

House Committee on Health and Welfare

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
April 9, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Dustin Miller, chairman of the House Committee on Health and Welfare, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. in Room 5, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Dustin Miller, chairman
Representative Stephanie H. 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:

Elizabeth Douglas, sergeant at arms
Stephen Louis, assistant sergeant at arms
Jaubert Ambeau, chief sergeant at arms
Nevonda Reed, division director
Senator Stewart Cathey

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 853 by Representative Myers**

Representative Myers presented House Bill No. 853, which creates the office of surgeon general within the Louisiana Department of Health.

Ralph Abraham, Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 853.

Nicholas Gachassin, LDH, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 853.

Representative Berault offered a motion to report House Bill No. 853 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 853 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, Myers, Selders, and Stagni 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. 865 by Representative Myers

Representative Myers presented House Bill No. 865, which provides relative to virtual social work supervision.

Stephen Wright, Louisiana Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW-LA), 2270 Eliza Beaumont Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in support of House Bill No. 865.

Shelly Weaver, NASW-LA, 700 North Tenth Street, Suite 200, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 865.

Carmen Spooner, 735 Stoney Creek Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in support of House Bill No. 865.

Representative Selders offered an amendment that originated in committee to:

- (1) Add a definition for "telesupervision" to present law provisions relative to licensed professional counselors.
- (2) Provide that the requirements for supervision provided in present law for licensed professional counselors may be satisfied via telesupervision.
- (3) Require the Louisiana Licensed Professional Counselors Board of Examiners to establish rules and regulations regarding parameters and requirements for telesupervision.
- (4) Make technical corrections.

Representative Selders 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, Crews, Dickerson, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Selders, and Stagni voted yea.

Representative Myers offered a motion to report House Bill No. 865 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 865 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Selders, and Stagni voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 888 by Representative Stagni

Representative Stagni presented House Bill No. 888, which provides relative to the Social Work Licensure Compact.

Stephen Wright, Louisiana Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW-LA), 2270 Eliza Beaumont Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in support of House Bill No. 888.

Nicole Malone, NASW-LA, 700 North Tenth Street, Suite 200, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 888.

Representative Stagni offered amendments to

- (1) Define "criminal history record information".

- (2) Provide that the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners shall be entitled to the criminal record and identification files of the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information for any person who is licensed to be a social worker in this state or as part of the Social Work Licensure Compact.
- (3) Require the costs associated with acquiring the background information of Compact participants be charged to the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners.
- (4) Make technical corrections.

Representative Stagni 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, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Selders, and Stagni voted yea.

Representative Fisher offered a motion to report House Bill No. 888 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 888 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Selders, and Stagni voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 916 by Representative Dickerson

Representative Miller announced that action on House Bill No. 916 by Representative Dickerson, which establishes procedures for the use of artificial intelligence by healthcare entities, was voluntarily deferred.

House Bill No. 395 by Representative Boyd

Representative Miller announced that action on House Bill No. 395 by Representative Boyd, which provides for the right to contraception, was voluntarily deferred.

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

House Bill No. 260 by Representative Romero

Representative Romero presented House Bill No. 260, which limits types of food purchases with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits.

Representative Miller offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 260. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 260 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, McMahan, Myers, Selders, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, 4 in opposition, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 829 by Representative Lyons

Representative Lyons presented House Bill No. 829, which provides relative to the Louisiana State Interagency Coordinating Council for EarlySteps: Louisiana's Early Intervention Program for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities and Their Families.

Julie Foster Hagan, LDH, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 829.

Representative Miller offered a motion to report House Bill No. 829 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 829 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, McMahan, Myers, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

House Bill No. 838 by Representative Turner

Representative Turner presented House Bill No. 838, which provides relative to licensing requirements for the practice of clinical laboratory science.

Representative Turner offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 838. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 838 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, McMahan, Myers, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion on the issues regarding the quality and delivery of healthcare services at Glenwood Regional Medical Center.

Representative Echols in the chair.

Nick Gachassin, LDH, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on the quality and delivery of healthcare services at Glenwood Regional Medical Center.

Kim Humbles, LDH, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on the quality and delivery of healthcare services at Glenwood Regional Medical Center.

Debra Russell, 2519 Caples Road, West Monroe, LA 71292, spoke about the Glenwood Regional Medical Center from her perspective as a former employee.

Donna Saterfiel, 915 Hodge Watson Road, Calhoun, LA 71225, spoke about the Glenwood Regional Medical Center from her perspective as a former employee.

Thomas Gullatt, St. Francis Medical Center, 309 Jackson Street, Monroe, LA 71201, spoke about the Glenwood Regional Medical Center from his perspective as a fellow healthcare provider serving the same community.

Michael Harrington, LDH, spoke for information only on the quality and delivery of healthcare services at Glenwood Regional Medical Center.

Jonathan Turton, Glenwood Regional Medical Center, 503 Macmillan Road, West Monroe, LA 71291, answered questions from the committee on the quality and delivery of healthcare services at Glenwood Regional Medical Center.

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

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Miller in the chair.

Representative Echols offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Fisher, Hughes, McMahan, and Stagni voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Dustin Miller
House Committee on Health and Welfare

Date adopted: