

House Committee on Health and Welfare

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
April 16, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Dustin Miller, chairman of the House Committee on Health and Welfare, called the meeting to order at 9:13 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 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 Joseph A. Stagni
Representative Christopher Turner

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Rhonda Gaye Butler, vice chairman
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
Nevonda Reed, division director

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 711 by Representative Galle**

Representative Miller offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 711, which provides relative to parental consent with respect to the administration of vaccines to minors. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 711 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

House Bill No. 815 by Representative Billings

Representative Miller offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 815, which provides relative to certain federally-regulated information. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 815 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

House Bill No. 828 by Representative Miller

Representative Stagni in the chair.

Representative Miller presented House Bill No. 828, which provides relative to the professional organization of medical psychologists.

David Thomason, Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychologists, 2000 Rosedown Drive, Monroe, LA 71201, spoke in support of House Bill No. 828.

Jesse D. Lambert, Louisiana Psychology Association, 10317 Taylor Sheets Jr. Road, St. Amant, LA 70774, spoke in support of House Bill No. 828.

Stephen Wright, Louisiana Psychological Medical Association, 2270 Eliza Beaumont Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 828.

Representative Fisher offered a motion to report House Bill No. 828 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 828 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller,

Berault, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, Myers, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support and 4 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 952 by Representative Miller

Representative Miller presented House Bill No. 952, which provides relative to consumable hemp products.

Representative Miller offered amendments to:

- (1) Clarify that a consumable hemp product is any product derived from hemp that contains THC.
- (2) Add that a consumable hemp product may contain only THC compounds naturally derived from hemp.
- (3) Clarify that floral hemp is prohibited.
- (4) Provide for violations of present law by consumable hemp retailers.
- (5) Provide relative to testing that must be conducted by a consumable hemp processor.
- (6) Remove a provision that provides for a date which providers may sell consumable hemp products currently registered with the Louisiana Department of Health.
- (7) Provide for an effective date.
- (8) Make technical changes.

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

Representative Stagni offered amendments to create an exception for consumable hemp beverages. 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 Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, Myers, and Stagni voted yea.

Paige Melancon, Louisiana Hemp Association, 2742 Oscar Rivette Road, Arnaudville, LA 70512, spoke in support of House Bill No. 952.

Daryl Schouest, Hemp Association of Louisiana, P.O. Box 390, Leonville, LA 70551, spoke in support of House Bill No. 952.

Jacob Landry, Urban South Brewery, 1645 Tchoupitoulas Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke in support of House Bill No. 952.

Eric Becker, Basin Street Beverages, 2313 Washington Avenue, Harvey, LA 70058, spoke in support of House Bill No. 952.

Blaine Jennings, Virgin Hemp, P.O. Box 129, Milton, LA 70558, spoke in support of House Bill No. 952.

Will Hall, Louisiana Baptist Office of Public Policy, 1250 MacArthur Drive, Alexandria, LA 71309, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 952 and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 952 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 952 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support, 4 in opposition, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 891 by Representative Chenevert

Representative Miller in the chair.

Representative Chenevert presented House Bill No. 891, which provides relative to the Safe Haven Law.

Representative Chenevert offered amendments to:

- (1) Restore the present law provision that identifies criminal abandonment as a "crime against a child".
- (2) Restore the present law provision that details which hospitals or other centers shall be identified as designated emergency care facilities.

- (3) Remove the requirement for a dual alarm system for dispatch of a first responder.
- (4) Restore the present law requirement for the utilization of a downloadable instructional video on the DCFS website.
- (5) Require a prompt investigation in instances where there has been fetal exposure to alcohol or drugs.
- (6) Restore the present law requirement for DCFS to do its due diligence to locate a non-relinquishing parent.
- (7) Require fire departments to be manned 24 hours a day by an emergency response provider as provided in present law.
- (8) Make technical corrections.

Representative Chenevert 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, Crews, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, and Turner voted yea.

Dustin Yates, St. George Fire Department, 14100 Airline Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70817, spoke in support of House Bill No. 891.

Mona Chapman, Department of Children and Family Services, 627 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 891.

Ben Clapper, Louisiana Right to Life, 200 Allen Toussaint Boulevard, New Orleans, LA 70124, spoke in support of House Bill No. 891.

Representative Chenevert offered a motion to report House Bill No. 891 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 891 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, and Stagni voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 868 by Representative Egan

Representative Egan presented House Bill No. 868, which provides relative to standards for psychiatric hospitals and residential substance abuse facilities.

Representative Egan offered amendments to redefine "residential substance abuse facility" for the purposes of proposed law and to make technical corrections. Representative Egan 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, Crews, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, and Stagni voted yea.

Representative Egan offered a motion to report House Bill No. 868 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 868 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, and Stagni voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 896 by Representative Myers

Representative Stagni in the chair.

Representative Myers presented House Bill No. 896, which creates the Louisiana Remote Patient Monitoring Program Law.

Representative Stagni offered amendments to:

- (1) Remove proposed law provision that requires only telehealth programs affiliated with a Louisiana healthcare facility to be eligible for reimbursements.
- (2) Remove proposed law provision that requires the originating site to be eligible to receive a facility fee.
- (3) Remove proposed law provision that does not allow a facility fee to be payable to the distant site.
- (4) Require the implementation of proposed law to be applicable only upon either a specific appropriation or funds made available by the La. Dept. of Health for such implementation.
- (5) Require the procedure code established by the La. Dept. of Health for the covered healthcare service to be included with the appropriate modifier indicating that telehealth services were used.

- (6) Remove mandatory language relative to remote patient monitoring services and allow remote patient monitoring services through telehealth to consist of certain assessments.
- (7) Make technical corrections.

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

Chad Landry, Cancer Advocacy Group of Louisiana (CAGLA), 126 Brockenbraugh Court, Metairie, LA 70005, spoke in support of House Bill No. 896.

Erin Pierce, CAGLA, 3719 Metairie Court, Metairie, LA 70002, spoke in support of House Bill No. 896.

Representative Myers offered a motion to report House Bill No. 896 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 896 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, McMahan, Myers, and Stagni voted yea.

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

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 896 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 860 by Representative Echols

On behalf of Representative Echols, Representative Miller presented House Bill No. 860, which provides relative to Medicaid reimbursement for home visiting services provided after the birth of a child.

Susan East Nelson, Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families, 7515 Jefferson Highway, #52, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in support of House Bill No. 860 and provided a handout, Exhibit C, which is included in the committee records.

Jeanie Donovan, New Orleans Health Department, 1300 Perdido Street, Suite 8E18, New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke in support of House Bill No. 860.

Anne Jayes, Louisiana Public Health Institute, 4524 Jeanne Marie Place, New Orleans, LA 70122, spoke in support of House Bill No. 860.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 860 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 860 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, and Stagni voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 13 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. 860 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 813 by Representative Edmonston

Representative Miller in the chair.

Representative Edmonston presented House Bill No. 813, which provides relative to prescribing, administering, and dispensing of drugs for off-label use. Representative Edmonston provided a handout, Exhibit C, which is included in the committee records.

Evelyn Griffin, 2306 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in support of House Bill No. 813.

Kim Sullivan, Louisiana Department of Health, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 813.

Representative Miller offered amendments to remove the Louisiana Department of Health from the list of entities prohibited from making rules limiting off-label use of drugs approved by the FDA. Representative Miller offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, and Myers voted yea.

Representative Stagni in the chair.

Representative Miller in the chair.

Connie Sampognaro, P.O. Box 69, Calhoun, LA 71225, spoke in support of House Bill No. 813.

Representative Egan offered a motion to report House Bill No. 813 with amendments. Representative Stagni offered a substitute motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 813, to which Representative Echols objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the substitute motion failed to pass by a vote of 7 yeas and 7 nays. Representatives Miller, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, and Stagni voted yea. Representatives Berault, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, and Turner voted nay.

The original motion to report House Bill No. 813 with amendments was reconsidered, to which Representative Hughes objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 813 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 6 nays. Representatives Berault, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, McMahan, and Turner voted yea. Representatives Miller, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, Myers, and Stagni voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 10 in support and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 813 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Crews offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Dustin Miller
House Committee on Health and Welfare

Date adopted: