

House Committee on Health and Welfare

Minutes of Meeting
2025 Regular Session
May 14, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Dustin Miller, chair of the House Committee on Health and Welfare, called the meeting to order at 9:06 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
Nevonda Reed, division director
Jaubert Ambeau, chief sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 138 by Representative Dewitt**

Representative Dewitt presented House Bill No. 138, which provides with respect to the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners.

Representative Egan spoke in support of House Bill No. 138.

Ralph Abraham, Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 138.

Vincent Culotta, Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners, 630 Camp Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 138.

Representative Egan offered amendments to:

- (1) Provide for the membership, qualification, and appointments of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners.
- (2) Provide for the duties of the board.
- (3) Repeal provisions of present law that provide for the procedures for removal members of the board.

Representative Echols 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, Fisher, McMahan, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Echols offered a motion to report House Bill No. 138 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 138 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, 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: 1 in support, 1 in opposition, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 359 by Representative Miller

Representative Butler in the chair.

Representative Miller presented House Bill No. 359, which provides relative to the mental health treatment of victims of human sex trafficking.

Monica Taylor, Governor's Office for Human Trafficking Prevention, P.O. Box 94004, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 359.

Representative Miller offered amendments to:

- (1) Require physicians in emergency departments encountering victims of human trafficking to consult with a sexual assault nurse examiner and develop a plan of care.
- (2) Require the sexual assault regional protocol to be modified to include information about human trafficking.
- (3) Creates a task force to develop a human trafficking uniform protocol and assess hospital emergency departments for knowledge on signs of human trafficking.

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

Mendy Escudier, East Baton Rouge Parish Coroner SANE Program, 4030 T. B. Herndon Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70807, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 359.

Representative Fisher offered a motion to report House Bill No. 359 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 359 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 661 by Representative Miller

Representative Miller presented House Bill No. 661, which provides relative to fees collected by the Louisiana Department of Health.

Representative Miller offered amendments to:

- (1) Establish a fee for a retail permit holder authorized to recommend therapeutic marijuana.
- (2) Remove proposed law relative to a fee for registering therapeutic marijuana products.
- (3) Make technical changes.

Representative Miller 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, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Tonya Joiner, LDH, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 661.

Pete Croughan, LDH, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 661.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report House Bill No. 661 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 661 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, 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 and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 531 by Representative Travis Johnson

This is a continuation of the discussion on House Bill No. 531 from April 29, 2025. Please check for the prior action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 531.

Representative Miller in the chair.

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

Representative Miller offered amendments to:

- (1) Require hospitals and providers to offer information to survivors to receive treatment.
- (2) Require the Louisiana Legislative Auditor to conduct an audit of sexual assault advocacy services, the sexual assault nurse examiners programs, the sexual assault regional plans, the availability of sexual assault forensic medical exams, and sexual assault services funding in this state.

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

Representative Miller offered a motion to report House Bill No. 531 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 531 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, Spell, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support and 4 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 400 by Representative Chenevert

This is a continuation of the discussion on House Bill No. 400 from April 29, 2025. Please check for the prior action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 400.

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

Representative Chenevert offered a motion to reconsider the vote by which a set of amendments to House Bill No. 400 was adopted during a meeting held on April 29, 2025. Without objection, the motion to reconsider the vote passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, Spell, and Stagni voted yea.

Representative Chenevert offered a motion to withdraw the 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, McMahan, Spell, and Stagni voted yea.

Representative Chenevert offered amendments to:

- (1) Add definitions of "abuse" and "neglect".

- (2) Clarify who is authorized to provide consent for medical and surgical procedures.
- (3) Add exceptions to minor consent requirement for certain circumstances.

Representative Chenevert 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, Berault, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, McMahan, Spell, and Stagni voted yea.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report House Bill No. 400 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 400 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Fisher, McMahan, Spell, and Stagni voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 19 in support and 7 in opposition. 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.

House Bill No. 377 by Representative Owen

Representative Owen presented House Bill No. 377, which authorizes an individual to refuse certain medical treatments.

Representative Miller offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Miller offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, and Spell voted yea.

Angelle Bradford Rosenberg, 1827 Urquhart Street, New Orleans, LA 70117, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 377.

Representative Turner in the chair.

Representative Chassion offered a motion to report House Bill No. 377 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 377 was reported by substitute by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berault, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Spell, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support and 5 in opposition. 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.

House Bill No. 619 by Representative Knox

Representative Knox presented House Bill No. 619, which provides relative to group and community homes.

Representative Hughes in the chair.

Representative Chassion offered amendments to:

- (1) Require political subdivisions to notify LDH within 10 days of designating property for public camping.
- (2) Require publication of minimum standards and procedures within 30 days of designation.
- (3) Expand who may bring a civil action to include nearby residents, business owners, nonprofits, and the district attorney.
- (4) Extend the time allowed to cure a violation from 10 to 90 days.
- (5) Create the Encampment Mitigation Reimbursement Fund and provide for its administration and investment.
- (6) Establish oversight requirements for publicly funded homeless service providers.
- (7) Make technical changes.

Representative Chassion offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berault, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Spell, and Turner voted yea.

Nate Fields, Mayor's Office of New Orleans, 4851 Desire Drive, New Orleans, LA 70126, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 619.

Taylor Diles, City of New Orleans - Office Of Homeless Services and Strategy, 2624 Leonidas Street, New Orleans, LA 70118, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 619.

Angela Owczarek, Jane Place Neighborhood Sustainability Initiative, 200 South Broad Street, #600, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 619.

Representative Miller in the chair.

Jason Paul Jarreau, Oxford House, 13937 Keever Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70817, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 619.

Ella Catherine Strahan, Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center, 1340 Poydras Street, Suite 710, New Orleans, LA 70116, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 619.

Dimitria Boykins, People Council, New Orleans, no address provided, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 619.

Joe Heeren-Mueller, Louisiana Advocacy Coalition on Homelessness, 2475 Canal Street, Suite 300, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 619.

Andrés Acuña, City of New Orleans, 1300 Perdido Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 619.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 619 with amendments, to which Representative Hughes objected. Representative Hughes offered a substitute motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 619. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 619 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

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

Further action was taken by the committee on House Bill No. 619 on May 21, 2025. Please check for the subsequent action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 619.

House Bill No. 442 by Representative Henry

Representative Henry presented House Bill No. 442, which provides relative to the practice of audiology and speech-language pathology.

Representative Turner offered amendments to:

- (1) Define "telehealth" or "telepractice".
- (2) Remove the authorization for an audiologist to engage in any task, procedure, act, or practice that is necessary for any basic health screening, for which one has been trained, with referral to an appropriate healthcare professional.
- (3) Restore present law requirement of a physician referral for certain audiology services.

Representative Turner 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, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, McMahan, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Chassion offered a motion to report House Bill No. 442 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 442 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, McMahan, 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. 657 by Representative Riser

Representative Riser presented House Bill No. 657, which provides relative to fees collected by the Louisiana Department of Health related to the sale of therapeutic marijuana.

Jacob Irving, Ilera Holistic Healthcare, 2920 South Eugene Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in support of House Bill No. 657.

Representative Chassion offered amendments to:

- (1) Establish a fee for a retail permit holder authorized to recommend therapeutic marijuana.
- (2) Remove certain reporting requirements.
- (3) Make technical changes.

Representative Chassion 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, Chassion, Chenevert, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report House Bill No. 657 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 657 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Chassion, Chenevert, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, 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.

House Bill No. 265 by Representative Mena

Representative Miller offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 265, which provides with respect to prohibitions regarding the employment of ambulance drivers convicted of certain offenses. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 265 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Chassion, Chenevert, Dickerson, Egan, 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 Egan offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Chassion, Chenevert, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Dustin Miller
House Committee on Health and Welfare

Date adopted: