

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

Minutes of Meeting  
2024 Regular Session  
April 17, 2024

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

Representative Dustin Miller, chairman of the House Committee on Health and Welfare, called the meeting to order at 9:07 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 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  
Nevonda Reed, division director

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION****House Bill No. 916 by Representative Dickerson**

Representative Miller offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 916, which establishes procedures for the use of artificial intelligence by healthcare entities. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 916 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Crews, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

**Senate Bill No. 165 by Senator McMath**

Representative Miller offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on Senate Bill No. 165, which provides relative to noncompetition agreements. Without objection, action on Senate Bill No. 165 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Crews, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

**House Bill No. 849 by Representative Illg**

Representative Illg presented House Bill No. 849, which provides relative to healthcare outcomes for patient's suffering with behavioral health issues.

Representative Stagni offered amendments to:

- (1) Add that healthcare professionals may communicate via telephone conversation to satisfy the requirements of this proposed law.
- (2) Add that the Louisiana Department of Health shall create and publish educational documents about the risks to a patient after discharge from an admission pursuant to an emergency certification.
- (3) Provide that a healthcare provider has the discretion to include collected documentation from family, friends, loved ones, and caregivers about the patient's condition in the patient's medical record.

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,

Chenevert, Crews, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Patrick Milam, 9 Erin Court, Harahan, LA 70123, spoke in support of House Bill No. 849.

Janet Hays, Healing Minds NOLA, 448 South Jahncke Avenue, Covington, LA 70433, spoke in support of House Bill No. 849.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report House Bill No. 849 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 849 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Crews, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

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.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 1 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 849 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

### **Senate Bill No. 228 by Senator McMath**

Senator McMath presented Senate Bill No. 228, which provides relative to marijuana for therapeutic use.

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 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Crews, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Miller offered amendments to remove a provision terminating the agreements between the La. State University Agricultural Center and Southern University Agricultural Center and contractors selected to produce therapeutic marijuana. 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, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Selders, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Miller offered amendments to remove a provision allocating funds collected from the 7% fee collected on the gross sale of therapeutic marijuana. 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, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Selders, and Turner voted yea.

Blaine Jennings, P.O. Box 129, Milton, LA 70558, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 228.

Representative Egan offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 228 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 228 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, and Selders voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support and 3 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

### **House Bill No. 869 by Representative Phelps**

Representative Phelps presented House Bill No. 869, which requires continuing education for the treatment of sickle cell disease for physicians and physician assistants.

Shay Hardison, Sickle Cell Anemia Resource Foundation, 3600 Jackson Street, Alexandria, LA 71303, spoke in support of House Bill No. 869.

Representative Miller offered amendments to provide that a physician and a physician assistant shall be required to take an initial 3-hour course on the treatment of sickle cell disease followed by a refresher course no less frequently than every three years. 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, Echols, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, and Selders voted yea.

Stormy Gage-Watts, Caddo Parish Commission, 6648 Winder Circle West, Shreveport, LA 71129, spoke in support of House Bill No. 869.

Alvin Henry, Jr., Sickle Cell Association of South Louisiana, 12021 Lake Sherwood Avenue South, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, spoke in support of House Bill No. 869.

Jamie Kuo, 6229 Milne Boulevard, New Orleans, LA 70124, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 869.

Representative Fisher offered a motion to report House Bill No. 869 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 869 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 Selders voted yea.

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

### **House Bill No. 883 by Representative Phelps**

Representative Phelps presented House Bill No. 883, which allows the provision of data relative to sickle cell disease.

Representative Miller offered amendments to direct the Louisiana Department of Health to facilitate an agreement between healthcare providers and sickle cell associations to communicate patient information. 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, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, and Selders voted yea.

Alvin Henry, Jr., 12021 Lake Sherwood Avenue South, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, spoke in support of House Bill No. 883.

Shay Hardison, Sickle Cell Anemia Resource Foundation, 3600 Jackson St, Alexandria, LA 71303, spoke in support of House Bill No. 883.

*Representative Hughes in the chair.*

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 883 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 883 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Crews, 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: 4 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

### **House Bill No. 899 by Representative Wright**

Representative Wright presented House Bill No. 899, which provides relative to the Hope for Louisiana Patients Law.

Naomi Lopez, Goldwater Institute, 500 East Coronado Road, Phoenix, AZ 85004, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 899.

*Representative Miller in the chair.*

Ian Theriot, 1809 Edenborn Avenue, Metairie, LA 70001, spoke in support of House Bill No. 899.

Richard Mahoney, 1836 Old Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in support of House Bill No. 899.

Representative Berault offered a motion to report House Bill No. 899 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 899 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Dickerson, Egan, 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.

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

There was no other business.

#### **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative McMahan offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Dickerson, Egan, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:49 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Dustin Miller  
House Committee on Health and Welfare

Date adopted: