

## **House Committee on Health and Welfare**

Minutes of Meeting  
2024 Regular Session  
March 21, 2024

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Representative Dustin Miller, chairman of the House Committee on Health and Welfare, called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. in Room 5, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Representative Dustin Miller, chairman  
Representative Stephanie Hunter Berault  
Representative Rhonda Gaye Butler, vice chairman  
Representative Emily Chenevert  
Representative Raymond J. Crews  
Representative Kellee Hennessy Dickerson  
Representative Michael Charles Echols  
Representative Peter F. Egan, Sr.  
Representative Adrian Fisher  
Representative Steven Jackson  
Representative Wayne McMahan  
Representative Brach Jerad Myers  
Representative Joseph A. Stagni  
Representative Christopher Turner

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Jason Hughes  
Representative Larry Selders

#### **STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Elizabeth Douglas, sergeant at arms  
Stephen Louis, assistant sergeant at arms  
Nevonda Reed, division director

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION****House Bill No. 82 by Representative Stagni**

Representative Stagni presented House Bill No. 82, which provides relative to fees collected by the Louisiana Board of Chiropractic Examiners.

Mark B. Kruse, Louisiana Board of Chiropractic Examiners (LBCE), 4416 Trenton Street, Metairie, LA 70006, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 82.

Patricia A. Oliver, LBCE, 8621 Summa Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 82.

Representative Echols offered a motion to report House Bill No. 82 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 82 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

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

**House Bill No. 407 by Representative Stagni**

Representative Stagni presented House Bill No. 407, which provides relative to support and service animals. Representative Stagni provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Stagni offered technical amendments. Representative Stagni offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Jim Rather, Apartment Association of Louisiana (AAL), 3017 Harvard Avenue, Suite 201, Metairie, LA 70006, spoke in support of House Bill No. 407.

Tammy Sponge, AAL, 3017 Harvard Avenue, Suite 201, Metairie, LA 70006, spoke in support of House Bill No. 407.

Ameca Reali, Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center, 1340 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 407.

Representative Echols offered a motion to report House Bill No. 407 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 407 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, and Stagni voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 17 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 407 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

### **House Bill No. 137 by Representative Brass**

Representative Brass presented House Bill No. 137, which provides relative to the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board.

Jolie V. Williamson, Children's Cabinet, 1051 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 137.

Reshonn A. Saul, Children's Cabinet, 1051 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 137.

Susan East Nelson, Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families, 7515 Jefferson Highway, #52, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in support of House Bill No. 137.

Representative Miller offered amendments to add that the state ombudsman is a nonvoting ex officio member of the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board. Representative Miller offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, Myers, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report House Bill No. 137 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 137 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, Myers, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

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

### **House Bill No. 83 by Representative Moore**

Representative Moore presented House Bill No. 83, which requires the state health officer to require commercial body art facilities to disclose regulatory status and health risks posed by certain body art products and services. Representative Moore provided a handout, Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Fisher offered a motion to report House Bill No. 83 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 83 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, and Turner voted yea.

### **House Bill No. 469 by Representative Moore**

Representative Moore presented House Bill No. 469, which establishes 233 as a statewide sexual abuse helpline.

Representative Miller offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 469. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 469 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, and Turner voted yea.

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

***Further action was taken by the committee on House Bill No. 469 on March 27, 2024. Please check for the subsequent action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 469.***

The committee stood at ease at 9:59 a.m. The committee reconvened at 10:14 a.m. The secretary called the roll to establish a quorum.

### **House Bill No. 376 by Representative Riser**

On behalf of Representative Riser, Representative Turner presented House Bill No. 376, which provides relative to the regulation of medical marijuana.

Representative Echols offered amendments to remove the requirement for the Louisiana Department of Health to issue a nontransferable specialty license for the research of therapeutic marijuana.

Representative Echols offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Turner offered a motion to report House Bill No. 376 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 376 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, and Turner voted yea.

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

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 376 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

#### **House Bill No. 598 by Representative Ventrella**

Representative Miller offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 598, which provides relative to psychologists. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 598 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, and Turner voted yea.

#### **IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

The minutes of the 2023 Regular Session committee meetings held on April 20, April 25, April 26, May 2, May 10, May 16, May 17, May 23, and May 31; the 2024 Second Extraordinary Session committee meeting held on February 27; and the 2023 interim meetings of the Subcommittee on Mental Health held on August 24, September 26, October 17, November 9, and December 13 were presented to the committee for consideration. Representative Stagni offered a motion to adopt. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

#### **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Egan offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, and Turner voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Dustin Miller  
House Committee on Health and Welfare

Date adopted: