

House Committee on Health and Welfare

Minutes of Meeting
2025 Regular Session
April 23, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Dustin Miller, chair of the House Committee on Health and Welfare, called the meeting to order at 11:08 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. 565 by Representative Spell**

Representative Miller offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 565, which provides relative to third-party liability, claim adjudication, and timeliness of such within the state medical assistance program. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 565 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

House Bill No. 115 by Representative Stagni

Representative Stagni presented House Bill No. 115, which provides relative to the donation of source plasma.

Shelia Quinney, Grifols, 800 Jackson Street, Alexandria, LA 71303, spoke in support of House Bill No. 115.

Lawson Scott Roberts, Grifols, 2109 Mansfield Road, Logansport, LA 71049, spoke in support of House Bill No. 115.

Representative Hughes offered a motion to report House Bill No. 115 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 115 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, 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 Bill No. 118 by Representative Egan

Representative Egan presented House Bill No. 118, which provides relative to emergency certificates in St. Tammany Parish.

Joshua Sanderson, St. Tammany Parish Coroner's Office, 65278 LA-434, Lacombe, LA 70445, spoke in support of House Bill No. 118.

Hunter Duke, LA Physicians for Patients, 4847 Revere Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in support of House Bill No. 118.

Representative Hughes offered a motion to report House Bill No. 118 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 118 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, 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.

House Bill No. 314 by Representative Miller

Representative Butler in the chair.

Representative Miller presented House Bill No. 314, which modifies the regulatory authority of the Louisiana Department of Health in relation to hospital classifications.

Representative Miller offered amendments to change the effective date to January 1, 2026. 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, Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Veronica Gillispie, Louisiana Department of Health, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 314.

Representative Hughes offered a motion to report House Bill No. 314 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 314 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 11 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 314 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 358 by Representative Miller

Representative Miller presented House Bill No. 358, which permits a pharmacy technician to work remotely in certain circumstances.

Lori Maraist, Professional Arts Pharmacy, 128 Curran Lane, Lafayette, LA 70506, spoke in support of House Bill No. 358.

Amanda Gendusa, Pharmacy Technicians, 4420 Wade Drive, Metairie, LA 70003, spoke in support of House Bill No. 358.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 358 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 358 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Butler, Chassion, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 454 by Representative Miller

Representative Hughes in the chair.

Representative Miller presented House Bill No. 454, which requires Medicaid coverage for certain doula services.

Amanda Kay, 325 Woodstone Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in support of House Bill No. 454.

Susan East Nelson, Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families, 7515 Jefferson Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in support of House Bill No. 454.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report House Bill No. 454 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 454 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, 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.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 454 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 317 by Representative Echols

Representative Echols presented House Bill No. 317, which establishes prohibited acts by certain healthcare facility lessors and lessees.

Representative Hughes offered technical amendments. Representative Hughes 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, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Echols offered amendments to provide that a lessee facility means a hospital operating under a lease agreement and to provide that a lessor entity means an entity that leases a hospital to another entity. Representative Echols 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, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Peter Robbins Brown, Louisiana Progress Action, 650 North Sixth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 317.

Merrilee Montgomery, Louisiana Progress, 650 North Sixth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 317.

Representative Fisher offered a motion to report House Bill No. 317 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 317 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

House Bill No. 399 by Representative Chenevert

Representative Miller in the chair.

Representative Chenevert presented House Bill No. 399, which provides with respect to the profession of dietetics and dieticians.

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, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Brooke Lowenkron, Dietitians, 17443 Waterloo Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70817, spoke in support of House Bill No. 399.

Fran Boudreaux White, LA Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, 815 Louray Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in support of House Bill No. 399.

Representative Chenevert offered amendments to exempt certain records related to the compact from public records requests. Representative Chenevert 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, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report House Bill No. 399 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 399 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 456 by Representative Turner

Representative Turner presented House Bill No. 456, which provides relative to the Local Healthcare Provider Participation Program.

Ryan Cross, Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Health System, 4200 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in support of House Bill No. 456.

Representative Turner offered amendments to clarify that a local hospital assessment payment will be imposed on each paying hospital in the parish in accordance with federal law and to make technical changes. Representative Turner 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, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Egan, Jackson, McMahan, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 456 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 456 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 11 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 544 by Representative Turner

Representative Turner presented House Bill No. 544, which transfers powers and duties of the Nursing Supply and Demand Council and the Simulation Medical Training and Education Council to the Louisiana Health Works Commission.

Melvin Baker, Board of Regents, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

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 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Fisher, McMahan, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Turner offered amendments to add the president of the Louisiana State Nurses Association or his designee to the executive committee of the Louisiana Health Works Commission. Representative Turner 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, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Fisher, McMahan, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Turner offered a motion to report House Bill No. 544 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 544 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Fisher, McMahan, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 10 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 539 by Representative Berault

On behalf of Representative Berault, Representative Echols presented House Bill No. 539, which creates a program and fund administered by the La. Dept. of Health for the purpose of recruiting specialist physicians to practice medicine in the state.

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 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Berault joined Representative Echols at the table and provided closing remarks on House Bill No. 539.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report House Bill No. 539 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 539 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 16 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

The minutes of the 2024 Regular Session committee meetings held on March 21, March 26, March 27, April 3, April 4, April 9, April 16, April 17, April 24, April 30, May 7, May 8, May 14, May 15, and May 21 were presented to the committee for consideration. Representative Hughes offered a motion to adopt. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 1:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Dustin Miller
House Committee on Health and Welfare

Date adopted: