

House Committee on Health and Welfare

Minutes of Meeting
2022 Regular Session
April 12, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Lawrence A. "Larry" Bagley, chairman of the House Committee on Health and Welfare, called the meeting to order at 9:04 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 Julie Emerson
Representative Jason Hughes
Representative C. Travis Johnson
Representative Ed Larvadain, III
Representative Wayne McMahan
Representative Dustin Miller
Representative Robert "Bob" Owen
Representative Thomas A. Pressly
Representative Larry Selders
Representative Joseph A. Stagni
Representative Christopher Turner, vice chairman

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Patricia "Pat" Moore

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Representative Beryl Amedee
Representative Kathy Edmonston
Representative Larry Frieman
Representative Troy Romero
Braley Trabeau, committee clerk
Faye Talbot, sergeant at arms
Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms
Stephen Louis, assistant sergeant at arms
Danny Leming, assistant chief sergeant at arms
Nevonda Reed, division director

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 295 by Representative Romero**

Representative Romero presented House Bill No. 295, which requires that proof of COVID-19 antibodies be treated and recognized as being vaccinated.

Representative Bagley offered amendments to stipulate that the proposed law shall not prevent a public facility from adhering to, or complying with, any federal law or regulation requiring proof of COVID-19 vaccination. 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, Echols, Emerson, Hughes, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, McMahan, Dustin Miller, Pressly, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Kathy Willis, 42386 Forest View Place, Ponchatoula, LA 70454, (985) 705-0026, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 295.

Michael Bolton, Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, 7930 Oakbrook Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (512) 656-2771, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 295.

Jennifer Herricks, Louisiana Families for Vaccines, 1300 Ridge Way Drive, Mandeville, LA 70471, (713) 898-2051, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 295.

John Vanchiere, Louisiana Vaccine Alliance, 6409 Birnamwood Road, Shreveport, LA 71106, (318) 458-5309, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 295.

Joseph A. Bocchini, Jr., Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, 554 Longleaf Road, Shreveport, LA 71106, (318) 820-7026, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 295.

Erin Sandefur, 24411 Oma Harris Lane, Denham Springs, LA 70726, (225) 936-9843, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 295.

Fiorella Trapani, Health Freedom Louisiana, 4412 Lefkoe Street, Metairie, LA 70006, (504) 957-7523, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 295.

Jill Hines, Health Freedom Louisiana, 1307 Mesa Avenue, Ruston, LA 71270, (904) 318-6018, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 295.

David Mushatt, 1430 Tulane Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 458-4826, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 295.

Representative Crews offered a motion to report House Bill No. 295 with amendments, to which Representative Dustin Miller objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 7 yeas and 10 nays. Representatives Bagley, Crews, Echols, Emerson, Robert Owen, Pressly, and Turner voted yea. Representatives Adams, Robby Carter, Cox, Hughes, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, McMahan, Dustin Miller, Selders, and Stagni voted nay.

Representative Bagley offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 295. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 295 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 17 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Robby Carter, Cox, Crews, Echols, Emerson, Hughes, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, McMahan, Dustin Miller, Robert Owen, Pressly, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support and 34 in opposition. 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 and 2 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 479 by Representative Frieman

Representative Frieman presented House Bill No. 479, which provides relative to a patient's rights to certain medical treatments.

René Frederick, 112 West Jefferson Avenue, Covington, LA 70433, (985) 237-9329, spoke in support of House Bill No. 479.

Representative Turner in the chair.

Jill Hines, Health Freedom Louisiana, 1307 Mesa Avenue, Ruston, LA 71270, (904) 318-6018, spoke in support of House Bill No. 479.

Melissa McKinney, 106 Jonathan Street, West Monroe, LA 71291, (318) 376-2726, spoke in support of House Bill No. 479.

Chairman Bagley in the chair.

Roxanne Mixon, 1619 Highway 1187, Mansura, LA 71350, (318) 359-1664, spoke in support of House Bill No. 479.

Fiorella Trapani, Health Freedom Louisiana, 4412 Lefkoe Street, Metairie, LA 70006, (504) 957-7523, spoke in support of House Bill No. 479.

Kathy Willis, 42386 Forest View Place, Ponchatoula, LA 70454, (985) 705-0026, spoke in support of House Bill No. 479.

Michael Bolton, 7930 Oakbrook Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (512) 656-2771, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 479.

Robert C. Peltier, 15770 Paul Vega Drive, Hammond, LA 70403, (985) 634-5266, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 479.

Greg Waddell, Louisiana Hospital Association, 9521 Brookline Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 928-0026, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 479.

Evelyn Griffin, 10310 The Grove Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70836, (225) 892-6003, spoke in support of House Bill No. 479.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 479. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 479 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Robby Carter, Cox, Crews, Echols, Emerson, Hughes, Larvadain, McMahan, Dustin Miller, Robert Owen, Pressly, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 33 in support, 16 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: 41 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 3 by Representative Bagley

Representative Turner in the chair.

Representative Bagley presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 3, which repeals administrative rules of the La. Department of Health adding COVID vaccines to the state immunization schedule and requiring schools to prohibit in-person attendance by certain unvaccinated students.

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 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Robby Carter, Crews, Echols, Emerson, Hughes, Larvadain, McMahan, Dustin Miller, Robert Owen, Pressly, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Carol Friedland, 10635 North Stanwick Place, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 773-5701, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 3.

Fiorella Trapani, Health Freedom Louisiana, 4412 Lefkoe Street, Metairie, LA 70006, (504) 957-7523, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 3.

Evelyn Griffin, 10310 The Grove Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 892-6003, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 3 and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Kathy Willis, 42386 Forest View Place, Ponchatoula, LA 70454, (985) 705-0026, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 3.

Christy Haik, 1377 Steele Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 803-4746, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 3.

Jill Hines, Health Freedom Louisiana, 1307 Mesa Avenue, Ruston, LA 71270, (904) 318-6018, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 3.

Jennifer Herricks, Louisiana Families for Vaccines, 1300 Ridge Way Drive, (713) 898-2051, spoke in opposition to House Concurrent Resolution No. 3.

Joseph A. Bocchini, Jr., Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, 554 Longleaf Road, Shreveport, LA 71106, (318) 820-7026, spoke in opposition to House Concurrent Resolution No. 3.

John A. Vanchiere, LSU Health Shreveport, 1501 Kings Highway, Shreveport, LA 71103, (318) 675-6076, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 3.

Representative Echols offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 3 with amendments, to which Representative Hughes objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Concurrent Resolution No. 3 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 6 nays. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Crews, Echols, Emerson, McMahan, Robert Owen, Pressly, Stagni, and Turner voted yea. Representatives Robby Carter, Hughes, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, Dustin Miller, and Selders voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 39 in support and 6 in opposition. 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: 95 in support and 1 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

Chairman Bagley in the chair.

House Bill No. 600 by Representative Frieman

Chairman Bagley announced that action on House Bill No. 600, which provides for release of opt-out information to the public when state law requires a vaccination or immunization, was voluntarily deferred.

House Bill No. 827 by Representative Gadberry

Chairman Bagley announced that action on House Bill No. 827, which provides relative to screening of children for autism spectrum disorder, was voluntarily deferred.

House Bill No. 990 by Representative Pressly

Representative Pressly presented House Bill No. 990, which provides relative to the prohibition of vaccination mandates.

Jennifer Herricks, Louisiana Families for Vaccines, 1300 Ridge Way Drive, Mandeville, LA 70471, (713) 898-2051, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 990.

Jill Hines, Health Freedom Louisiana, 1307 Mesa Avenue, Ruston, LA 71270, (904) 318-6018, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 990.

Representative Pressly offered a motion to report House Bill No. 990 favorably, to which Representative Robby Carter objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 990 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Crews, Echols, Emerson, Hughes, Travis Johnson, McMahan, Robert Owen, Pressly, Stagni, and

Turner voted yea. Representatives Robby Carter, Cox, Larvadain, Dustin Miller, and Selders voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support and 26 in opposition. 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: 2 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 396 by Representative Amedee

Representative Amedee presented House Bill No. 396, which provides relative to work requirements within the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Representative Bagley offered amendments to:

- (1) Add the term "statewide" for the purpose of limiting proposed law such that it would apply only to waivers of SNAP work requirements that are statewide in scope.
- (2) Delete proposed law providing that approval by a legislative committee of a waiver application may be by mail ballot.

Representative Bagley offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Robby Carter, Cox, Emerson, Hughes, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, McMahan, Dustin Miller, Pressly, Selders, and Turner voted yea.

Shavana Howard, Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), 627 North 4th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-3311, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 396.

Daniel Mintz, Louisiana Budget Project, 619 Jefferson Highway, Suite 1-D, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (786) 374-6626, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 396.

Susan East Nelson, Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families, 13609 Landmark Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 229-2498, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 396.

Blake Allen, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services, 153 North 17th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 388-5858, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 396.

Representative Crews offered a motion to report House Bill No. 396 with amendments, to which Representative Travis Johnson objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion

failed to pass by a vote of 7 yeas and 8 nays. Representatives Bagley, Crews, Echols, Emerson, McMahan, Robert Owen, and Turner voted yea. Representatives Robby Carter, Cox, Hughes, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, Dustin Miller, Selders, and Stagni voted nay.

Representative Bagley offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 396. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 396 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Robby Carter, Cox, Crews, Echols, Emerson, Hughes, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, McMahan, Dustin Miller, Robert Owen, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support, 14 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: 1 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 407 by Representative Amedee

Representative Amedee presented House Bill No. 407, which prohibits adding any vaccine with emergency use authorization status to the list of vaccinations required for school and child daycare entry.

Jill Hines, Health Freedom Louisiana, 1307 Mesa Avenue, Ruston, LA 71270, (904) 318-6018, spoke in support of House Bill No. 407.

Evelyn Griffin, 10310 The Grove Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 892-6003, spoke in support of House Bill No. 407.

Kathy Willis, 42386 Forest View Place, Ponchatoula, LA 70454, (985) 705-0026, spoke in support of House Bill No. 407.

Alana Neuman, Health Freedom Stories, 1109 Matilda Street, Westlake, LA 70669, (469) 651-3541, spoke in support of House Bill No. 407.

Michael Bolton, 7930 Oakbrook Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (512) 656-2771, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 407.

Jennifer Herricks, Louisiana Families for Vaccines, 1300 Ridge Way Drive, Mandeville, LA 70471, (713) 898-2051, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 407.

John Vanchiere, Louisiana Vaccine Alliance, 6409 Birnamwood Road, Shreveport LA 71106, (318) 458-5309, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 407.

Joseph A. Bocchini, Jr., Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, 554 Longleaf Road, Shreveport, LA 71106, (318) 820-7026, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 407.

Representative Crews offered a motion to report House Bill No. 407 favorably, to which Representative Robby Carter objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 6 yeas and 10 nays. Representatives Bagley, Crews, Echols, Emerson, McMahan, and Robert Owen voted yea. Representatives Robby Carter, Cox, Hughes, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, Dustin Miller, Pressly, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted nay.

Representative Bagley offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 407. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 407 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Robby Carter, Cox, Crews, Echols, Emerson, Hughes, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, McMahan, Dustin Miller, Robert Owen, Pressly, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 34 in support and 10 in opposition. 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: 50 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 594 by Representative Amedee

Representative Amedee presented House Bill No. 594, which provides for rights of individuals to bodily autonomy and to make healthcare decisions.

Representative Bagley offered amendments to:

- (1) Add exceptions to proposed law that exclude healthcare providers and facilities that are enrolled in Medicaid or Medicare and subject to noncompliance fees and penalties to the extent that such healthcare providers and facilities are subject to Medicaid or Medicare participation requirements contrary to the provisions of proposed law from applicability of proposed law.
- (2) Make technical corrections.

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, Robby Carter, Cox, Crews, Echols, Emerson, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, Dustin Miller, Pressly, Selders, and Turner voted yea.

Erin Sandefur, 24411 Oma Harris Lane, Denham Springs, LA 70726, (225) 936-9843, spoke in support of House Bill No. 594.

Jill Hines, Health Freedom Louisiana, 1307 Mesa Avenue, Ruston, LA 71270, (904) 318-6018, spoke in support of House Bill No. 594.

Fiorella Trapani, Health Freedom Louisiana, 4412 Lefkoe Street, Metairie, LA 70006, (504) 957-7523, spoke in support of House Bill No. 594.

Evelyn Griffin, 10310 The Grove Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 892-6003, spoke in support of House Bill No. 594.

Kathy Willis, 42386 Forest View Place, Ponchatoula, LA 70454, (985) 705-0026, spoke in support of House Bill No. 594.

Representative Stagni in the chair.

Lauren Gleason, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, 500 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 215-6650, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 594.

Jennifer Herricks, Louisiana Families for Vaccines, 1300 Ridge Way Drive, Mandeville, LA 70471, (713) 898-2051, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 594.

Chairman Bagley in the chair.

Joseph A. Bocchini, Jr., Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, 554 Longleaf Road, Shreveport, LA 71106, (318) 820-7026, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 594.

Representative Crews offered a motion to report House Bill No. 594 with amendments, to which Representative Hughes objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas and 11 nays. Representatives Robby Carter, Crews, Echols, Emerson, and Stagni voted yea. Representatives Bagley, Cox, Hughes, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, McMahan, Dustin Miller, Robert Owen, Pressly, Selders, and Turner voted nay.

Representative Bagley offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 594. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 594 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Robby Carter, Cox, Crews, Echols, Emerson, Hughes, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, McMahan, Dustin Miller, Robert Owen, Pressly, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 29 in support and 20 in opposition. 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: 53 in support and 2 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 596 by Representative Amedee

Chairman Bagley announced that action on House Bill No. 596, which provides for rights of individuals to bodily autonomy and to make healthcare decisions, was voluntarily deferred.

House Bill No. 354 by Representative Hodges

Chairman Bagley announced that action on House Bill No. 354, which prohibits local governmental subdivisions from requiring proof of medical status as a condition of participating in a constitutionally protected activity, was voluntarily deferred.

House Bill No. 673 by Representative Jordan

Chairman Bagley announced that action on House Bill No. 673, which provides relative to the regulation of pharmacy benefit managers, was voluntarily deferred.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Robert Owen offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Robby Carter, Cox, Crews, Echols, Emerson, Hughes, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, McMahan, Dustin Miller, Robert Owen, Pressly, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: