

House Committee on Health and Welfare

Minutes of Meeting
2025 Regular Session
May 8, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Dustin Miller, chair of the House Committee on Health and Welfare, called the meeting to order at 8:36 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 Neubrander, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

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

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 423 by Representative LaCombe**

Representative LaCombe presented House Bill No. 423, which provides relative to healthcare providers displaying evidence of proper licensure in advertising.

Representative Stagni offered amendments to:

- (1) Change terminology from "providers" to "professionals".
- (2) Change that any violation of present law shall no longer be enforceable under rules promulgated by the licensing board for the Louisiana Department of Health.

Representative Stagni 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, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report House Bill No. 423 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 423 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Spell, 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.

House Bill No. 655 by Representative Fisher

Representative Fisher presented House Bill No. 655, which provides relative to fees charged by the Louisiana Department of Health in parish health units.

Elizabeth Adkins, Louisiana Department of Health, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 655.

Representative Fisher offered a motion to report House Bill No. 655 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 655 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

House Bill No. 559 by Representative Echols

This is a continuation of the discussion on House Bill No. 559 from April 29, 2025. Please check for the prior action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 559.

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 a motion to reconsider the votes by which two sets of amendments to House Bill No. 559 were adopted during a meeting held on April 29, 2025. Without objection, the motion to reconsider the votes passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Echols offered a motion to withdraw both sets of amendments. Without objection, the amendments were withdrawn by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Echols offered amendments to:

- (1) Remove all content from proposed law.
- (2) Add that the health district and authority boards provide an annual report on the board's progress toward achieving statewide health goals.
- (3) Task LDH with establishing reporting standards and evaluation criteria health district and authority boards.
- (4) Provide for the required content of the annual report.

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, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Echols offered a motion to report House Bill No. 559 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 559 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays.

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

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support and 7 for information only. 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.

House Bill No. 565 by Representative Spell

Representative Spell presented House Bill No. 565, which provides relative to third-party liability, claim adjudication, and timeliness of such within the state medical assistance program.

Maria Bowen, Louisiana Medical Society, 5555 Hilton Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Greg Waddell, Louisiana Hospital Association, 9521 Brookline Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in support of House Bill No. 565.

Representative Spell offered amendments to:

- (1) Require that in order for a managed care organization to amend, modify, or change a claim submitted by a healthcare provider, the secretary of the department must promulgate a rule in accordance with proposed law.
- (2) Clarifies the language from "adjudicating a payment of a claim" to "adjusting, down-coding, or paying a claim at a lower level of service than what was submitted".
- (3) State the department may promulgate rules in accordance with the APA for managed care organizations to adjudicate payment of claims and such rule shall only be effective upon approval of the Senate health and welfare committee and House health and welfare committee.
- (4) Require that the department shall provide all known information about any health insurer or other third party that is liable for payment of all or part of a claim for healthcare services furnished under the Medicaid state plan.
- (5) Change notification to the department from five business days to two business days from the date the managed care organization verifies or has knowledge of the existence of any health insurer or other third party that is liable for payment of all or part of a claim for healthcare services furnished under the Medicaid state plan to

enrollee when the health insurer or other liable third party is not reflected on the Medicaid Eligibility Verification System.

- (6) Change the notification to include the "the name, address and phone number of the liable third party or health insurance issuer" to "the name, address, and phone number of the health insurer or other liable third party".
- (7) Require the inclusion of the effective date of coverage and the scope of coverage, if the scope of coverage is limited in the managed care organization's notice.
- (8) Delete the requirement that the department shall cause the information contained in the notification to be reflected in the Medicaid Eligibility Verification System no later than two business days from receiving a notice.

Representative Spell 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, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Debbie Fletcher, American College of Emergency Physicians, 209 Captain H. M. Shreve Boulevard, Shreveport, LA 71115, spoke in support of House Bill No. 565.

Sheree Taillon, Louisiana Managed Medicaid Association, 6663 Jefferson Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, submitted a card in opposition to House Bill No. 565; however, she stated that with the adoption of the amendments, she now supports the bill.

Representative Spell offered a motion to report House Bill No. 565 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 565 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 27 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 265 by Representative Mena

Representative Mena presented House Bill No. 265, which provides with respect to prohibitions regarding the employment of ambulance drivers convicted of certain offenses.

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 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 265 with amendments, to which Representative Echols objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas and 7 nays. Representatives Miller, Chassion, Hughes, Jackson, and Stagni voted yea. Representatives Butler, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, and Spell voted nay.

Representative Hughes offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 265. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 265 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Hughes, Jackson, Spell, and Stagni voted yea.

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

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 265 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

Further action was taken by the committee on House Bill No. 265 on May 21, 2025. Please check for the subsequent action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 265.

House Bill No. 150 by Representative Coates

Representative Coates presented House Bill No. 150, which provides for the production of homemade food for sale to the public.

Representative Miller offered amendments to include in the definition of "potentially hazardous food" any homemade food consisting of animal muscle protein or fish protein. 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, Berault, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Spell, and Stagni voted yea.

Representative Miller offered amendments to:

- (1) Prohibit on-site consumption and require a food handler permit.
- (2) Require homemade food preparers to notify customers if imported seafood is used in any homemade food.
- (3) Clarify that a retailer may sell non-potentially hazardous food at a retail location, farmers market, and online.
- (4) Remove provisions on enforcement and penalties.
- (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, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Spell, and Stagni voted yea.

Tiffany Meche, Louisiana Department of Health, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 150.

Greg Richard, Louisiana Department of Health, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 150.

Adam Ducote, Virgil Strategies, 3436 Gladden Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 150.

Stan Harris, Louisiana Restaurant Association (LRA), 2700 North Arnoult Road, Metairie, LA 70002, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 150.

Will DuBos, LRA, 2700 North Arnoult Road, Metairie, LA 70002, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 150.

Representative Dickerson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 150 with amendments, to which Representative Berault objected. Representative Berault offered a substitute motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 150. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 150 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Hughes, McMahan, and Spell voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support and 4 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 150 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

Further action was taken by the committee on House Bill No. 150 on June 3, 2025. Please check for the subsequent action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 150.

House Bill No. 541 by Representative Hilmerty

On behalf of Representative Hilmerty, Scott Kirkpatrick, Dependable In Home Care, 4318 Broussard Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, presented House Bill No. 541, which establishes a registry for individuals and entities that provide caregiving services.

Joni Friedmann, Dependable In Home Care, 3525 North Causeway Boulevard, Metairie, LA 70002, spoke in support of House Bill No. 541.

Representative Hilmerty continued the presentation of House Bill No. 541.

Kim Humbles, Louisiana Department of Health, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 541.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report House Bill No. 541 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 541 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chassion, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, McMahan, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 338 by Representative Hilmerty

This is a continuation of the discussion on House Bill No. 338 from April 29, 2025. Please check for the prior action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 338.

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

Representative Butler in the chair.

Anne Jayes, Louisiana Public Health Institute, 400 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke in support of House Bill No. 338.

Pat Robinson, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, 500 Main St, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 338.

Representative Miller in the chair.

Representative Berault offered amendments to add that paid leave for a donor of bone marrow or of a living organ may not exceed 40 work hours. Representative Berault offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Turner objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chassion, Chenevert, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, Spell, and Stagni voted yea. Representatives Butler, Crews, Echols, and Turner voted nay.

Representative Chassion offered a motion to report House Bill No. 338 with amendments, to which Representative Crews objected. Representative Crews offered a substitute motion to report House Bill No. 338 with amendments with the recommendation that it be recommitted to the House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations, to which Representative Berault objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 338 was reported with amendments with the recommendation that it be recommitted to the House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations by a vote of 9 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Butler, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, McMahan, Spell, and Turner voted yea. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chassion, Fisher, and Stagni voted nay.

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

House Bill No. 658 by Representative Turner

Representative Turner presented House Bill No. 658, which establishes the Medicaid Trust Fund for Addiction Recovery.

Representative Turner offered amendments to remove references to the Opioid Abatement Settlement Fund. Representative Turner 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, Berault, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Stephen Wright, Louisiana Addiction Treatment Providers, 2268 Eliza Beaumont Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in support of House Bill No. 658.

Representative Turner offered a motion to report House Bill No. 658 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 658 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 595 by Representative Phelps

Representative Phelps presented House Bill No. 595, which provides relative to Medicaid coverage through the TEFRA option program.

Representative Stagni offered amendments to add that a child may meet a level of care if within the last twelve months, he presents for emergency care in a hospital more frequently than once per month and the use of the hospital is medically necessary to stabilize a chronic disease. Representative Stagni 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, Berault, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Echols, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, Spell, and Stagni voted yea.

Julie Foster Hagan, Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 595.

Kim Sullivan, LDH, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 595.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report House Bill No. 595 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 595 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chassion, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Fisher, McMahan, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 422 by Representative Freeman

Representative Miller offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 422, which provides with respect to timely reimbursement of overpaid medical bills to patients by healthcare providers. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 422 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chassion, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Fisher, McMahan, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

House Bill No. 661 by Representative Miller

Representative Miller offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 661, which provides relative to fees collected by the Louisiana Department of Health. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 661 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chassion, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Fisher, McMahan, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Echols offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chassion, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Fisher, McMahan, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Dustin Miller
House Committee on Health and Welfare

Date adopted: