

House Committee on Health and Welfare

Minutes of Meeting
2025 Regular Session
May 7, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Dustin Miller, chair of the House Committee on Health and Welfare, called the meeting to order at 9:37 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:

Rebecca Marshall, sergeant at arms
Nevonda Reed, division director
Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 137 by Representative Carlson**

Representative Carlson presented House Bill No. 137, which authorizes psychologists and medical psychologists to evaluate a patient via telehealth for emergency certificates.

Representative Egan offered a motion to report House Bill No. 137 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 137 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yeas.

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. 607 by Representative Zeringue

Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 607, which provides for healthcare facilities located in hospital service districts.

Representative Spell offered amendments to clarify the definition of "affiliate" of a hospital service district and to make technical changes.

A. J. Herbert, Terrebonne General Hospital and St. James Parish Hospital, 1100 Poydras Street, #2100, New Orleans, LA 70163, spoke in support of House Bill No. 607.

Representative Spell offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Butler, Chassion, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yeas.

Staci Sullivan, Lane Regional Medical Center, 6300 Main Street, Zachary, LA 70791, spoke in support of House Bill No. 607.

Jassoni Martin, Lane Regional Medical Center, 6300 Main Street, Zachary, LA 70791, spoke in support of House Bill No. 607.

Dionne Viator, Iberia Medical Center, 2315 East Main Street, New Iberia, LA 70560, spoke in support of House Bill No. 607.

Mary Ellen Pratt, St. James Parish Hospital, 1645 Lutchet Avenue, Lutchet, LA 70071, spoke in support of House Bill No. 607.

Lance Armentor, Opelousas General Health System, 925 Highway 182, Sunset, LA 70584, spoke in support of House Bill No. 607.

Tanner Magee, Terrebonne General Health System, 8166 West Main Street, Houma, LA 70360, spoke in support of House Bill No. 607.

Jerald Block, Thibodaux Regional Health System, P.O. Box 105, Thibodaux, LA 70301, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 607.

Greg Stock, Thibodaux Regional Health System, 2349 Saint Mary Street, Thibodaux, LA 70301, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 607.

Lindsay Lasseigne, Thibodaux Regional Health System, 971 Highway 308, Thibodaux, LA 70301, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 607.

Alvin Timothy, Thibodaux Regional Health System, 407 Hale Drive, Thibodaux, LA 70301, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 607.

Representative Butler in the chair.

Representative Bryan Fontenot, Louisiana House of Representatives, House District 55, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 607.

Representative Miller in the chair.

Representative Spell offered amendments to provide that the application of proposed law shall be prospective from the effective date. Representative Spell offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Stagni objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 6 nays. Representatives Berault, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Egan, Jackson, McMahan, and Spell voted yea. Representatives Miller, Butler, Fisher, Hughes, Stagni, and Turner voted nay.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 607 with amendments, to which Representative Crews objected. Representative Crews offered a substitute motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 607. Without objection, the motion failed to pass by a vote of 1 yea and 15 nays. Representative Crews voted yea. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chassion,

Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted nay.

The original motion to report House Bill No. 607 with amendments was considered, to which Representative Crews objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 607 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 1 nay. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yea. Representative Crews voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 20 in support and 2 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 605 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 514 by Representative Willard

Representative Willard presented House Bill No. 514, which modifies the Louisiana Doula Registry Board within the Louisiana Department of Health and provides for respective regulatory authority.

Representative Miller offered amendments to:

- (1) Delete the requirement that the Louisiana Doula Registry Board must implement policies that promote fairness, transparency, safety, equitable care, and accessibility.
- (2) Restore present law requirement that the Louisiana Doula Registry Board must maintain a statewide registry of doulas approved for health insurance reimbursement in Louisiana.
- (3) Restore present law requirement that the board must include one doula with lactation training, one representative from Community Birth Companion, one representative from Birthmark Doula Collective, and one representative from H.E.R. Institute.

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, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Victoria Williams, Birthmark Doula Collective, 6100 Canal Boulevard, New Orleans, LA 70124, spoke in support of House Bill No. 514.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report House Bill No. 514 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 514 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays.

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

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

House Bill No. 555 by Representative Amedee

Representative Amedee presented House Bill No. 555, which provides relative to medical intervention.

Representative Miller offered amendments to:

- (1) Clarify mask provision exception language.
- (2) Add the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration as an additional safety standards exception authority.
- (3) Increase penalties and assign enforcement to the attorney general.
- (4) Establish a reporting and enforcement system.
- (5) Make technical changes.

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, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, McMahan, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Jill Hines, Health Freedom Louisiana (HFL), 1307 Mesa Avenue, Ruston, LA 71270, spoke in support of House Bill No. 555.

Representative Hughes in the chair.

Fiorella Traponi, HFL, 3301 17th Street, # 7443, Metairie, LA 70010, spoke in support of House Bill No. 555.

Representative Miller in the chair.

Greg Waddell, Louisiana Hospital Association, 9521 Brookline Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 555.

Joseph Bocchini, Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, 2270 Eliza Beaumont Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 555.

Tatiana Saavedra, 1624 Lichester Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 555.

Representative Hughes offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 555. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 555 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 14 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Berault, Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yea. Representative Miller abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support and 26 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 555 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Chassion offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Dustin Miller
House Committee on Health and Welfare

Date adopted: