

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

Minutes of Meeting  
2025 Regular Session  
April 29, 2025

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

Representative Dustin Miller, chair of the House Committee on Health and Welfare, called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. in Room 4, 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 Neubrander, committee administrative assistant

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Rebecca Marshall, sergeant at arms  
Nevonda Reed, division director

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION****House Bill No. 114 by Representative Domangue**

Representative Miller offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 114, which provides for the use of artificial intelligence by healthcare providers. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 114 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Echols, Egan, McMahon, Spell, and Turner voted yea.

**House Bill No. 541 by Representative Hilmerty**

Representative Miller offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 541, which establishes a registry for individuals and entities that provide caregiving services. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 541 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Echols, Egan, McMahon, Spell, and Turner voted yea.

**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 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Echols, Egan, McMahon, Spell, and Turner voted yea.

**House Bill No. 266 by Representative Wiley**

Representative Wiley presented House Bill No. 266, which provides for the personal needs allowance of residents in nursing homes and other facilities.

Representative Fisher offered a motion to report House Bill No. 266 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 266 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, McMahon, Spell, 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.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 266 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

### **House Bill No. 451 by Representative Bacala**

On behalf of Representative Bacala, Representative Wiley presented House Bill No. 451, which provides relative to mandatory reporters of child abuse.

Gary Bennett, Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, 1175 Nicholson Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 451.

Steven Nethken, Gonzales Police Department, 415 East Cornerview Road, Gonzales, LA 70737, spoke in support of House Bill No. 451.

Adam Johnson, Bossier Sheriff's Office, 204 Burt Boulevard, Benton, LA 71006, spoke in support of House Bill No. 451.

Representative Hughes offered a motion to report House Bill No. 451 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 451 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, McMahan, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

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

### **House Bill No. 411 by Representative Ventrella**

Representative Miller offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 411, which adds emergency medical services to the Fire Service Bill of Rights. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 411 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, McMahan, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

### **House Bill No. 525 by Representative Walters**

Representative Walters presented House Bill No. 525, which creates the Uterine Fibroids Commission. Representative Walters gave a PowerPoint presentation, 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 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, McMahan, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Miller offered amendments to add a member to the commission from the Ochsner Health System and to provide for the selection of the member from the Ochsner Health System. 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, Berault, Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahon, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Chassion offered a motion to report House Bill No. 525 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 525 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahon, Spell, 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. 560 by Representative Egan**

Representative Egan presented House Bill No. 560, which provides relative to the Medical Assistance Programs Integrity Act.

Matthew P. Stafford, Jr., Louisiana Department of Justice, 1885 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke as the designee of an elected official on House Bill No. 560.

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 Miller, Berault, Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahon, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Miller offered amendments to change the entity that a violator of present law must furnish information concerning an allegation to be eligible for reduced damages from the department and the attorney general to the state and to repeal definitions for "ineligible recipient" and "recoulement". 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, Berault, Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahon, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Berault offered a motion to report House Bill No. 560 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 560 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahon, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 as the designee of an elected official. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 531 by Representative Travis Johnson**

Representative Travis Johnson presented House Bill No. 531, which provides for forensic medical examinations of sexual assault survivors.

Monica Taylor, Louisiana Office of Human Trafficking Prevention, P.O. Box 94004, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 531.

Representative Miller offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 531. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 531 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, Spell, 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.

***Further action was taken by the committee on House Bill No. 531 on May 14, 2025. Please check for the subsequent action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 531.***

**House Bill No. 400 by Representative Chenevert**

*Representative Butler in the chair.*

Representative Chenevert presented House Bill No. 400, which provides relative to a minor's consent for medical procedures and treatments.

Representative Chenevert offered amendments to:

- (1) Provide that a person lawfully exercising parental authority shall be required to consent for all medical and mental health services provided to the minor, except under the following circumstances:
  - (a) The minor is a member of the armed forces;
  - (b) The minor is emancipated;
  - (c) The minor is pregnant and is consenting to care related to the pregnancy;
  - (d) The minor is seeking care for a venereal disease; or
  - (e) The minor is seeking care for alcohol or substance misuse.
- (2) Provide that consent from a minor to accept treatment is legally binding.

- (3) Provide that if the patient is a minor, a healthcare provider shall furnish the parent, tutor, or legal guardian with a copy of the minor's medical records.
- (4) Make technical changes.

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, Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Echols, Egan, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

*Representative Miller in the chair.*

Kathy Cook, Mental Health Advocacy, 302 Dulles Drive, Lafayette, LA 70506, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 400.

Jill Hines, Health Freedom Louisiana, 1307 Mesa Avenue, Ruston, LA 71270, spoke in support of House Bill No. 400.

Merrilee Montgomery, 650 North Sixth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 400.

Representative Butler offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 400. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 400 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Butler, Chenevert, Crews, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Spell, and Stagni voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support, 10 in opposition, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 400 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

***Further action was taken by the committee on House Bill No. 400 on May 14, 2025. Please check for the subsequent action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 400.***

### **House Bill No. 338 by Representative Hilmerty**

Representative Hilmerty presented House Bill No. 338, which provides relative to paid leave for living organ donations.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 338 favorably. After discussion, Representative Jackson withdrew his motion to report House Bill No. 338 favorably.

Representative Crews offered a motion to recommend to recommit House Bill No. 338 without action to the House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations, to which Representative Stagni

objected. Representative Stagni offered a substitute motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 338. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 338 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Echols, Egan, Jackson, McMahan, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

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

*Further action was taken by the committee on House Bill No. 338 on May 8, 2025. Please check for the subsequent action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 338.*

### **House Bill No. 559 by Representative Echols**

Representative Echols presented House Bill No. 559, which organizes the state human services district under the secretary and surgeon general of the Louisiana Department of Health.

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

Representative Echols offered amendments to:

- (1) Replace the surgeon general with the secretary of LDH as the individual coordinating and directing the actions of human services districts and authorities.
- (2) Add one representative from the ARC of Louisiana and one representative from the La. Workforce Commission to the La. Population Health Coordinating Council.
- (3) Provide that the representative from ARC of Louisiana shall be appointed by the governor.
- (4) Provide that the representative from La. Workforce Commission shall be selected by the secretary of the La. Workforce Commission.
- (5) Make technical corrections.

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, Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to invoke the three-minute rule. After discussion, Representative Jackson withdrew his motion to invoke the three-minute rule.

Kelly Monroe, The Arc of Louisiana, 600 Colonial Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 559.

Jan Laughinghouse, Capital Area Human Services, 7389 Florida Boulevard, Suite 100A, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 559.

Tanya McGee, Imperial Calcasieu Human Services Authority, 4105 Kirkman Street, Lake Charles, LA 70607, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 559.

Richard Kramer, Florida Parishes Human Services Authority, 835 Pride Drive, Hammond, LA 70401, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 559.

Rosanna DiChiro, Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority, 3616 South I-10 Service Road, Metairie, LA 70001, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 559.

*Representative Butler in the chair.*

Ruby Evans, Family Member/Advocate, 632 Orion Avenue, Metairie, LA 70005, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 559.

*Representative Miller in the chair.*

Representative Echols offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 559. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 559 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

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

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 559 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

***Further action was taken by the committee on House Bill No. 559 on May 8, 2025. Please check for the subsequent action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 559.***

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

There was no other business.

**V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Stagni offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Dustin Miller  
House Committee on Health and Welfare

Date adopted: