

House Committee on Health and Welfare

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
May 8, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Dustin Miller, chairman of the House Committee on Health and Welfare, called the meeting to order at 10:01 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 Larry Selders
Representative Joseph A. Stagni
Representative Christopher Turner

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Rhonda Gaye Butler, vice chairman
Representative Brach Jerad Myers

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. 187 by Senator Boudreaux**

Senator Boudreaux presented Senate Bill No. 187, which creates a pilot program for Medicaid recipients to utilize portable oxygen concentrators.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 187 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 187 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, Selders, and Stagni voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, 1 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 187 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 867 by Representative Henry

Representative Henry presented House Bill No. 867, which provides for the practice of audiology and speech-language pathology.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 867. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 867 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, Selders, and Stagni voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 40 by Senator Allain

Senator Allain presented Senate Bill No. 40, which provides relative to seafood safety.

Representative Miller offered amendments to:

- (1) Place the Seafood Safety Task Force under the Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism.
- (2) Add that the Seafood Safety Task Force may make recommendations on the use of money in the imported seafood safety fund.

- (3) Clarify that the task force shall recommend methods for protecting Louisiana from foreign shrimp.
- (4) Allow the lieutenant governor to assign matters to the task force.
- (5) Remove three proposed members from the task force.
- (6) Require the Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism to promulgate any rules necessary to implement proposed law.
- (7) Make technical changes.

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

Representative Echols offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 40 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 40 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 11 by Senator Foil

On behalf of Senator Foil, Melinda Richard, Louisiana Department of Health, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, presented Senate Bill No. 11, which provides relative to the Louisiana Traumatic Head and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund.

Representative Miller offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 11 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 11 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, McMahan, 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.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 73 by Representative Miller

Representative Stagni in the chair.

Representative Miller presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 73, which urges and requests the Louisiana Department of Health to develop a professional consulting nursing service code for reimbursement of certain services for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Kelly Monroe, The Arc of Louisiana, 600 Colonial Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 73 and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Stephanie LeBlanc, The Arc of Acadiana, 6400 Highway 90 West, New Iberia, LA 70560, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 73.

Representative Egan offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 73 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 73 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, McMahan, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

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

House Concurrent Resolution No. 87 by Representative Miller

Representative Miller presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 87, which continues the Health Inequalities and Disparities in Rural Areas Task Force.

Representative Selders offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 87 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 87 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, McMahan, 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.

Senate Bill No. 160 by Senator Owen

Representative Miller in the chair.

Senator Owen presented Senate Bill No. 160, which provides relative to physician assistants.

Shelly Esnard, Louisiana Academy of Physician Assistants, 1524 Cameron Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 160.

Representative Berault offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 160 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 160 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, McMahan, 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.

Senate Bill No. 195 by Senator Miguez

Senator Miguez presented Senate Bill No. 195, which provides relative to work requirements within the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Brian Sikma, Opportunity Solutions Project, 1181 Lowell Drive, Apartment 2, Oconomowoc, WI 53066, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 195.

Toby Comeaux, Department of Children and Family Services, 627 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 195.

Sarah Whittington, Justice and Accountability Center of Louisiana, 4035 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 195.

Daisy Ellis, New Orleans Health Department, 1300 Perdido Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 195.

Sissy Phleger, Invest in Louisiana (Louisiana Budget Project), 619 Jefferson Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 195.

Crystal Ellis, Save the Children Action Network, 15335 Seven Pines Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70817, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 195.

Corhonda Corley, Louisiana Families of Individuals with Disabilities, 8815 Wilmore Drive, Zachary, LA 70791, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 195.

Representative Chenevert offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 195 favorably, to which Representative Selders objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 195 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Berault, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, McMahan, Stagni, and Turner voted yea. Representatives Miller, Fisher, Hughes, and Selders voted nay.

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

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 195 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 598 by Representative Ventrella

Representative Ventrella presented House Bill No. 598, which provides relative to psychologists.

Julie Allerman, P. Wellness Institute, LLC, 4451 Bluebonnet Boulevard, Suite G, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in support of House Bill No. 598.

Juliet Catrett, P. Wellness Institute, LLC, 4451 Bluebonnet Boulevard, Suite G, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in support of House Bill No. 598 and provided a handout, Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Jesse D. Lambert, Louisiana Psychological Association, 10317 Taylor Sheets Junior Road, St. Amant, LA 70774, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 598.

Erin Reuther, Louisiana Psychological Association, 278 Audubon Boulevard, New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 598.

Matthew Holcomb, Louisiana State Board of Psychological Examiners, 4334 South Sherwood Forest Boulevard, Suite C-150, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 598.

Paula Zannah, Louisiana Psychological Association, 324 Fairway Drive, New Orleans, LA 70724, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 598.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report House Bill No. 598 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 598 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, and Stagni voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support and 11 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 Crews offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, and Stagni voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Dustin Miller
House Committee on Health and Welfare

Date adopted: