

House Committee on Health and Welfare

Minutes of Meeting
2025 Regular Session
May 28, 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:

Ralph Palmer, sergeant at arms
Rebecca Marshall, sergeant at arms
Nevonda Reed, division director

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Concurrent Resolution No. 54 by Representative Deshotel**

Representative Deshotel presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 54, which urges and requests the Louisiana Department of Health to review and revise its regulations regarding minimum chlorine concentration levels in public water systems. Representative Deshotel provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Jerry Smith, Rural Water System - Louisiana, 888 Benny's Lane, Hessmer, LA 71341, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 54.

Randall Ducote, 8703 Louisiana Highway 15, Alexandria, LA 71302, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 54.

Caryn Benjamin, Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 54.

Adrienne Katner, 743 Louque Place, New Orleans, LA 70124, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 54.

Representative Miller offered amendments to clarify that disinfection needs may vary based on water type. 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, Butler, Chassion, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 54 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 54 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chassion, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support and 2 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 19 by Senator Fesi

Senator Fesi presented Senate Bill No. 19, which provides relative to the dispensing of ivermectin.

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 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chassion, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Ralph Abraham, Louisiana Surgeon General, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 19.

Representative Stagni offered amendments to add that a pharmacist may dispense ivermectin to any person over the age of 18 pursuant to a standing order issued by a healthcare professional with prescriptive authority in the La. Dept. 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, Chassion, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Jill Hines, Health Freedom Louisiana, 1307 Mesa Avenue, Ruston, LA 71270, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 19.

Bert Callais, 363 East Saint Francis Street, Brusly, LA 70719, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 19.

Eb Hoehl, 407 Robinhood Circle, Lafayette, LA 70508, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 19.

Chris Alexander, Louisiana Citizens Advocacy Group, P.O. Box 64952, Baton Rouge, LA 70896, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 19.

Jonathan Hartmann, 515 Aurora Avenue, Metairie, LA 70005, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 19.

Representative Butler in the chair.

Representative Butler offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 19 with amendments, to which Representative Chassion objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 19 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 1 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Crews, Egan, Hughes, Jackson, Spell, Stagni, and Turner voted yea. Representative Chassion voted nay.

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

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 19 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

Senate Bill No. 2 by Senator Fesi

Senator Fesi presented Senate Bill No. 2, which provides relative to public water systems.

Representative Miller in the chair.

Jill Hines, Health Freedom Louisiana, 1307 Mesa Avenue, Ruston, LA 71270, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 2 and provided a handout, Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Ralph Abraham, Louisiana Surgeon General, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 2.

Douglas Cross, Louisiana Primary Care Association, 6221 Caldwell Drive, New Orleans, LA 70122, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 2.

Celeste Terry, Louisiana Dental Association (LDA), 9900 Lake Forest Boulevard, Suite F, New Orleans, LA 70127, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 2.

Alicia Even, LDA, 3443 Esplanade Avenue, Apartment 441, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 2.

Kimberly Bibbins, SWLA Center for Health Services, 500 Patterson Street, Lafayette, LA 70501, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 2.

Jennifer Cameron 7601 Freret Street, New Orleans, LA 70118, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 2.

Suzanne Fournier, LDA, 5637 Bankers Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 2 and provided a handout, Exhibit C, which is included in the committee records.

Joseph Bocchini Jr., Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (LA AAP), 554 Longleaf Road, Shreveport, LA 71106, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 2.

Emilia DiFabrizio, Ellevote Louisiana, 4729 Carondelet Street, Apartment B, New Orleans, LA 70115, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 2.

Annette Drodgy, LDA, 5637 Bankers Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 2.

Crystal Rommen, 2252 Tower Drive, Suite 108, Monroe, LA 71201, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 2.

Toby Rommen, 2252 Tower Drive, Suite 108, Monroe, LA 71201, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 2.

Ronnie Marks, LDA, 5637 Bankers Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 2.

Mikki Bouquet, LA AAP, 18534 Surrey Court, Baton Rouge, LA 70817, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 2.

Representative Egan offered an amendment to give parish councils, police juries, and city councils the authority to approve fluoride in public water systems and to prevent the issue from being decided by local elections. Representative Egan offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment, to which Representative Butler objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 4 yeas and 11 nays. Representatives Crews, Dickerson, Echols, and Egan voted yea. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Stagni, and Turner voted nay.

Representative Crews offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 2 favorably, to which Representative Stagni objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas and 10 nays. Representatives Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, and Turner voted yea. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, and Stagni voted nay.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on Senate Bill No. 2. Without objection, action on Senate Bill No. 2 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support, 26 in opposition, and 3 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 2.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 9 by Senator Duplessis

Senator Duplessis presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 9, which creates a task force to study and report on strategies to increase engagement of fathers in the lives of their children.

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 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chassion, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Jeff Williams, Sr., 942 Sedona Pines Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, spoke in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 9.

Representative Stagni offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 9 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 9 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chassion, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 15 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 153 by Senator Selders

Senator Selders presented Senate Bill No. 153, which provides relative to behavioral health rehabilitation services in the Louisiana medical assistance program.

Representative Miller offered amendments to remove the requirements for licensed professional counselors, provisional licenses, temporary licenses, temporary provisional licenses, renewal of licenses, and temporary provisional licenses and to 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, Chassion, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Jackson, McMahan, Stagni, and Turner voted yea.

Stephen Wright, Louisiana Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, 700 North Tenth Street, Suite 200, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 153.

Representative Jackson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 153 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 153 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chassion, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, and Turner voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 120 by Senator Selders

Senator Selders presented Senate Bill No. 120, which provides relative to use of emergency certificates for formal voluntary admission.

Lee Tynes, 201 Kings Road, Lafayette, LA 70503, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 120.

Representative Chassion offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 120 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 120 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chassion, Crews, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, 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.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 13 by Senator Pressly

On behalf of Senator Pressly, Representative Miller presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 13, which memorializes Congress to take action relative to the use of prior authorization processes.

Representative Chassion offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 13 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 13 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chassion, Crews, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, 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.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 55 by Representative Miller

Representative Miller presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 55, which continues the Health Inequities and Disparities in Rural Areas Task Force.

Representative Chassion offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 55 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 55 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chassion, Crews, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, 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.

Senate Bill No. 174 by Senator Jackson-Andrews

On behalf of Senator Jackson-Andrews, Veronica Gillispie, LDH, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, presented Senate Bill No. 174, which provides relative to certain pregnancy screenings.

Representative Miller offered amendments to change "physician" to "healthcare provider" and to make technical changes. Representative Miller 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, Crews, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Chassion offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 174 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 174 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chassion, Crews, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 174.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 27 by Senator McMath

Senator McMath presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 27, which memorializes Congress to take action relative to the corporate practice of medicine.

Representative Chassion offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 27 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 27 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chassion, Crews, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, 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.

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 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chassion, Crews, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, and Turner voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Dustin Miller
House Committee on Health and Welfare

Date adopted: