

House Committee on Health and Welfare

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
April 3, 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 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:

Representative Rhonda Gaye Butler, vice chairman

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. 312 by Representative Owen**

On behalf of Representative Owen, Representative Amedee presented House Bill No. 312, which provides relative to the over-the-counter sale and purchase of the drug ivermectin without a prescription. Representative Amedee provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Miller offered amendments to specify the citation for the definition of healthcare professional. Representative Miller offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Crews, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, Myers, and Stagni voted yea.

Jill Hines, Health Freedom Louisiana, 1307 Mesa Avenue, Ruston, LA 71270, spoke in support of House Bill No. 312.

Representative Egan offered a motion to report House Bill No. 312 with amendments, to which Representative Hughes objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 312 was reported with amendments by a vote of 7 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Berault, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, McMahan, and Myers voted yea. Representatives Miller, Fisher, Hughes, and Jackson voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support and 3 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 312 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 374 by Representative Echols

Representative Echols presented House Bill No. 374, which provides relative to facility need review.

Stephen Wright, Louisiana Addiction Treatment Providers, 2270 Eliza Beaumont Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in support of House Bill No. 374.

Kim Humbles, Louisiana Department of Health, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 374.

Representative Miller offered a motion to report House Bill No. 374 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 374 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, and Selders 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.

House Bill No. 231 by Representative Mandie Landry

Representative Mandie Landry presented House Bill No. 231, which provides with respect to the definition of "caretaker" for purposes of children in need of care.

Representative Miller offered amendments to:

- (1) Remove teaching and school staff and coaches from the definition of "caretaker".
- (2) Remove provision clarifying that mandatory reports shall not be exempt from reporting child abuse because the person perpetrating the abuse is a school employee.
- (3) Require child abuse perpetrated by a school employee, teacher, or coach to be reported to a local or state law enforcement agency.

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, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, and Selders voted yea.

Kathleen Cannino, 846 Woodsprings Court, Covington, LA 70433, spoke in support of House Bill No. 231.

Representative Egan offered a motion to report House Bill No. 231 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 231 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, and Selders 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.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 231 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 579 by Representative McMahan

Representative McMahan presented House Bill No. 579, which provides relative to pharmacist authorization to dispense HIV pre-exposure and post-exposure prophylaxis.

Representative McMahan offered amendments to:

- (1) Revise the definitions of pre-exposure and post-exposure prophylaxis and remove the definition of "treatment as HIV as prevention".
- (2) Require completion of the training program before initiating therapy, administering, dispensing, or participating in any other activities related to the statewide protocol.
- (3) Remove the required training information and add relevant strategies for care for privately insured and uninsured patients.
- (4) Remove counseling provisions and require identification of the nature and obligations for successful HIV pre-and-post exposure prophylaxis.
- (5) Provide that proposed law shall not be construed to require reimbursement from a health plan coverage or a third-party administrator or pharmacy benefit manager nor shall it be apply to coverage under a group health coverage plan to a resident of this state.
- (6) Make technical corrections.

Representative McMahan 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, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Selders, and Turner voted yea.

Jeff Gaude, Walgreens, 348 Pencarrow Circle, Madisonville, LA 70447, spoke in support of House Bill No. 579.

Representative Hughes in the chair.

Jamie Kuo, Louisiana Physicians for Patients, 6229 Milne Boulevard, New Orleans, LA 70124, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 579.

Representative Miller in the chair.

Hunter Duke, Louisiana Physicians for Patients, P.O. Box 80024, Baton Rouge, LA 70898, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 579.

Representative Myers offered a motion to report House Bill No. 579 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 579 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Crews, 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: 32 in support and 7 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 579 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 485 by Representative McMahan

Representative McMahan offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 485, which provides relative to the practice of nursing. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 485 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

House Bill No. 335 by Representative Carver

Representative Carver presented House Bill No. 335, which provides relative to mandatory reporters of child abuse.

Representative Miller offered amendments to:

- (1) Include school resources officers as "teaching or child care providers".
- (2) Require reporters to report suspected child abuse if was a contributing factor to the death of the child to DCFS or local or state law enforcement.
- (3) Stipulate certain measures for mandatory reporters and permitted reporters to report to the department.
- (4) Provide that if a mandatory reporter is prohibited from making an immediate report because of employment policies, he shall be permitted to file a complaint with law enforcement.
- (5) Provide for penalties against an employer who discriminates or retaliates against mandatory reporters.

- (6) Require any police officer or law enforcement official who works as a school resource officer to be considered a mandatory reporter.
- (7) Do not require a school resource officer to receive information from another mandatory reporter or commence or oversee any investigation into the report.
- (8) Make technical corrections.

Representative Miller offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Echols, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Cade Brumley, State Superintendent, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 335.

Thomas Mitchell, Children's Advocacy Center - Hope House, 223 West Twenty-Eighth Avenue, Covington, LA 70433, spoke in support of House Bill No. 335.

Katelyn Castleberry, 1512 Homestead Avenue, Metairie, LA 70005, spoke in support of House Bill No. 335.

Representative Fisher offered a motion to report House Bill No. 335 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 335 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Crews, 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: 3 in support.

House Bill No. 306 by Representative Owen

Representative Owen presented House Bill No. 306, which provides for visitation policies at certain healthcare facilities and requires that such policies allow for in-person visitation.

Representative Miller offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 306. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 306 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, McMahan, Myers, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support and 13 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 306 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

Further action was taken by the committee on House Bill No. 306 on April 24, 2024. Please check for the subsequent action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 306.

House Bill No. 303 by Representative Boyer

Representative Boyer presented House Bill No. 303, which provides for the reduction of SNAP benefits upon a juvenile entering department of corrections custody.

Susan East Nelson, Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families, 7515 Jefferson Highway, #52, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 303.

Quentin Anthony Anderson, 621 Laurel Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 303.

Bruce Reilly, VOTE, 4930 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 303.

Sarah Whittington, Justice and Accountability Center of Louisiana, 4035 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 303.

Representative Myers offered a motion to report House Bill No. 303 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 303 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Crews, Egan, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in opposition and 1 for information only. 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 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Crews, Egan, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Dustin Miller
House Committee on Health and Welfare

Date adopted: