

House Committee on Health and Welfare

Minutes of Meeting
2023 Regular Session
May 16, 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 10:08 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 Robby Carter
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 Dustin Miller
Representative Patricia "Pat" Moore
Representative Robert "Bob" Owen
Representative Thomas A. Pressly
Representative Larry Selders
Representative Joseph A. Stagni
Representative Christopher Turner, vice chairman

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Laurie Schlegel

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Randall Ike, committee clerk
Faye Talbot, sergeant at arms
Nevonda Reed, division director

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 471 by Representative Freiberg**

Representative Freiberg presented House Bill No. 471, which provides relative to administration of immunizations and vaccines by pharmacists and other licensees of the La. Board of Pharmacy. Representative Freiberg provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Ryan LaBarbera, Albertsons, 9650 Airline Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70815, (225) 439-1505, spoke in support of House Bill No. 471.

Dwana Day Robertson, Brookshire Grocery, 1600 West Southwest Loop 323, Tyler, TX 75701, (337) 519-5346, spoke in support of House Bill No. 471.

Brittany Tucker, Albertsons, 9650 Airline Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70815, (281) 415-9982, spoke in support of House Bill No. 471.

Jill Hines, Health Freedom Louisiana, 1307 Mesa Avenue, Ruston, LA 71270, (904) 318-6018, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 471.

Chris Alexander, Louisiana Citizen Advocacy Group, 1380 Steele Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, chris@lacag.org, no phone number provided, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 471.

Stephen Wright, The Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, P.O. Box 64629, Baton Rouge, LA 70471, (318) 663-3810, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 471.

Representative Hughes offered a motion to report House Bill No. 471 favorably. Representative Crews offered a substitute motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 471, to which Representative Travis Johnson objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the substitute motion failed to pass by a vote of 2 yeas and 14 nays. Representatives Crews and Pressly voted yea. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Robby Carter, Cox, Echols, Hughes, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, McMahan, Moore, Robert Owen, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted nay.

The original motion to report House Bill No. 471 favorably was considered. Without objection, House Bill No. 471 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Robby Carter, Cox, Crews, Echols, Hughes, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, McMahan, Moore, Robert Owen, Pressly, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 10 in support and 16 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: 4 in support and 12 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records. The committee also received 58 "robo" emails in support, which are stored electronically.

House Resolution No. 100 by Representative Freiberg

Representative Freiberg presented House Resolution No. 100, which requests the legislative auditor to perform an audit or evaluation of assistance programs to identify areas for improved coordination of efforts.

Erin Bendily, Pelican Institute, 4000 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, (504) 500-0506, spoke in favor of House Resolution No. 100.

Mike Waguespack, Louisiana Legislative Auditor, P.O. Box 94397, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 339-3840, spoke for information only on House Resolution No. 100.

Representative Cox offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 100 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 100 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Cox, Crews, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, McMahan, Moore, Pressly, Selders, and Stagni 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.

Senate Bill No. 135 by Senator Barrow

Senator Barrow presented Senate Bill No. 135, which provides relative to Medicaid reimbursement for services provided by a licensed midwife or certified nurse midwife.

Esther deJong, Maternal and Child Health Coalition, 950 Picheloup Place, New Orleans, LA 70119, (504) 473-6311, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 135.

Michelle Collins, American College of Nurse Midwives, 1604 Apple Street, Metairie, LA 70001, (615) 300-0813, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 135.

Representative Cox offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 135 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 135 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Cox, Echols, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, McMahan, Moore, Robert Owen, Pressly, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 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: 23 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 427 by Representative Crews

This is a continuation of the discussion of House Bill No. 427 from May 2 and May 10, 2023. Please check for the prior action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 427.

Representative Crews presented House Bill No. 427, which provides relative to disclosure by healthcare facilities to patients of prices for certain items and services.

Representative Crews offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Crews offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Cox, Crews, Echols, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, McMahan, Dustin Miller, Moore, Robert Owen, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Crews offered a motion to report House Bill No. 427 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 427 was reported by substitute by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Cox, Crews, Echols, Travis Johnson, Larvadain, McMahan, Dustin Miller, Moore, Robert Owen, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support, 5 in opposition, and 1 for information only. 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: 10 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 83 by Representative Echols

Representative Echols presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 83, which requests the Louisiana Department of Health to create a task force to study, identify, and make recommendations to address the specialist physician shortage in the state.

Representative Echols offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 83 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 83 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Cox, Crews, Echols, Larvadain, McMahan, Dustin Miller, Moore, Robert Owen, Pressly, Selders, 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.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Adams offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Adams, Cox, Crews, Echols, Larvadain, McMahan, Dustin Miller, Moore, Robert Owen, Pressly, Selders, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: