

House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations

Minutes of Meeting
2022 Regular Session
May 19, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Barbara W. Carpenter, chairman of the House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations, called the meeting to order at 9:42 a.m. in Room 5, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Barbara W. Carpenter, chairman
Representative Beryl A. Amedée
Representative Mack Marcel Cormier
Representative Raymond J. Crews
Representative Michael Charles Echols
Representative Lawrence "Larry" Frieman
Representative Ed Larvadain, III
Representative Robert "Bob" Owen
Representative Laurie Schlegel

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Kenny R. Cox
Representative Valarie Hodges
Representative Dodie Horton
Representative Tammy T. Phelps
Representative Neil Riser, vice chairman

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jurissa McGuire, attorney
Johnna Johnson, committee administrative assistant
Nevonda S. Reed, division director

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Faye Talbot , sergeant at arms
Victoria Grant, committee clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 988 by Representative Landry

Representative Landry presented House Bill No. 988, which provides relative to employment discrimination against public employees being treated with medical marijuana.

Jacques Berry, Division of Administration, 1201 North 3rd Street, Suite 7-210, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7178, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 988.

Gary Hess, Veterans Alliance for Holistic Alternatives, 235 Derbigny Street, Gretna, LA 70053, (504) 669-9636, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 988.

Tony Landry, Louisiana Veterans for Medical Cannabis, 213 Case Lane, Lafayette, LA 70506, (337) 412-2836, spoke in support of House Bill No. 988.

Kevin Caldwell, Marijuana Policy Project, 2370 Champlain Street NW #12, Washington, DC 20009, (804) 914-1406, spoke in support of House Bill No. 988.

Representative Frieman offered a motion to report House Bill No. 988 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 988 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedée, Cormier, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Larvadain, and Schlegel, 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. 92 by Senator Cathey

Senator Cathey presented Senate Bill No. 92, which prohibits employers from discriminating against employees due to their medical history.

Meredith Trahan, Louisiana Workforce Commission, 1001 North 23rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-1599, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 92.

Representative Carpenter offered amendments to:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Restore present law for the purposes of adding a new provision that would allow any employer, labor organization, or employment agency to request or require a medical clearance for any employee who has been absent for work due to illness or injury, as a prerequisite for an employee to return back to work.

Representative Carpenter offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedée, Carpenter, Cormier, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Larvadain, Robert Owen, and Schlegel voted yea.

Representative Carpenter offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on Senate Bill No. 92. Without objection, action on Senate Bill No. 92 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carpenter, Amedée, Cormier, Crews, Echols, Frieman, Larvadain, Robert Owen, and Schlegel voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support, 10 in opposition, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 126 by Representative Romero

Representative Romero presented House Bill No. 126, which provides for unemployment compensation benefits to claimants terminated as a result of vaccination status.

Katie Alexander, East Baton Rouge Parish Republican Women, 1380 Steele Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806 (225) 408-9498, spoke in support of House Bill No. 126.

Tirzah Douglas, 7654 Ashland Court, Clinton, LA 70722, (225) 719-1732, spoke in support of House Bill No. 126.

Representative Echols offered a motion to report House Bill No. 126 favorably. However, due to the lack of quorum, no action was taken.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support, 1 in opposition, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

The committee stood at ease at 10:28 a.m. The committee reconvened at 10:41 a.m.

Further action was taken by the committee on House Bill No. 126 at the meeting held on May 26, 2022. Please check for the subsequent action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 126.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Barbara W. Carpenter
House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations

Date adopted: