

House Committee on Health and Welfare

Minutes of Meeting
2025 Regular Session
June 3, 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 Christopher Turner

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Joseph A. Stagni

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

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 150 by Representative Coates**

This is a continuation of the discussion on House Bill No. 150 from May 8, 2025. Please check for the prior action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 150.

Representative Butler in the chair.

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

Representative Butler offered a motion to reconsider the votes by which two sets of amendments to House Bill No. 150 were adopted during a meeting held on May 8, 2025. Without objection, the amendments were reconsidered by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, Spell, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Butler offered a motion to withdraw both sets of amendments. Without objection, the amendments were withdrawn by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, Spell, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Butler offered amendments to:

- (1) Change the term "homemade food" to "farm food product".
- (2) Limit the individuals authorized to sell farm food products to those who have a U.S. Dept. of Agriculture identification number.
- (3) Clarify that farm food product preparers are required to obtain a tax certificate and pay taxes on the sale of farm food products.
- (4) Provide that a farm food product preparer may sell products directly to consumers at the preparer's farm or a farmer's market.
- (5) Establish that a proposed law shall not apply to farm food product preparers who exceed \$50,000 in gross sales of farm food products.

- (6) Remove language that would have repealed present law relative to homemade food.

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

Representative Crews offered an amendment to clarify that a preparer shall only use pasteurized milk or pasteurized milk products in the preparation of a potentially hazardous food. Representative Crews offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, Spell, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Berault offered a motion to report House Bill No. 150 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 150 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, Spell, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 150.

Senate Bill No. 41 by Senator Barrow

Senator Barrow presented Senate Bill No. 41, which provides relative to child welfare.

Representative Butler offered technical amendments. Representative Butler 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, Butler, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, Spell, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Butler offered amendments to:

- (1) Restore provisions of present law to allow people with certain convictions to receive teaching credentials or authorizations, excluding those for offenses listed in present law [R.S. 15:587.1(C)].
- (2) Provide the calculation for child-to-staff ratios for mixed age groups of children.
- (3) Require the state Department of Education to develop an informational document and what should be included in the document.

- (4) Change 72 hours to three business days for the time period in which DCFS must notify the state child ombudsman of the death of a child from abuse or neglect.
- (5) Remove school resource officer from definition of teaching or child care provider.
- (6) Remove the effective upon governor signature provision.
- (7) Provide that proposed law shall be known and may be cited as "Charlie's Law".
- (8) Make technical changes.

Kathleen Richey, Louisiana Child Ombudsman's Office, 1600 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 41.

Michelle Shelton, Louisiana Child Ombudsman's Office, 1600 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 41.

Roger Williams, 3722 Jean Place, Metairie, LA 70002, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 41.

Jana Podret, 3722 Jean Place, Metairie, LA 70002, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 41.

David Matlock, Department of Children and Family Services, 627 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 41.

Tom Costanza, Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2431 South Acadian Thruway, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 41.

Representative Butler offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Spell, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Fisher offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 41 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 41 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Spell, and Turner voted yea.

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

House Resolution No. 256 by Representative Lyons

Representative Miller in the chair.

Representative Lyons presented House Resolution No. 256, which requests the La. Dept. of Health modify regulations related to the nonemergency, non-ambulance medical transportation component of the Medicaid managed care program.

Kim Sullivan, Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Resolution No. 256.

Representative Miller offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 256 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 256 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Chenevert, Dickerson, Echols, Jackson, McMahan, Spell, and Turner voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 130 by Senator Cloud

Senator Cloud presented Senate Bill No. 130, which provides relative to Medicaid.

Representative Butler offered amendments to add that unless required by federal law, the La. Dept. of Health shall not accept self-attestations of state residency for initial or renewal Medicaid eligibility determinations. Representative Butler 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, Chenevert, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Spell, and Turner voted yea.

Representative Butler offered technical amendments. Representative Butler 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, Chenevert, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, Hughes, Jackson, McMahan, Spell, and Turner voted yea.

Courtney Foster, Invest in Louisiana, 619 Jefferson Highway, Suite 1-D, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 130.

Gavrielle Gemma, Louisiana Workers Council, 2505 Gallier Street, New Orleans, LA 70117, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 130.

Kim Sullivan, LDH, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 130.

Ted James, Invest in Louisiana, 842 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 130.

Representative Echols offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 130 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 130 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, Jackson, McMahan, Spell, and Turner voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support, 6 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 182 by Senator Talbot

Senator Talbot presented Senate Bill No. 182, which provides relative to Medicaid prior authorization during a declared emergency.

Representative Berault offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 182 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 182 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Egan, Jackson, McMahan, and Spell voted yea.

Julie Stokes, Louisiana Oncology Society, 246 Garden Road, River Ridge, LA 70123, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 182.

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

House Resolution No. 218 by Representative Echols

Representative Echols presented House Resolution No. 218, which requests the Louisiana Department of Health to coordinate with stakeholders to develop a healthcare plan for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Representative Butler offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 218 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 218 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Dickerson, Echols, Egan, McMahan, Spell, and Turner voted yea.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 72 by Representative Butler

Representative Butler presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 72, which memorializes congress and urges the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services to increase pay rates for direct care support workers.

Representative Miller offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 72 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 72 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, McMahan, Spell, 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 Concurrent Resolution No. 73 by Representative Turner

Representative Turner presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 73, which memorializes the United States Congress to take action relative to the use of pharmacy benefit managers and their impact on the citizens of this state.

Representative Butler offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 73 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 73 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chenevert, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, Spell, and Turner voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 96 by Senator McMath

On behalf of Senator McMath, Nic Walts, The Picard Group, 309 Settlers Trace Boulevard, #200, Lafayette, LA 70508, presented Senate Bill No. 96, which establishes Medicaid reimbursement rates for certain behavioral health services.

Stuart Archer, Oceans Healthcare, 5360 Legacy Drive, Suite 101, Plano, TX 75037, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 96.

Representative Miller offered amendments to:

- (1) Require the La. Dept. of Health to reimburse Medicaid providers for mental health partial hospitalization program services at 100% of the Medicare rates.

- (2) Add that implementation of proposed law can also be subject to the identification of available funds by the La. Dept. of Health within its existing budget capacity.

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, Chassion, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, and Spell voted yea.

Representative Fisher offered an amendment to add intensive outpatient services to those reimbursed at 100% of the Medicare rate. Representative Fisher offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chassion, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, and Spell voted yea.

Representative Miller offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 96 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 96 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, and Spell 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.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 96 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 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Miller, Berault, Butler, Chassion, Chenevert, Crews, Dickerson, Egan, Fisher, Jackson, McMahan, and Spell voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Dustin Miller
House Committee on Health and Welfare

Date adopted: