

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

Minutes of Meeting  
2024 Regular Session  
May 21, 2024

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

Representative Dustin Miller, chairman of the House Committee on Health and Welfare, called the meeting to order at 9:35 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 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 Kellee Hennessy Dickerson  
Representative Larry Selders

#### **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 Concurrent Resolution No. 59 by Senator Fesi**

Senator Fesi presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 59, which requests the Louisiana Department of Health to work with stakeholders to develop a plan for the reestablishment of a nursing home following a natural disaster.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 59 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 59 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Crews, Echols, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, and Turner voted yea.

**Senate Bill No. 487 by Senator Cathey**

On behalf of Senator Cathey, Representative Berault presented Senate Bill No. 487, which provides for hospital drug screenings.

Representative Berault offered amendments to remove provisions that create a public records exception to the de-identified drug screening reports sent to the Louisiana Department of Health. Representative Berault 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, Butler, Chenevert, Crews, Echols, Hughes, McMahan, Myers, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Berault offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 487 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 487 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Crews, Echols, Hughes, McMahan, Myers, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

**House Resolution No. 214 by Representative Owen**

On behalf of Representative Owen, Representative Crews presented House Resolution No. 214, which requests the attorney general to investigate whether certain corporations violated any laws in the production, distribution, or sale of COVID-19 vaccinations.

Jill Hines, Health Freedom Louisiana, 3301 Seventeenth Street, #7443, Metairie, LA 70010, spoke in support of House Resolution No. 214.

Representative Echols offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 214 favorably, to which Representative Stagni objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 3 yeas and 8 nays. Representatives Chenevert, Crews, and Echols voted yea. Representatives Miller, Butler, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, and Stagni voted nay.

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

Prepared statements were received via email for House Resolution No. 214 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

### **Senate Bill No. 192 by Senator Barrow**

On behalf of Senator Barrow, Representative Hughes presented Senate Bill No. 192, which provides relative to the Empowering Families to Live Well Louisiana Council.

Representative Hughes offered amendments to reinstate present law language that appoints the chairman of the House Committee on Health and Welfare or his designee to the Empowering Families to Live Well Louisiana Council. Representative Hughes 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, Butler, Chenevert, Crews, Echols, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, and Stagni voted yea.

Representative Hughes offered amendments to:

- (1) Make the following changes with respect to the Research Park Corporation:
  - (a) Change the requirement from a minimum of nine members and a maximum of 12 members to manage the corporation to a minimum of seven members and a maximum of nine directors.
  - (b) Remove present law requirement for one member of the board to be appointed by the Economic Freedom Association.
  - (c) Require designees from the Department of Economic Development Small and Emerging Business Development Program who are designated by the secretary, the chancellor of the Baton Rouge Community College, the state senator for Senate District 15, and the state representative for House District 61 to be appointed to the board.

- (d) Change the requirement for board members to elect individuals to represent the business sector and serve on the board of directors from at least four but no more than seven to at least one but not more than two.
  - (e) Change initial terms of the elected members designated in present law from three to two years.
  - (f) Allow elected members to succeed themselves if reelected for an additional two years.
- (2) Make technical corrections.

Representative Hughes 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, Butler, Chenevert, Crews, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, and Stagni voted yea.

Representative Hughes offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 192 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 192 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Butler, Chenevert, Crews, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, and Stagni 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. 509 by Senator Duplessis**

Senator Duplessis presented Senate Bill No. 509, which provides for violence prevention.

Representative Fisher offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 509 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 509 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Butler, Chenevert, Crews, Echols, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, Myers, and Stagni 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.

#### **House Resolution No. 222 by Representative Edmonston**

On behalf of Representative Edmonston, Representative Butler presented House Resolution No. 222, which requests the Louisiana Department of Health to evaluate factors affecting children who are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder in this state and their families.

Julie Foster-Hagan, Louisiana Department of Health, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Resolution No. 222.

Representative Stagni offered amendments to require the Louisiana Department of Health, in its preparation of the written report of its findings, to work with colleges and universities in this state that have research centers to gain clinical expertise and insight on autism spectrum disorder and to 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 Miller, Butler, Chenevert, Crews, Echols, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, Myers, and Stagni voted yea.

Representative Miller offered amendments to require the Louisiana Department of Health to evaluate and understand the prevalence of autism spectrum disorder in this state by region and demographic. 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, Butler, Chenevert, Crews, Echols, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, Myers, and Stagni voted yea.

Corhonda Corley, Louisiana Families of Individuals with Disabilities, 8815 Wilmore Drive, Zachary, LA 70791, spoke in support of House Resolution No. 222.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 222 with amendments. Without objection, House Resolution No. 222 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Crews, Jackson, McMahan, Myers, and Stagni 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 House Resolution No. 222 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

### **House Resolution No. 246 by Representative Mandie Landry**

Representative Mandie Landry presented House Resolution No. 246, which requests the Louisiana Department of Health, through its Medical Care Advisory Committee, or the creation of a subcommittee thereof, to study ways for Medicaid to invest in community-based social service organizations that address health-related social needs and determinants.

Representative Myers offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 246 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 246 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Crews, Echols, McMahan, Myers, and Stagni 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.

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

There was no other business.

#### **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Butler offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Crews, Echols, McMahan, Myers, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Dustin Miller  
House Committee on Health and Welfare

Date adopted: