

## House Committee on Health and Welfare

Minutes of Meeting  
2023 Regular Session  
May 10, 2023

### 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 Kenny R. Cox  
Representative Raymond J. Crews  
Representative Michael Charles Echols  
Representative Jason Hughes  
Representative C. Travis Johnson  
Representative Ed Larvadain, III  
Representative Wayne McMahan  
Representative Dustin Miller  
Representative Patricia "Pat" Moore  
Representative Thomas A. Pressly  
Representative Laurie Schlegel  
Representative Larry Selders  
Representative Joseph A. Stagni  
Representative Christopher Turner, vice chairman

#### MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Robby Carter  
Representative Robert "Bob" Owen

#### STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Taylor Chrisman, attorney  
Meah Johnson, attorney  
Kristy Neubrandner, committee administrative assistant

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Nevonda Reed, division director  
Randall Ike, committee clerk  
Faye Talbot, sergeant at arms

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION****Senate Bill No. 66 by Senator Fred Mills**

Senator Fred Mills presented Senate Bill No. 66, which provides relative to telehealth services.

Representative Bagley offered amendments to:

- (1) Remove language about restrictiveness and conformity of rules and regulations as it relates to present law.
- (2) Establish rules regarding the creation and availability of patient records.
- (3) Make technical corrections.

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, Cox, Crews, Echols, Larvadain, McMahan, Moore, Pressly, Schlegel, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Cox 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 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Cox, Crews, Echols, Larvadain, McMahan, Moore, Pressly, Schlegel, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

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

**Senate Bill No. 122 by Senator Fred Mills**

Senator Fred Mills presented Senate Bill No. 122, which creates and provides for the Community Sewerage System Infrastructure Sustainability Act, and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Bagley offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on Senate Bill No. 122. Without objection, action on Senate Bill No. 122 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Bagley, Adams, Cox, Crews, Echols, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, Moore, Pressly, Schlegel, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

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

### **House Bill No. 372 by Representative Edmonston**

***This is a continuation of the discussion on House Bill No. 372 from April 25, 2023. Please check for the prior action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 372.***

Representative Edmonston presented House Bill No. 372, which provides relative to mandates, requirements, recommendations, instructions, or guidance from federal or international organizations.

Woody Jenkins, 910 North Foster Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 921-1433, spoke in support of House Bill No. 372 and provided a handout, Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Jill Hines, Health Freedom Louisiana, 3301 17<sup>th</sup> Street, # 7443, Metairie, LA 70010, (904) 318-6018, spoke in support of House Bill No. 372 and provided a handout, Exhibit C, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Crews offered amendments to provide that no rule, recommendation, guidance, regulation, fee, tax, or mandate from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shall be enforced in this state, nor shall they be used to justify any mask, vaccine, or medical testing requirement by any state or local government entity. Additionally, the amendments provide that the World Health Organization shall have no jurisdiction within this state.

Representative Crews offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Hughes objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas, 8 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Crews, Echols, Pressly, Schlegel, and Turner voted yea. Representatives Cox, Hughes, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, Dustin Miller, Moore, Selders, and Stagni voted nay. Representative Bagley abstained.

Representative Edmonston presented video testimony in support of House Bill No. 372 by Jay Bhattacharya, 117 Encina Commons, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94022. The video is included in the committee records on the House Legislative Services "S: drive" (see House Legis Services/Committee Docs/2023/Health and Welfare/051023 Video Testimony).

*Representative Turner in the chair.*

*Representative Miller in the chair.*

Julie Sandifer, Convention of States Action, 6649 LaSalle Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 266-5818, spoke in support of House Bill No. 372.

Elizabeth Wahl Andre', 3595 Wahl Road, Paulina LA 70763, (225) 869-1286, spoke in support of House Bill No. 372.

Kathleen Willis, 42386 Forest View Place, Ponchatoula, LA 70454, (985) 705-0026, spoke in support of House Bill No. 372.

Philip Alan Goppelt, 42291 Clouatre Road, Gonzales, LA 70737, (225) 290-7621, spoke in support of House Bill No. 372 and provided a handout, Exhibit D, which is included in the committee records.

Mary S. Susie Labry, 40128B Emerald Drive, Ponchatoula, LA 70454, (225) 235-7879, spoke in support of House Bill No. 372.

Bert Callais, 363 East St. Francis Street, Brusly, LA 70719, (225) 776-3004, spoke in support of House Bill No. 372.

*Chairman Bagley in the chair.*

Chris Alexander, Louisiana Citizen Advocacy Group, 1380 Steele Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 333-6434, spoke in support of House Bill No. 372.

Angelle Bradford, 2103 Selma Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, (225) 454-8319, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 372.

Representative Pressly offered amendments to provide that the World Health Organization shall have no jurisdiction in this state, and that no rule, regulation, fee, tax, or mandate of any kind shall be enforced or implemented by any state or local government entity.

Representative Pressly offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Hughes objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Bagley, Cox, Crews, Echols, Travis Johnson, McMahan, Pressly, Schlegel, and Stagni voted yea. Representatives Hughes, Larvadain, Dustin Miller, Moore, and Selders voted nay.

Representative Crews offered a motion to report House Bill No. 372 with amendments, to which Representative Hughes objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 6 yeas and 8 nays. Representatives Bagley, Crews, Echols, McMahan, Pressly,

and Schlegel voted yea. Representatives Cox, Hughes, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, Dustin Miller, Moore, Selders, and Stagni voted nay.

Representative Bagley offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 372. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 372 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Cox, Crews, Echols, Hughes, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, McMahan, Dustin Miller, Moore, Pressly, Schlegel, Selders, and Stagni voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 21 in support and 16 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: 38 in support and 3 in opposition. The committee also received 207 "robo" emails in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

#### **Senate Bill No. 186 by Senator Peacock**

Senator Peacock presented Senate Bill No. 186, which provides relative to the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact.

Jennifer Hluchy, Louisiana Occupational Therapy Association, 450 Laurel Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, jenniferhluchy@gmail.com, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 186.

Representative Schlegel offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 186 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 186 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Crews, Echols, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, McMahan, Dustin Miller, Moore, Pressly, Schlegel, and Stagni voted yea.

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

#### **Senate Bill No. 64 by Senator Fesi**

Senator Fesi presented Senate Bill No. 64, which creates Ezekiel's Law and provides relative to protecting children from abuse.

Representative Bagley offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 64 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 64 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Crews, Echols, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, McMahan, Moore, Pressly, Schlegel, Selders, and Stagni 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. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

### **House Bill No. 497 by Representative Stefanski**

Representative Stefanski presented House Bill No. 497, which provides relative to Louisiana Board of Chiropractic Examiners.

Mark Kruse, Louisiana State Board of Chiropractic Examiners, 4416 Trenton Street, Metairie, LA 70606, (504) 957-4416, spoke in support of House Bill No. 497.

*Representative Miller in the chair.*

Representative Cox offered a motion to report House Bill No. 497 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 497 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Cox, Crews, Echols, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, McMahan, Dustin Miller, Moore, Pressly, Schlegel, Selders, and Stagni voted yea.

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

### **Senate Bill No. 29 by Senator Boudreaux**

*Chairman Bagley in the chair.*

Senator Boudreaux presented Senate Bill No. 29, which provides relative to the use of a surgical smoke plume evacuation system.

Ahnyel Burkes, Louisiana State Nurses Association, 543 Spanish Town Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (504) 390-2737, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 29 and provided a handout, Exhibit E, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Bagley offered amendments to:

- (1) Remove definition of "surgical smoke plume evacuation".
- (2) Clarify that a healthcare facility's policy should implement a surgical smoke plume evacuation plan.

- (3) Make technical corrections.

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, Echols, Hughes, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, McMahan, Dustin Miller, Moore, Pressly, Schlegel, Selders, and Stagni voted yea.

Nathalie Walker, 2008 Giuffrias Avenue, Metairie, LA 70001, (504) 415-9985, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 29.

Representative Larvadain offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 29 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 29 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Crews, Hughes, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, McMahan, Dustin Miller, Moore, Pressly, Schlegel, Selders, and Stagni voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 29 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

#### **Senate Bill No. 20 by Senator McMath**

On behalf of Senator McMath, Representative Stagni presented Senate Bill No. 20, which provides relative to hospital service districts and scholarships for certain healthcare professionals.

Representative Stagni offered amendments to:

- (1) Add athletic trainers to the allied health professional definition.
- (2) Provide clarity about licensed practical nurse participation in the scholarship program.

Representative Stagni 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, Adams, Crews, Travis Johnson, McMahan, Dustin Miller, Moore, Pressly, Schlegel, and Stagni voted yea.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 20 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 20 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Crews, Travis Johnson, McMahan, Dustin Miller, Moore, Pressly, Schlegel, Selders, and Stagni voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 10 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**Senate Bill No. 24 by Senator Pope**

On behalf of Senator Pope, Representative Stagni presented Senate Bill No. 24, which provides relative to the Louisiana Board for Hearing Aid Dealers.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 24 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 24 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Travis Johnson, McMahan, Dustin Miller, Moore, Pressly, Schlegel, Selders, and Stagni voted yea.

**House Bill No. 508 by Representative Pierre**

Chairman Bagley announced that action on House Bill No. 508, which provides relative to the exclusion of Medicaid reimbursement from certain revenues, was voluntarily deferred.

**House Bill No. 427 by Representative Crews**

*This is a continuation of the discussion of House Bill No. 427 from May 2, 2023. Please check for the prior action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 427.*

Representative Crews presented House Bill No. 427, which provides relative to disclosure by healthcare facilities to patients of prices for certain items and services.

Representative Crews offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 427. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 427 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Cox, Crews, Echols, Travis Johnson, McMahan, Dustin Miller, Moore, Pressly, Schlegel, Selders, and Stagni voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 13 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: 3 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

*Further action was taken by the committee on House Bill No. 427 on May 16, 2023. Please check for the subsequent action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 427.*

**House Bill No. 582 by Representative Ivey**

Representative Ivey presented House Bill No. 582, which provides relative to Medicaid.

Representative Bagley offered technical amendments. Representative Bagley 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, Adams, Cox, Echols, Travis Johnson, McMahan, Moore, Pressly, Selders, and Stagni voted yea.

Representative Bagley offered amendments to:

- (1) Remove the requirement for the Electronic Data Interchange to implement an accessible and efficient unemployment insurance with enhanced visibility to claim detail.
- (2) Make technical corrections.

Representative Bagley 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, Adams, Cox, Echols, Travis Johnson, McMahan, Moore, Schlegel, Selders, and Stagni voted yea.

Representative Bagley offered amendments to provide that proposed law shall not require the pre-adjudication of any managed care organization encounters. Representative Bagley 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, Adams, Cox, Echols, Travis Johnson, McMahan, Moore, Schlegel, Selders, and Stagni voted yea.

Tara LeBlanc, Louisiana Department of Health, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9509, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 582.

Representative Bagley offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 582. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 582 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Cox, Crews, Echols, Hughes, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, McMahan, Dustin Miller, Moore, Pressly, Schlegel, and Stagni voted yea.

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.

**House Bill No. 572 by Representative Goudeau**

Representative Goudeau presented House Bill No. 572, which provides relative to kratom products.

Mac Haddow, American Kratom Association, 13575 Heathcote Boulevard, Suite 320, Gainesville, VA 20155, (571) 294-5978, spoke in support of House Bill No. 572 and provided a handout, Exhibit F, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Bagley offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Bagley offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Cox, Crews, Echols, Hughes, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, McMahan, Dustin Miller, Moore, Pressly, Schlegel, Selders, and Stagni voted yea.

Representative Travis Johnson offered an amendment to change the minimum age of those allowed to purchase kratom products from eighteen to twenty-one. Representative Travis Johnson 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, Cox, Crews, Echols, Hughes, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, McMahan, Dustin Miller, Moore, Pressly, Schlegel, Selders, and Stagni voted yea.

Representative Dustin Miller offered an amendment to remove the September 1, 2023, deadline from the provision that would allow a political subdivision to ban kratom products in their jurisdictions. Representative Dustin Miller offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment, to which Representative Travis Johnson objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the amendment was adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Bagley, Cox, Echols, Hughes, Larvadain, Dustin Miller, Moore, Pressly, Schlegel, Selders, and Stagni voted yea. Representatives Crews and Travis Johnson voted nay.

Representative Echols offered an amendment to require kratom products to be tested at a laboratory operated by the University of Louisiana, Southern University, or Louisiana State University. Representative Echols offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Cox, Echols, Hughes, Travis Johnson, McMahan, Dustin Miller, Moore, Pressly, Schlegel, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Curt Bramble, 3663 North 870 East, Provo, UT 84604, (801) 376-8297, spoke in support of House Bill No. 572.

John Shinholser, 10997 Sugarloaf Drive, Mechanicsville, VA 23116, (804) 241-9424, spoke in support of House Bill No. 572.

Brennan Willeford, 824 Avenue East, Port Allen, LA 70767, (225) 317-2127, spoke in support of House Bill No. 572.

Troy D'Albor, 7706 Main Highway, St. Martinville, LA 70582, (337) 298-7893, spoke in support of House Bill No. 572.

Cory Kimbrough, 302 Beverly Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 588-6137, spoke in support of House Bill No. 572.

Nick Mosley, 10133 Richardson Road, Independence, LA 70443, (985) 348-4988, spoke in support of House Bill No. 572.

Adam Peak, Bella Sunrise Smokeshop LLC, 6010 Jones Creek Road, Suite D, Baton Rouge, LA 70817, (225) 939-6795, spoke in support of House Bill No. 572.

Lee-Ann Pierson, 946 Tanglebriar Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 250-8249, spoke in support of House Bill No. 572.

Elizabeth Adamson, 36526 Ed Yates Road, Pearl River, LA 70452, (801) 875-9443, spoke in support of House Bill No. 572.

Sheena "Wednesday" Allred, 36526 Ed Yates Road, Pearl River, LA 70452, (801) 755-9458, spoke in support of House Bill No. 572.

Paul Schexnaydre, 1051 Traci Avenue, Denham Springs, LA 70726, (225) 892-0694, spoke in support of House Bill No. 572.

Melissa Vidrine, 2136 Highway 93, Sunset, LA 70581, (337) 945-4367, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 572.

Representative Pressly offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 572, to which Representative Travis Johnson objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas and 10 nays. Representatives Bagley, Crews, Pressly, Schlegel, and Turner voted yea. Representatives Adams, Cox, Echols, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, McMahan, Dustin Miller, Moore, Selders, and Stagni voted nay.

Representative Travis Johnson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 572 by substitute, to which Representative Schlegel objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 572 was reported by substitute by a vote of 12 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Cox, Echols, Hughes, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, McMahan, Dustin Miller, Moore, Selders, and Stagni voted yea. Representatives Crews, Pressly, Schlegel, and Turner voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 18 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: 95 in support. The committee also received 117 "robo" emails in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

### **House Bill No. 471 by Representative Freiberg**

Chairman Bagley announced that action on House Bill No. 4171, which provides relative to administration of immunizations and vaccines by pharmacists and other licensees of the La. Board of Pharmacy, was voluntarily deferred.

### **IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

### **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 1:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: