

House Committee on Health and Welfare

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
May 7, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Dustin Miller, chairman of the House Committee on Health and Welfare, called the meeting to order at 10:05 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 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 Raymond J. Crews

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

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**Senate Bill No. 385 by Senator Wheat**

Senator Wheat presented Senate Bill No. 385, which provides relative to strategic plan records of a hospital service district.

John Derenbecker, North Oaks Health System, 15790 Paul Vega MD Drive, Hammond, LA 70403, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 385.

Representative Miller offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 385 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 385 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, 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. 330 by Representative Phelps

Representative Phelps presented House Bill No. 330, which provides relative to the membership of the Louisiana Sickle Cell Commission.

Representative Miller offered amendments to add information to justify the membership of the Louisiana Sickle Cell Commission and to make technical changes. 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, Butler, Chenevert, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, Myers, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Fisher offered a motion to report House Bill No. 330 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 330 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, Myers, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 414 by Senator Bass

On behalf of Senator Bass, Representative McMahan presented Senate Bill No. 414, which authorizes the installation and use of newborn safety devices at infant relinquishment sites designated in the Safe Haven Law.

Representative Butler offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 414 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 414 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, McMahan, Myers, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

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

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 17 by Senator McMath

On behalf of Senator McMath, Representative Berault presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 17, which requests the Louisiana Department of Health to increase eligibility requirements for the Medicaid Purchase Plan.

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

Representative Butler offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 17 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 17 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, McMahan, Myers, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 239 by Senator McMath

On behalf of Senator McMath, Representative Berault presented Senate Bill No. 239, which provides relative to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

Representative Hughes offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 239 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 239 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, McMahan, Myers, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 86 by Representative Jordan

On behalf of Representative Jordan, Representative Fisher presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 86, which continues the Task Force on African American Suicide Rates.

Representative Hughes offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 86 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 86 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

The committee stood at ease at 10:25 a.m. The committee reconvened at 10:28 a.m.

House Bill No. 632 by Representative Orgeron

This is a continuation of the discussion on House Bill No. 632 from April 4, 2024. Please check for the prior action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 632.

Representative Orgeron presented House Bill No. 632, which provides relative to the moratorium on new or additional nursing facilities.

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 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Chris Jordan, Cut Off Nursing Home, 3019 West Admiral Doyle Drive, New Iberia, LA 70560, spoke in support of House Bill No. 632.

Mark Berger, Louisiana Nursing Home Association, 7844 Office Park Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 632.

Andrew Mull, AARP, 301 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 632.

Representative Miller offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 632. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 632 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Egan, Hughes, McMahan, Myers, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

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

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 632 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

Senate Bill No. 106 by Senator Barrow

This is a continuation of the discussion on Senate Bill No. 106 from April 30, 2024. Please check for the prior action to complete the record of discussion and motions on Senate Bill No. 106.

Representative Stagni in the chair.

Senator Barrow presented Senate Bill No. 106, which provides relative to obesity treatment.

Representative Stagni offered amendments to:

- (1) Require certain provisions of proposed law to apply to health insurance issuers offering health coverage plans in this state to the extent services are covered by the Essential Health Benefits Benchmark Plan in accordance with state and federal law.
- (2) Require the Louisiana Department of Health to evaluate bariatric surgery, certain pre-operative screening and counseling, behavior modification, nutritional counseling, and post-operative follow-up, overview, and counseling and lifestyle changes for coverage by the Essential Health Benefits Benchmark Plan during its next review of the plan.
- (3) Make technical corrections.

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 Berault, Chenevert, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, McMahan, Myers, Selders, Stagni, 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.

Frank Opelka, Louisiana Department of Insurance, 1702 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 106.

Ryan Haynie, Haynie and Associates, 1465 Ted Dunham Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70508, provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Hughes offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 106 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 106 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berault, Chenevert, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, McMahan, Myers, Selders, Stagni, 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. 23 by Senator Barrow

Senator Barrow presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 23, which urges and requests the Louisiana Department of Health to study behavioral health demand and access.

Representative Butler in the chair.

Representative Butler offered technical amendments. Representative Butler 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, Dickerson, Egan, Hughes, McMahan, Myers, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Hughes offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 23 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 23 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Hughes, McMahan, Myers, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 455 by Senator Barrow

Senator Barrow presented Senate Bill No. 455, which restricts the location of certain psychiatric facilities.

Representative Hughes offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on Senate Bill No. 455. Without objection, action on Senate Bill No. 455 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, McMahan, Myers, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 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 Chenevert offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, McMahan, Myers, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Dustin Miller
House Committee on Health and Welfare

Date adopted: