

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

Minutes of Meeting  
2024 Regular Session  
March 27, 2024

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

Representative Dustin Miller, 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 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 Jason Hughes  
Representative Steven Jackson  
Representative Wayne McMahan  
Representative Brach Jerad Myers  
Representative Larry Selders  
Representative Joseph A. Stagni  
Representative Christopher Turner

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None

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

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

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Rebecca Marshall, sergeant at arms  
Nevonda Reed, division director  
Stephen Louis, assistant sergeant at arms

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION****House Bill No. 687 by Representative Butler**

Representative Butler presented House Bill No. 687, which provides relative to the licensing of "PACE" program providers.

Kim Humbles, Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 687.

Melinda Richard, LDH, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 687.

Wayne Plaisance, Trinity Health PACE Alexandria, 3403 Government Street, Alexandria, LA 71302, spoke in support of House Bill No. 687.

Representative Butler offered a motion to report House Bill No. 687 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 687 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Stagni, and Turner 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.

**House Bill No. 395 by Representative Boyd**

Representative Boyd presented House Bill No. 395, which provides for the right to contraception.

Representative Miller offered technical amendments. Representative Miller offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Berault offered amendments to make technical corrections and to add that if a healthcare provider chooses not to provide contraceptives, emergency contraceptives, or contraceptive-related information to a patient, he shall reserve his right not to provide such

contraceptives or information. Representative Berault offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. After discussion, Representative Berault withdrew her motion to adopt the proposed amendments. No vote was taken.

Representative Berault offered an amendment that originated in committee to make technical corrections and to add that if a healthcare provider chooses not to provide contraceptives, emergency contraceptives, or contraceptive-related information to a patient for religious reasons, he shall reserve his right not to provide such contraceptives or information. Representative Berault offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. After discussion, Representative Berault withdrew her motion to adopt the proposed amendments. No vote was taken.

Representative Berault offered amendments to make technical corrections and to add that if a healthcare provider chooses not to provide contraceptives, emergency contraceptives, or contraceptive-related information to a patient, he shall reserve his right not to provide such contraceptives or information. Representative Berault 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 11 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, McMahan, Myers, Stagni, and Turner voted yea. Representatives Miller, Fisher, Hughes, and Jackson voted nay.

Mary-Patricia Wray, 2360 Tulip Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in support of House Bill No. 395.

Shantel Hebert-Magee, LDH, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 395.

Will Hall, Louisiana Baptist Office of Public Policy, 1250 MacArthur Drive, Alexandria, LA 71309, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 395.

Tom Costanza, Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2431 South Acadian Thruway, Suite 250, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 395.

Representative Myers offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 395. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 395 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 23 in support and 2 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 395 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

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

*This is a continuation of the discussion on House Bill No. 469 from March 21, 2024. Please check for the prior action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 469.*

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 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, 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.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 469 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

**House Bill No. 392 by Representative Freeman**

Representative Freeman presented House Bill No. 392, which provides relative to Medicaid and private insurance coverage for perimenopausal and menopausal care.

Representative Miller offered amendments to make technical corrections and to remove the requirement for coverage from private insurers for perimenopausal and menopausal care. Representative Miller 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, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Butler offered a motion to report House Bill No. 392 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 392 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 18 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 421 by Representative Phelps**

Representative Phelps presented House Bill No. 421, which requires healthcare providers to document a diagnosis of sickle cell disease on immunization records in certain circumstances.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report House Bill No. 421 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 421 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Selders, 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. 330 by Representative Phelps**

Representative Miller offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 330, which provides relative to the membership of the Louisiana Sickle Cell Commission. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 330 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Selders, Stagni, and Turner 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.

**House Bill No. 495 by Representative Jackson**

Representative Jackson presented House Bill No. 495, which provides relative to facility need review for certain healthcare providers.

Representative Jackson offered amendments to replace requirements that a behavioral health service provider must meet to qualify to expand certain services without a facility need review. Representative Jackson 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, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Selders, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 495 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 495 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Selders, and Turner voted yea.

**House Bill No. 192 by Representative Miller**

*Representative Butler in the chair.*

Representative Miller presented House Bill No. 192, which re-creates the Louisiana Department of Health.

Representative Miller offered a motion to report House Bill No. 192 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 192 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Selders, and Turner 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.

**House Bill No. 655 by Representative Miller**

Representative Miller presented House Bill No. 655, which provides relative to third-party liability requirements arising for prior authorizations and state claim inquiries.

Representative Miller offered a motion to report House Bill No. 655 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 655 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Selders, Stagni, and Turner 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. 592 by Representative Miller**

Representative Miller presented House Bill No. 592, which provides relative to workplace violence in healthcare settings.

Representative Stagni offered amendments to change "primary healthcare providers" to "licensed medical providers". Representative Stagni offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Selders, and Stagni voted yea.

Representative Miller offered a motion to report House Bill No. 592 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 592 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, 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.

**IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Hughes offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Dustin Miller  
House Committee on Health and Welfare

Date adopted: