing Aid Dealers.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 48 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 48 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Robby Carter, Cox, Crews, Echols, Larvadain, McMahan, Dustin Miller, Moore, Pressly, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 93 by Senator Pope

Senator Pope presented Senate Bill No. 93, which provides relative to telehealth services provided by licensed hearing aid dealers.

Representative Bagley offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 93 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 93 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Robby Carter, Cox, Crews, Echols, Larvadain, McMahan, Dustin Miller, Moore, Pressly, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 151 by Senator Barrow

On behalf of Senator Barrow, Marketa Walters, secretary, Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), 627 North 4th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-6930, presented Senate Bill No. 151, which enacts the Foster Youth's Bill of Rights for youth ages 14 through 18 in foster care.

Jarvis Spearman, Louisiana Elite Advocacy Force (LEAF), 1408 Tech Farm Road, Apartment 1210, Ruston, LA 71270, (318) 819-8803, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 151.

Tiffany Cruz, LEAF, 23180 Highway 22, Maurepas, LA 70449, (225) 773-9041, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 151.

Aliyah Zeien, LEAF, 8686 Coy Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (985) 215-9538, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 151.

Representative Bagley offered amendments to:

1. Revise proposed law providing for the right of a foster youth to be free from discrimination by deleting a reference to the race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic, or social origin, property, disability, birth, or other status of a parent.
2. Make a technical change.

Representative Bagley offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Robby Carter, Cox, Crews, Echols, Larvadain, McMahan, Dustin Miller, Moore, Pressly, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Bagley offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 151 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 151 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Robby Carter, Cox, Crews, Larvadain, McMahan, Dustin Miller, Moore, Pressly, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support. 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: 1 in support. A copy of this statement is included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 155 by Senator Bouie

Senator Bouie presented Senate Bill No. 155, which provides relative to the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act.

Representative Bagley offered amendments to:

1. Revise proposed law to provide that any social worker from another state, territory, commonwealth, or the District of Columbia seeking authority to practice in La. through reciprocity or endorsement of credentials shall be credentialed and in good standing with their respective social work regulatory board or agency based on educational, supervision, and examination requirements that are substantially equivalent to this state's.
2. Revise proposed law relative to licensure by reciprocity or endorsement to provide that if a state, territory, commonwealth, or the District of Columbia does not have credentialing requirements for social workers that are substantially equivalent to those of this state, the La. State Board of Social Work Examiners may require a social worker to obtain the requisite educational, supervision, and examination requirements in accordance with present law and proposed law.
3. Make technical changes.

Representative Bagley offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Robby Carter, Cox, Crews, Larvadain, McMahan, Moore, Pressly, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Ann Stehr, National Association of Social Workers - Louisiana, 18906 Spyglass Hill, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 241-0919, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 155.

Carmen Weisner, 5531 Summer Lake, Baton Rouge, LA 70811, (225) 751-0664, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 155.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 155 with amendments, to which Representative Crews objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 155 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 1 nays. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Cox, Echols, Hughes, McMahan, Dustin Miller, Moore, Pressly, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea. Representative Crews voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support, 1 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 472 by Representative Marino

This is a continuation of the discussion on House Bill No. 472 from May 4, 2021, and May 12, 2021. Please check for the prior action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 472.

Representative Marino presented House Bill No. 472, which provides relative to specialty licenses for the production of medical marijuana and the Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission.

Jerry Bologna, Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission, 700 Churchill Parkway, Avondale, LA 70094, (504) 289-9410, spoke in support of House Bill No. 472.

Ashley Mullens, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, 103 Efferson Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, (225) 278-1980, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 472.

C. Reuben Walker, Southern University Agricultural Center, Fisher Hall, Room 118, Baton Rouge, LA 70813, (225) 771-3206, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 472.

Representative Bagley offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 472, to which Representative Stagni objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and action on House Bill No. 472 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 9 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Cox, Larvadain, McMahan, Dustin Miller, Moore, Selders, and Turner voted yea. Representatives Hughes and Stagni voted nay.

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.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Dustin Miller offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Cox, Hughes, McMahan, Dustin Miller, Moore, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: