

House Committee on Health and Welfare

Minutes of Meeting
2025 Regular Session
April 16, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Dustin Miller, chair of the House Committee on Health and Welfare, called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m. in Room 5, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Dustin Miller, chair
Representative Stephanie H. Berault
Representative Rhonda Gaye Butler, vice chair
Representative Tehmi Jahi Chassion
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 Annie Spell
Representative Joseph A. Stagni
Representative Christopher Turner

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Taylor Chrisman, attorney
Nya Bryant, legislative analyst
Kristy Neubrandner, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Faith Lillie, committee administrative assistant
Nevonda Reed, division director
Rebecca Marshall, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 340 by Representative Newell**

Representative Newell presented House Bill No. 340, which changes the domicile of the Louisiana State Board of Dentistry.

Annette Drodgy, Louisiana Dental Association, 5637 Bankers Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in support of House Bill No. 340.

Representative Hughes offered a motion to report House Bill No. 340 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 340 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Miller, McMahan, Spell, Stagni, and Berault voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support.

House Bill No. 316 by Representative Butler

Representative Butler presented House Bill No. 316, which provides for the Drug Policy Board.

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 Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Miller, McMahan, Spell, Stagni, and Berault voted yea.

Shayla Polk, Governor's Office of Drug Policy, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 316.

Representative Miller offered a motion to report House Bill No. 316 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 316 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Miller, McMahan, Spell, Stagni, and Berault voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 210 by Representative Chassion

Representative Chassion presented House Bill No. 210, which provides relative to retention and archiving of records in the state prescription monitoring program.

Representative Chassion offered amendments to require the retention of all records and approval before the destruction of any records. Representative Chassion offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Miller, McMahan, Spell, Stagni, and Berault voted yea.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report House Bill No. 210 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 210 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Miller, McMahan, Spell, Stagni, and Berault voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 159 by Representative Stagni

Representative Stagni presented House Bill No. 159, which provides relative to the supervision of physical therapist assistants.

Representative Stagni offered amendments to:

- (1) Replace "therapist assistants" and "unlicensed supportive personnel" with the term "therapy supportive personnel".
- (2) Provide that it is the responsibility of each physical therapist to determine the number of therapy supportive personnel he can safely supervise but, in no case, shall the number of individuals supervised exceed six individuals.
- (3) Add that a supervising physical therapist shall treat and reassess a patient every twelfth treatment day or every 30 days and for the patient's final treatment session.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Miller, McMahan, Spell, Stagni, and Berault voted yea.

Christina Faucheux, American Physical Therapy Association - Louisiana Chapter, 4021 Pointe Avenue, Zachary, LA 70791, spoke in support of House Bill No. 159.

Representative Butler offered a motion to report House Bill No. 159 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 159 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Miller, McMahan, Spell, Stagni, and Berault voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support and 3 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 543 by Representative McMahan

Representative McMahan presented House Bill No. 543, which provides relative to the Interstate Dental and Dental Hygiene Licensure Compact.

Representative McMahan offered technical amendments. Representative McMahan offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Miller, McMahan, Spell, and Stagni voted yea.

Arthur Hickham, Jr., American Association of Dental Boards and the Louisiana Dental Board, 18212 East Petroleum Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 543.

Annette Droddy, Louisiana Dental Association, 5637 Bankers Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in support of House Bill No. 543.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report House Bill No. 543 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 543 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, Miller, McMahan, Spell, Stagni, and Berault voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 89 by Representative Orgeron

Representative Orgeron presented House Bill No. 89, which provides relative to the issuance of a death certificate in certain circumstances.

Representative Egan offered a motion to report House Bill No. 89 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 89 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Butler,

Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, Miller, Spell, Stagni, and Berault voted yea.

House Bill No. 253 by Representative Boyer

Representative Boyer presented House Bill No. 253, which provides relative to kratom.

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 Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, Miller, Spell, Stagni, and Berault voted yea.

Christopher McCurdy, 6219 Northwest 81st Boulevard, Gainesville, FL 32653, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 253.

Pete Croughan, Louisiana Department of Health, 624 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 253.

Jourdain Mixon, 2435 Evanston Street, Baker, LA 70714, spoke in support of House Bill No. 253.

Adam Peak, Bella Sunrise Smokeshop, 946 Tanglebriar Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, spoke in support of House Bill No. 253.

Lee-Ann Pierson, 946 Tanglebriar Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, spoke in support of House Bill No. 253.

John M. Chouccoli, 1924 Southland Court, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, spoke in support of House Bill No. 253.

Sheldon Bradshaw, Botanicals for Better Health and Wellness, 702 Enderby Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302, spoke in support of House Bill No. 253.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 253 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 253 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, Miller, McMahan, Spell, 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.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 253 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

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 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, Miller, McMahan, Spell, and Stagni voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Dustin Miller
House Committee on Health and Welfare

Date adopted: