

House Committee on Health and Welfare

Minutes of Meeting
2025 Regular Session
May 21, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Dustin Miller, chair of the House Committee on Health and Welfare, called the meeting to order at 9:38 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 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:

Representative Rhonda Gaye Butler, vice chair

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Taylor Chrisman, attorney
Nya Bryant, legislative analyst
Kristy Neubrandner, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Johnae' Conner, sergeant at arms
Rebecca Marshall, sergeant at arms
Jaubert Ambeau, chief sergeant at arms
Nevonda Reed, division director

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**Senate Bill No. 14 by Senator McMath**

Senator McMath presented Senate Bill No. 14, which provides relative to nutrition.

Representative Miller offered amendments to:

- (1) Add early learning centers and aftercare to the provisions prohibiting certain foods from being served to students.
- (2) Clarify provisions related to exceptions to the prohibition of certain food ingredients for concession stands and vending machines.
- (3) Remove titanium dioxide and diacetyl tartaric and fatty acid esters of mono- and diglycerides from the list of prohibited food ingredients.
- (4) Remove synthetic and artificial vanillin and titanium dioxide from the list of ingredients that would trigger a notice statement.
- (5) Create exceptions to the notice statement requirement for certain foods.
- (6) Make technical changes.

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, Fisher, Hughes, McMahan, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Tracy Lemelle, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana, 5525 Reitz Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 14.

Jim Simon, American Sugar Cane League, P.O. Box 5125, Baton Rouge, LA 70884, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 14.

Jill Hines, Health Freedom Louisiana, 1307 Mesa Avenue, Ruston, LA 71270, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 14.

Steen Trawick, Louisiana State Medical Society, 8525 Line Avenue, Shreveport, LA 71106, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 14.

Sadie Guinn, Cajun Vitality, 7221 J.D. Simon Road, Gueydan, LA 70542, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 14.

Representative McMahon in the chair.

Robert Fortier-Bensen, P.O. Box 703, Mandeville, LA 70470, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 14.

Representative Miller in the chair.

Jenny Welch, School Nutrition Association of Louisiana, 151 Pecan Drive, Cottonport, LA 71327, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 14.

Berit Dockter, Calorie Control Council, 529 14th Street Northwest, Suite 1280, Washington D. C., 20045, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 14 and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Karima Kendal, 529 14th Street Northwest, Washington D. C., 20045, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 14 and provided a handout, Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Drew Davis, Tate and Lyle Sucralose, 588 Industrial Road, McIntosh, AL 36553, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 14 and provided a handout, Exhibit C, which is included in the committee records.

Michael Rammen, 2252 Tower Drive, Suite 108, Monroe, LA 71201, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 14.

Renee Hickson, New Orleans Health Department, 2222 Simon Bolivar Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70113, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 14.

Alton Ashy, Calorie Control Council, 218 Laurel Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 14.

Dan Colegrove, Food Ingredient Safety Coalition, 1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D. C. 20004, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 14.

Kathryn Fakier, 6021 Hope Estate Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70820, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 14.

Kerry Kenny, Apura Ingredients Incorporated, 801 Peninsula Court, Evans, GA 30809, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 14.

Joel Carpenter, JF Carpenter Consulting, LLC, 5936 Boone Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 14.

Lyle Burgoon, 2504 Drummer Drive, New Hill, NC 27562, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 14.

Representative Crews offered an amendment to modify effective date provisions. Representative Crews offered a motion to adopt the amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Berault offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 14 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 14 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 18 in support, 8 in opposition, and 1 designee of an elected official. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 14 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 44 by Representative Boyd

Representative Boyd presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 44, which urges the Louisiana Department of Health to develop a program for early breast cancer screening.

Representative Hughes offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 44 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 44 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support and 2 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 134 by Senator Pressly

Senator Pressly presented Senate Bill No. 134, which provides relative to health care definitions.

Representative Stagni in the chair.

Alton Ashy, Garcia and Artigliere, 218 Laurel Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 134.

T. C. Wicker, IV, Patients Rights Advocacy Forum, 1401 West Causeway Approach, Mandeville, LA 70421, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 134.

Dreama Cambre, 39596 Winsley Street, Paulina, LA 70763, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 134.

Representative Miller in the chair.

Chip Wagar, Patients Rights Advocacy Forum, 1401 West Causeway Approach, Mandeville, LA 70421, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 134.

Sarah Hickman, Patients Rights Advocacy Forum, 1401 West Causeway Approach, Mandeville, LA 70421, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 134.

Denise Bottcher, AARP Louisiana, 301 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 134.

Jordan Jeansonne, 400 Poydras Street, Suite 2045, New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 134.

Kathy Kliebert, 168 Northlake Drive, Thibodaux, LA 70301, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 134.

Adrienne Mullens, 1207 Jeanne Street, Lafayette, LA 70506, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 134.

Geoff Stewart, 107 Valleyview Drive, Lafayette, LA 70501, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 134.

Ravi Sangisetty, 3914 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 134.

John Milkovich, 11570 Timber Ridge, Keithville, LA 71047, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 134.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 134 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 134 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Crews, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 13 in support and 16 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 619 by Representative Knox

This is a continuation of the discussion on House Bill No. 619 from May 14, 2025. Please check for the prior action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 619.

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

Representative Chassion offered amendments to:

1. Require political subdivisions to notify LDH within 10 days of designating property for public camping in accordance with procedures established by LDH.
2. Require that within 30 days after designating property for public camping, the political subdivision shall publish the minimum standards and procedures on the political subdivision's website.
3. Provide that a resident of the political subdivision residing within 1,000 feet of a public encampment not in a designated area, an owner of a business located in the political subdivision located within 1,000 feet of a public encampment not in a designated area, a nonprofit organization located within one thousand feet of a public encampment not in a designated area or the district attorney to bring a civil action in any court of competent jurisdiction against the political subdivision or applicable municipality for violation.
4. Change the 10-day requirement to a 90-day requirement to cure a violation.
5. Create the Encampment Mitigation Reimbursement Fund which establishes how monies in the fund shall be used and how monies are invested in the fund.
6. Establish the oversight of publicly-funded homeless service providers and require that any continuum of care organization or homeless service provider that receives state or local public funds shall provide certain information.

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 Miller, Berault, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Hannah Adams, National Housing Law Project, 3202 Castiglione Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 619.

Elsa Dimitriadis, Acadiana Regional Coalition on Homelessness and Housing, 211-A Guilbeau Road, Lafayette, LA 70506, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 619.

Monique Blossom, Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center, 1340 Poydras Street, Suite 710, New Orleans, LA 70113, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 619.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 619 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 619 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Egan, Jackson, McMahan, Spell, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support, 14 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. 619 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 265 by Representative Mena

This is a continuation of the discussion on House Bill No. 265 from May 8, 2025. Please check for the prior action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 265.

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

Representative Chassion offered amendments to:

1. Remove from the list of convictions: aggravated arson, first degree robbery, extortion, identity theft where the value is between \$200 to \$1,000 and possession with intent to distribute controlled dangerous substances.
2. Require that no employer shall hire any licensed ambulance personnel or nonlicensed person when the results of a criminal history check reveal that the licensed ambulance personnel or nonlicensed person has been convicted of the felony offense involving theft, pursuant to R.S. 14:67(B)(1).
3. 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 Miller, Berault, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Egan, Jackson, McMahan, Spell, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Chassion offered a motion to report House Bill No. 265 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 265 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Egan, Jackson, McMahan, Spell, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 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 Berault offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Egan, Jackson, McMahan, Spell, and Turner voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Dustin Miller
House Committee on Health and Welfare

Date adopted: