

House Committee on Health and Welfare

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
May 15, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Dustin Miller, chairman of the House Committee on Health and Welfare, called the meeting to order at 10:17 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 Joseph A. Stagni
Representative Christopher Turner

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Rhonda Gaye Butler, vice chairman
Representative Larry Selders

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Meah Johnson, attorney
Taylor Chrisman, attorney
Kristy Neubrandner, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms
Nevonda Reed, division director

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Resolution No. 189 by Representative Lyons**

Representative Lyons presented House Resolution No. 189, which requests the Louisiana Department of Health to authorize certain nonemergency medical transportation providers to furnish services outside of their designated regions in particular circumstances.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 189 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 189 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

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 Echols offered amendments to:

- (1) Add speech and language screening, cerumen management, and any basic health screening to the definition of the practice of audiology.
- (2) Remove provisions relative to the fitting and selling of hearing aids.
- (3) Remove provisions relative to educational requirements for an audiologist to fit and sell hearing aids.
- (4) Add that an audiologist who fits and sells hearing aids shall follow rules promulgated by the La. Board of Examiners of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (board).
- (5) Add that the board may waive licensing requirements in certain circumstances.
- (6) Add that the board may seek restitution of attorney fees when enforcing present law to discipline licensees.

- (7) Make technical changes.

Representative Echols 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, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Courtney Stewart, Louisiana Academy of Audiology, 2156 Sugar Cane Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, spoke in support of House Bill No. 167.

Representative Hughes offered a motion to report House Bill No. 867 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 867 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, McMahan, 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 Concurrent Resolution No. 88 by Representative Moore

On behalf of Representative Moore, Representative Fisher presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 88, which urges and requests the United States Food and Drug Administration to regulate tattoo ink.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 88 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 88 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, McMahan, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 103 by Representative Moore

On behalf of Representative Moore, Representative Fisher presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 103, which requests the Department of Children and Family Services to study the feasibility of implementing a 233 helpline as an additional resource for sexual abuse victims in this state.

Representative Hughes offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 103 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 103 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, McMahan, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 104 by Representative Freeman

Representative Freeman presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 104, which memorializes the United States Congress to preserve patient access to physician care by reforming the Medicare physician payment system.

Representative Miller offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 104 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 104 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Concurrent Resolution No. 104 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

Senate Bill No. 138 by Senator Owen

Senator Owen presented Senate Bill No. 138, which provides relative to dentistry.

Arthur Hickham, Jr., Louisiana State Board of Dentistry, P. O. Box 5356, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 138.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 138 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 138 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, 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 Bill No. 224 by Senator Owen

Senator Owen presented Senate Bill No. 224, which provides relative to opioid alternatives.

Jim Nickel, Vertex, 453 Lafayette Street, Suite A, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 224.

Representative Turner offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 224 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 224 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, Myers, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 143 by Senator Barrow

On behalf of Senator Barrow, Frankie Robertson, March of Dimes, 14335 Thorn Briar Drive, presented Senate Bill No. 143, which provides for hypertension screening.

Representative Miller offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 143 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 143 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, Myers, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 17 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Turner in the chair.

The committee went at ease at 10:52 a.m. The committee reconvened at 11:04 a.m.

Representative Miller in the chair.

Senate Bill No. 455 by Senator Barrow

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

Representative Miller offered amendments to clarify that a forensic psychiatric hospital issued an initial license after August 1, 2024, shall not be required to be located more than 1,000 feet from a public or private elementary or secondary school 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, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, McMahan, Myers, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Miller offered an amendment that originated in committee to change the time frame stated in the previously adopted amendment to *before* August 1, 2024, instead of *after* August 1, 2024. 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, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, McMahan, Myers, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Tory Rocca, Disability Rights Louisiana, 8325 Oak Street, New Orleans, LA 70118, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 455.

Representative Berault offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 455 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 455 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, McMahan, Myers, 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.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Stagni offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, McMahan, Myers, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Dustin Miller
House Committee on Health and Welfare

Date adopted: