

House Committee on Health and Welfare

Minutes of Meeting
2023 Regular Session
April 25, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Lawrence A. "Larry" Bagley, chairman of the House Committee on Health and Welfare, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. in Room 5, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Lawrence A. "Larry" Bagley, chairman
Representative Roy Daryl Adams
Representative Kenny R. Cox
Representative Raymond J. Crews
Representative Michael Charles Echols
Representative Jason Hughes
Representative C. Travis Johnson
Representative Ed Larvadain, III
Representative Wayne McMahan
Representative Patricia "Pat" Moore
Representative Thomas A. Pressly
Representative Laurie Schlegel
Representative Joseph A. Stagni
Representative Christopher Turner, vice chairman

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Robby Carter
Representative Dustin Miller
Representative Robert "Bob" Owen
Representative Larry Selders

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Faye Talbot, sergeant at arms
Nevonda Reed, division director

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 541 by Representative Wheat**

Representative Wheat presented House Bill No. 541, which designates Act No. 619 of the 2022 Regular Session as the "Lane Allen Gottschalck Act".

Representative Bagley offered technical amendments. Representative Bagley offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Cox, Echols, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, McMahan, Moore, Schlegel, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Turner offered a motion to report House Bill No. 541 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 541 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Cox, Echols, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, McMahan, Moore, Pressly, Schlegel, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

House Bill No. 419 by Representative Travis Johnson

Representative Travis Johnson presented House Bill No. 419, which provides relative to Medicaid coverage for the Psychiatric Collaborative Care Model.

Representative Bagley offered a technical amendment. Representative Bagley offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Echols, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, McMahan, Moore, Pressly, Schlegel, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Stephen Wright, Louisiana Psychiatric Medical Association (LPMA), 695 Kiskatom Lane, Mandeville, LA 70471, (504) 920-7537, spoke in support of House Bill No. 419.

Lee Tynes, LPMA, Tulane Psychiatry, 1440 Canal Street, TB53, New Orleans, LA 70112, (337) 281-2192, spoke in support of House Bill No. 419.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report House Bill No. 419 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 419 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Cox, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, McMahan, Moore, Pressly, Schlegel, and Stagni 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.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 2 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 459 by Representative Travis Johnson

Representative Travis Johnson presented House Bill No. 459, which provides relative to phlebotomists.

Jesse McCormick, Quest Diagnostics, 714 North Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 262-1875, spoke in support of House Bill No. 459.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report House Bill No. 459 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 459 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Cox, Echols, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, McMahan, Moore, Pressly, Schlegel, Stagni, and Turner voted yeas.

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

House Bill No. 435 by Representative Freeman

Representative Freeman presented House Bill No. 435, which provides relative to medicaid coverage of chimeric antigen receptor T-cell therapy.

Representative Pressly offered a motion to report House Bill No. 435 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 435 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Cox, Echols, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, McMahan, Moore, Pressly, Schlegel, Stagni, and Turner voted yeas.

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

House Bill No. 578 by Representative Glover

Representative Glover presented House Bill No. 578, which provides relative to a smoking cessation benefits program.

Representative Bagley offered amendments to:

- (1) Remove the requirement that the La. Department of Health develop and implement a public awareness campaign.
- (2) Make technical changes.

Representative Bagley offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Cox, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, McMahan, Moore, Pressly, Schlegel, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Chad Landry, Cancer Advocacy Group of Louisiana (CAGLA), 126 Brockenbraugh Court, Metairie, LA 70005, (504) 508-8900, spoke in support of House Bill No. 578.

Avis Richard, Louisiana Department of Health, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9509, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 578.

Representative Schlegel offered a motion to report House Bill No. 578 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 578 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Cox, Crews, Echols, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, McMahan, Moore, Schlegel, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 12 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 587 by Representative Moore

Representative Moore presented House Bill No. 587, which provides relative to the Louisiana Community Health Worker Workforce Board. Representative Moore provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Ashley Wennerstrom, LSU Health New Orleans, 533 Bolivar Street, Room 505, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 717-5635, spoke for information only on House Bill No 587.

Catherine G. Haywood, Louisiana Community Health Outreach Network (LACHON), 2030 Oretha C. Haley Boulevard, New Orleans, LA 70113, (504) 261-8586, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 587.

Representative Moore offered amendments to:

- (1) Add a Chapter title.

- (2) Change the number of members on the Workforce Board from 23 to 11.
- (3) Add a majority requirement for the inclusion of community health workers on the board.
- (4) Remove the dean of the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine from the board and add a member from the board of directors of the Louisiana Public Health Institute to the board.
- (5) Remove the assistant secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health from the board.
- (6) Remove the representative of the Louisiana Managed Medicaid Association and certain other members from the board.
- (7) Change the amount of community health workers representing community-based organizations from 11 to 6.
- (8) Require the Louisiana Community Health Outreach Network to appoint members instead of the governor.
- (9) Remove members appointed by the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives from the board.
- (10) Delete the duty of the board to develop a certification program for community health workers.
- (11) Add language that requires the board to meet quarterly and establishes certain accessibility requirements.
- (12) Make technical corrections.

Representative Moore offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Cox, Crews, Echols, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, McMahan, Moore, Pressly, Schlegel, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Larvadain offered a motion to report House Bill No. 587 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 587 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Cox, Crews, Echols, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, McMahan, Moore, Pressly, Schlegel, Stagni, and Turner 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. 372 by Representative Edmonston

Representative Edmonston presented House Bill No. 372, which provides relative to mandates, requirements, recommendations, instructions, or guidance from federal or international organizations.

Representative Schlegel offered amendments to:

- (1) Delete the body of the bill and state that neither the federal government nor any international organization may command this state to implement any regulatory program, as such commands are "incompatible with our constitutional system of dual sovereignty".
- (2) Make technical corrections.

Representative Schlegel offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Cox, Crews, Echols, Hughes, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, McMahan, Moore, Pressly, Schlegel, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Elizabeth Wahl Andre', 3595 Wahl Road, Paulina, LA 70763, (225) 939-4451, provided a handout, Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Chris Alexander, Louisiana Citizen Advocacy Group, P.O. Box 64952, Baton Rouge, LA 70896, (225) 333-6434, spoke in support of House Bill No. 372.

Doris Brown, Louisiana Department of Health, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9509, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 372.

Representative Schlegel offered a motion to report House Bill No. 372 with amendments, to which Representative Moore objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 4 yeas and 7 nays. Representatives Bagley, Echols, Pressly, and Schlegel voted yea. Representatives Cox, Hughes, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, McMahan, Moore, and Stagni voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 29 in support and 4 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 22 in support and 6 in opposition. The committee also received 482 "robo" emails in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

Further action was taken by the committee on House Bill No. 372 on May 10, 2023. Please check for the subsequent action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 372.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Larvadain offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Cox, Echols, Hughes, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, McMahan, Moore, Pressly, Schlegel, and Stagni voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Lawrence A. "Larry" Bagley
House Committee on Health and Welfare

Date adopted: