

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

Minutes of Meeting  
2024 Regular Session  
April 24, 2024

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

Representative Dustin Miller, chairman of the House Committee on Health and Welfare, called the meeting to order at 9:39 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:**

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

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION****House Bill No. 815 by Representative Billings**

Representative Billings presented House Bill No. 815, which provides relative to certain federally-regulated information, and she provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Miller offered amendments to:

- (1) Change references from "medical treatment" to "medical device".
- (2) Change references from "publication or broadcast" to "display or distribution by the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH)".
- (3) Remove proposed law provision that requires LDH to utilize existing staff to implement proposed law.
- (4) Require all descriptive advertising and promotional material relating to drugs, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, or vaccinations to comply with the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.
- (5) Require notice of noncompliance to be given to the manufacturer of the drug, pharmaceutical, medical device, or vaccine-related advertisement or promotional material within 30 days of the noncompliant advertisements or promotional material or within 30 days of the determination of noncompliance.
- (6) Make technical corrections.

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, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, Myers, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Miller offered amendments to make technical corrections and require all descriptive advertising and promotional material relating to drugs, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, or vaccinations to comply with the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.. 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, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, Myers, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Jill Hines, Health Freedom Louisiana, 3301 Seventeenth Street, #7443, Metairie, LA, 70010, spoke in support of House Bill No. 815.

Representative Echols offered a motion to report House Bill No. 815 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 815 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, Myers, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 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. 815 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

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

Senator McMath presented Senate Bill No. 165, which provides relative to noncompetition agreements.

Ralph Abraham, LDH, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 165.

Representative Miller offered amendments to:

- (1) Provide that if the contract or agreement provided for in present law is terminated by the physician specialist prior to the initial five-year term, the physician specialist may be prohibited from carrying on or engaging in a business similar to that of the employer in the parish in which the physician specialist's principal practice is located and no more than two contiguous parishes in which the employer conducts business.
- (2) Require any subsequent contract or agreement executed between the employer and a physician specialist after the initial five-year term to exclude noncompete provisions.
- (3) Provide that if the contract or agreement provided for in present law is terminated by the physician specialist prior to the initial five-year term, the physician specialist may

be prohibited from carrying on or engaging in a business similar to that of the employer in the parish in which the physician specialist's principal practice is located and no more than two contiguous parishes in which the employer carries on a like business.

- (4) Require the parishes to be specified in the contract or agreement.
- (5) Add agreements to the uncodified applicability provisions outlined in proposed law.
- (6) Make proposed law effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.
- (7) Make technical corrections.

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, McMahan, Myers, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

James Craven, Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Health System/Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center, 6618 Pikes Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 165.

John Heaton, Louisiana Children's Medical Center Health System, 1100 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70163, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 165.

Chris Alexander, Louisiana Citizen Advocacy Group, P.O. Box 64952, Baton Rouge, LA 70896, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 165.

Ryan Hebert, Cardiovascular Institute of the South, 225 Dunn Street, Houma, LA 70360, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 165.

Representative Echols offered an amendment stating that proposed law shall not apply to any physician who provides healthcare services in a rural area and receives funds from the Louisiana Physician Loan Repayment Program or any other tuition reimbursement program for his provision of such services. Representative Echols offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment, to which Representative Turner objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the amendment was adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 1 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, McMahan, Myers, Selders, and Stagni voted yea. Representative Turner voted nay.

Representative Berault offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 165 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 165 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, 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: 26 in support and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**Senate Bill No. 46 by Senator McMath**

Senator McMath presented Senate Bill No. 46, which creates the Alzheimer's and Related Dementias Advisory Council within the Louisiana Department of Health.

Representative Miller offered amendments to:

- (1) Modify the duties and responsibilities of the council.
- (2) Direct the council to collaborate with the Louisiana Department of Health on the five-year statewide plan to address Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.
- (3) Add deadlines to the required reports, summaries, and recommendations.
- (4) Make technical changes.

Representative Miller 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, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, McMahan, Myers, Selders, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Hughes offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 46 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 46 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, McMahan, Myers, Selders, and Turner voted yea.

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

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 46 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

**Senate Bill No. 73 by Senator Womack**

Senator Womack presented Senate Bill No. 73, which creates and provides for the Community Sewerage System Infrastructure Sustainability Act.

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, Butler, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, McMahan, Selders, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Hughes offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 73 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 73 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, McMahan, Myers, Selders, 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.

### **Senate Bill No. 166 by Senator Connick**

Senator Connick presented Senate Bill No. 166, which provides relative to seafood safety, and he provided a handout, Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

*Representative Butler in the chair.*

Representative Hughes offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 166 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 166 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, McMahan, Myers, Selders, 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. 711 by Representative Galle**

*Representative Miller in the chair.*

Representative Galle presented House Bill No. 711, which provides relative to parental consent with respect to the administration of vaccines to minors.

Ralph Abraham, LDH, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 711.

Pete Croughan, LDH, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 711.

Representative Egan offered amendments to:

- (1) Remove language that includes persons who are between the ages of 15 and 17 with those who have reached the age of majority.
- (2) Remove language that includes persons who are under the age of 18, are parents to minor children, and have full custody of the minor children with those who have reached the age of majority.
- (3) Modify the "gene" references in proposed law.
- (4) Remove language that includes representatives of minor children in proposed law provisions relative to parents and legal guardians.
- (5) Remove legislative findings relative to vaccine manufacturer liability, safety measures when administering multiple vaccinations, and exemptions and right of consciousness provisions.
- (6) Require healthcare providers to provide the Fact Sheet for Recipients available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to the parent or legal guardian before the administration of any vaccine authorized for emergency use to a minor.
- (7) Require written, informed consent from the parent or legal guardian of the minor to be provided to healthcare providers at school-based health centers within 72 hours before vaccination and the signed consent form to be kept in the student's file for as long as the student is enrolled in the school.
- (8) Allow a parent or legal guardian to dissent from providing immunization information to public and non-public schools in accordance with present law.
- (9) Provide that, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a school or parish health unit may accept a written informed consent signed elsewhere by the parent or legal guardian of the minor if the date of signature is not more than 3 days prior to the date of vaccination.
- (10) Define the term "school" for the purposes of proposed law.
- (11) Change proposed law provision from requiring the department to promulgate and adopt rules for the purpose of its implementation to the licensing authority.

Representative Egan 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, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, McMahan, Myers, Selders, and Turner voted yea.

Jill Hines, Health Freedom Louisiana, 3301 Seventeenth Street, #7443, Metairie, LA, 70010, spoke in support of House Bill No. 711.

Greg Waddell, Louisiana Hospital Association, 9521 Brookline Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 711.

Richard Bridges, Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians, 701 Sherri Drive, Amite, LA 70422, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 711.

Stephen Wright, Louisiana Chapter - American Academy of Pediatrics, 2270 Eliza Beaumont Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 711.

Julie Finger, 3211 Desoto Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 711.

Jennifer Herricks, Louisiana Families for Vaccines, 3433 Highway 190, PMB 233, Mandeville, LA 70471, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 711.

Representative Miller offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 711. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 711 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, and Myers voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 9 in support and 44 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 711 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

### **House Bill No. 256 by Representative Horton**

Representative Horton presented House Bill No. 256, which provides relative to a minor's consent for medical procedures.

Representative Miller offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Miller offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the substitute bill was adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, Myers, Selders, and Turner voted yea.

Jordan Carpenter, Alliance Defending Freedom, 3215 Thimbleberry Trail, Dacula, GA 30019, spoke in support of House Bill No. 256.



Page Lowry, Moms for Liberty - East Baton Rouge, 4488 North Flannery Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70814, spoke in support of House Bill No. 256.

Sharika Triche, 10441 Montrachet Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70817, spoke in support of House Bill No. 256.

Morgan Lamadre, Sexual Trauma Awareness & Response, 3615 Corporate Boulevard, Suite 200, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 256.

Greg Waddell, Louisiana Hospital Association, 9521 Brookline Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 256.

*Representative Butler in the chair.*

Stephen Wright, Louisiana Chapter - American Academy of Pediatrics, 2270 Eliza Beaumont Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 256.

*Representative Miller in the chair.*

Terry Landry, Jr., Southern Poverty Law Center Action Fund, 201 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70170, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 256.

Julie Finger, 3211 Desoto Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 256.

Representative Hughes offered a motion to report House Bill No. 256 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 256 was reported by substitute by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Selders, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 18 in support and 47 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 256 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

### **Senate Bill No. 92 by Senator Duplessis**

Senator Duplessis presented Senate Bill No. 92, which provides relative to the Safe Haven Law.

Representative Echols offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 92 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 92 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller,

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

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

#### **Senate Bill No. 231 by Senator Duplessis**

Senator Duplessis presented Senate Bill No. 231, which provides regarding involuntary outpatient treatment for mental health.

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

#### **House Bill No. 306 by Representative Owen**

***This is a continuation of the discussion on House Bill No. 306 from April 4, 2024. Please check for the prior action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 306.***

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 amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Miller offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the substitute bill was adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Dickerson, Echols, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Selders, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Echols offered a motion to report House Bill No. 306 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 306 was reported by substitute by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Dickerson, Echols, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Selders, and Turner voted yea.

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.

**Senate Bill No. 296 by Senator Boudreaux**

*Representative Turner in the chair.*

On behalf of Senator Boudreaux, Representative Miller presented Senate Bill No. 296, which provides relative to emergency medical services.

Stacy Barbay, LDH Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, 7273 Florida Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 296.

Representative Turner offered technical amendments. Representative Turner 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, Dickerson, Echols, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Selders, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Turner offered amendments that originated in committee to:

- (1) Modify the definition of an EMS medical director to require that the physician specialize in certain areas of medicine.
- (2) Restore a provision of present law that requires an emergency medical services practitioner, in certain life threatening situations, to follow a protocol for providing health care developed by the EMS medical director who is a board certified or board eligible emergency medicine physician.

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

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 296 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 296 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Dickerson, Echols, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Selders, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**Senate Bill No. 278 by Senator Jackson-Andrews**

*Representative Miller in the chair.*

Representative Miller offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on Senate Bill No. 278, which creates the Louisiana Pregnancy and Baby Care Initiative. Without objection, action on Senate Bill No. 278 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Dickerson, Echols, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Selders, and Turner voted yea.

### **House Bill No. 707 by Representative Jordan**

Representative Jordan presented House Bill No. 707, which provides relative to the regulation of cannabis.

Kevin Caldwell, Marijuana Policy Project, 2370 Champlain Street Northwest, Suite 12, Washington, DC 20009, spoke in support of House Bill No. 707.

Representative Miller offered amendments to:

- (1) Transfer the administration and registration of the cannabis program from the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry to the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH).
- (2) Remove the 15 facility cap on licenses that LDH may issue to cannabis product producers.
- (3) Provide that an person shall not be disqualified as a stakeholder in a cannabis production facility solely on the basis that the person was convicted or plead guilty to a felony if the felony was marijuana related.
- (4) Remove civil penalties from proposed law.

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, Butler, Chenevert, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Selders, and Turner voted yea.

Will Hall, Louisiana Baptist Office of Public Policy, 1250 MacArthur Drive, Alexandria, LA 71309, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 707 and provided a handout, Exhibit C, which is included in committee records.

Representative Selders offered a motion to report House Bill No. 707 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 707 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, Myers, Selders, and Turner voted yea.

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.

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

There was no other business.

#### **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Jackson offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, Myers, Selders, and Turner voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Dustin Miller  
House Committee on Health and Welfare

Date adopted: