

House Committee on Health and Welfare

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
April 30, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Dustin Miller, chairman of the House Committee on Health and Welfare, called the meeting to order at 9:04 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 Raymond J. Crews
Representative Kellee Hennessy Dickerson
Representative Michael Charles Echols
Representative Peter F. Egan, Sr.
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 Emily Chenevert
Representative Adrian Fisher

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**Senate Bill No. 163 by Senator Edmonds**

Senator Edmonds presented Senate Bill No. 163, which provides relative to the Advisory Council on Heroin and Opioid Prevention and Education.

Representative Echols offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 163 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 163 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, McMahan, Myers, and Selders voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 325 by Senator Edmonds

Senator Edmonds presented Senate Bill No. 325, which provides for an informational document to be made available to pregnant mothers following the diagnosis of a fetal abnormality with respect to their unborn child.

Ben Clapper, Louisiana Right to Life, 200 Allen Toussaint Boulevard, New Orleans, LA 70124, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 325.

Kila Gonzales, I Will Carry You, 6969 Egret Landing, Monroe, LA 71203, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 325.

Janina Bernard, 306 Fieldview Drive, Carencro, LA 70525, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 325.

Tom Costanza, Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2431 South Acadian Thruway, Suite 250, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 325.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 325 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 325 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, McMahan, Myers, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 24 in support and 6 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 325 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

Senate Bill No. 55 by Senator Carter

Senator Carter presented Senate Bill No. 55, which provides relative to post-birth information. Senator Carter provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 55 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 55 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Selders, Stagni, 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.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6 by Senator Carter

Senator Carter presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6, which requests the Louisiana Department of Health to apply to participate in the CMS Transforming Maternal Health Model.

Tonya Joiner, LDH, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6.

Ahnyel Burkes, Louisiana State Nurses Association, 543 Spanish Town Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 342 by Senator Harris

On behalf of Senator Harris, Edwin Murray, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center New Orleans, 433 Bolivar Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, presented Senate Bill No. 342, which provides relative to the Louisiana Tumor Registry.

Representative Miller offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 342 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 342 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Jackson, Myers, Selders, Stagni, 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. 939 by Representative Fisher

On behalf of Representative Fisher, Representative Selders presented House Bill No. 939, which provides relative to healthcare services provided to patients with sickle cell disease.

Karen Wyble, House Concurrent Resolution No. 44 Task Force, P.O. Box 678, Arnaudville, LA 70512, spoke in support of House Bill No. 939 and provided a handout, Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Richard Belle, Acadian Health, 4634 Orleans Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in support of House Bill No. 939.

Natasha Pittman, 3700 Orleans Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in support of House Bill No. 939.

Angela Marshall, 7732 Manchester Street, New Orleans, LA 70126, spoke in support of House Bill No. 939.

Marcus Bruno, 102 Marsh Drive, Lafayette, LA 70507, spoke in support of House Bill No. 939.

Kim Sullivan, LDH, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 939.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report House Bill No. 939 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 939 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 278 by Senator Jackson-Andrews

Senator Jackson-Andrews presented Senate Bill No. 278, which creates the Louisiana Pregnancy and Baby Care Initiative.

Representative Turner in the chair.

ShanQuenchelle Thomas, Life Choice of Monroe, 2612 Deloach Circle, Monroe, LA 71202, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 278.

Christina Barras, Department of Children and Family Services, 627 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 278.

Kathleen Richard, Life Choices North Central Louisiana - Ruston, 606 Belue Lane, Ruston, LA 71270, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 278.

Patrice Lewis, A Pregnancy Center and Clinic, 913 South College Road, Suite 206, Lafayette, LA 70503, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 278.

Amber Bradford, Seeds Women's Center, 402 Broadway Street, Minden, LA 71055, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 278.

Kim Lyons, Cenla Pregnancy Center, P.O. Box 13907, Alexandria, LA 71315, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 278.

Susan East Nelson, Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families, 7515 Jefferson Highway, #52, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 278.

Representative Echols offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 278 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 278 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berault, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 20 in support and 8 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 278 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

Senate Bill No. 57 by Senator Lambert

Senator Lambert presented Senate Bill No. 57, which provides relative to the practice of psychology.

Jesse Lambert, Louisiana Psychological Association, 10317 Taylor Sheets Junior Road, St. Amant, LA 70774, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 57.

Representative Echols offered amendments to:

- (1) Add a definition for a licensed psychological associate.
- (2) Establish a fee for a psychological associate license.
- (3) Establish procedures for the renewal of a psychological associate's license.

- (4) Add a provision to inform the public of licensed psychological associates.
- (5) Establish a procedure to renew, revoke, suspend or deny a psychological associate's license.
- (6) Establish guidelines to ensure confidentiality between a psychological associate and a patient.
- (7) Make technical changes.

Representative Echols offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berault, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Echols offered amendments to provide that a licensed psychological associate shall maintain malpractice insurance. Representative Echols offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berault, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 57 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 57 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berault, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, 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.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 10 by Senator Lambert

Senator Lambert presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 10, which requests the Louisiana Department of Health to develop and implement a plan for managed care organizations to provide reimbursement for certain psychological services.

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 Berault, Butler, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 10 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 10 was reported with

amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berault, Butler, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, 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.

Senate Bill No. 106 by Senator Barrow

On behalf of Senator Barrow, Representative Jackson presented Senate Bill No. 106, which provides relative to obesity treatment.

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 Berault, Butler, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, and Turner voted yea.

Philip Gachassin, Louisiana Bariatric Surgery Association, 1000 West Pinhook Road, Suite 310, Lafayette, LA 70503, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 106.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on Senate Bill No. 106. Without objection, action on Senate Bill No. 106 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berault, Butler, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, 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.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 106 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

Further action was taken by the committee on Senate Bill No. 106 on May 7, 2024. Please check for the subsequent action to complete the record of discussion and motions on Senate Bill No. 106.

Senate Bill No. 145 by Senator Barrow

On behalf of Senator Barrow, Representative Jackson presented Senate Bill No. 145, which provides relative to the state child ombudsman.

Kathleen Stewart Richey, Louisiana Legislative Auditor - Child Ombudsman, 1600 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 145.

Representative Turner offered amendments to:

- (1) Limit the collection of certain data to the extent allowed by federal law.
- (2) Specify that the state ombudsman has access to judgments and court minutes for proceedings involving juveniles.
- (3) Make technical changes.

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 Berault, Butler, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 145 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 145 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berault, Butler, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, and Turner 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.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 9 by Senator Mizell

On behalf of Senator Mizell, Representative Butler presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 9, which requests the Louisiana Department of Health to develop a strategy for statewide implementation of ODMAP.

Andre Gaudin, Jr., Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office, 619 South White Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 9.

Representative Butler offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 9 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 9 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berault, Butler, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, McMahan, Myers, 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.

Senate Bill No. 70 by Senator Mizell

On behalf of Senator Mizell, Representative Butler presented Senate Bill No. 70, which provides for parish overdose fatality review panels.

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 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berault, Butler, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, McMahan, Myers, and Turner voted yea.

Andre Gaudin, Jr., Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office, 619 South White Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 70.

Travers Kurr, New Orleans Health Department, 1300 Perdido Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 70.

Representative Butler offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 70 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 70 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Hughes, McMahan, Myers, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 70 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

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 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Hughes, McMahan, Myers, and Turner voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Dustin Miller
House Committee on Health and Welfare

Date adopted: