

House Committee on Insurance

Minutes of Meeting
2025 Regular Session
April 29, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Michael "Gabe" Firment, chair of the House Committee on Insurance, called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m. in Room 3, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Michael "Gabe" Firment, chair
Representative Lawrence A. "Larry" Bagley
Representative Dennis Bamburg, Jr.
Representative Aimee Adatto Freeman
Representative Jack "Jay" William Gallé, Jr.
Representative Brian Leonard Glorioso
Representative Kyle M. Green, Jr.
Representative Troy Jude Hebert
Representative Chance Keith Henry
Representative John R. Illg, Jr.
Representative Michael T. Johnson
Representative Edmond Jordan
Representative Mandie Landry
Representative Michael Melerine
Representative Shaun Raphael Mena
Representative Tammy T. Phelps
Representative Roger William Wilder, III
Representative Matthew Willard

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Chad Brown, vice chair

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Adraiana Johnson, legislative analyst
Rashida Keith, attorney
Alicia Powell, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Cheryl Domino, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 264 by Representative Echols**

Representative Firment announced that action on House Bill No. 264, which provides for the utilization of pharmaceutical rebates by a pharmacy benefit manager, was voluntarily deferred.

House Bill No. 622 by Representative Hilferty

Representative Hilferty presented House Bill No. 622, which requires health insurance coverage for histotripsy procedures.

Mary Hobbs-Maluccio, 4200 Houma Blvd., Metairie, LA 70006, spoke in support of House Bill No. 622.

Jeff Drozda, Louisiana Association of Health Plans (LAHP), 450 Laurel St., Suite 1430, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 622.

Frank Opelka, Louisiana Department of Insurance (LDI), 1702 N. Third St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 622.

Representative Mike Johnson in the chair.

Representative Mike Johnson offered amendments to:

- (1) Require patients to meet any one of certain conditions for treatment eligibility;
- (2) Apply proposed law to Medicaid enrollees who meet conditions for treatment and require Medicare provider organizations to provide certain documentation to the Louisiana Department of Health; and
- (3) Make technical changes.

Representative Mike Johnson offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Bamberg, Freeman, Galle, Glorioso, Hebert, Illg, Mike Johnson, Jordan, Mandie Landry, Melerine, Mena, Phelps, Wilder, and Willard voted yeas.

Representative Mike Johnson offered an amendment to:

- (1) Apply proposed law to new policies, contracts, or plans issued on and after January 1, 2026. Require existing policies, contracts, or plans to conform with proposed law by January 1, 2027.

Representative Mike Johnson offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Bamburg, Freeman, Galle, Glorioso, Hebert, Illg, Mike Johnson, Jordan, Mandie Landry, Melerine, Mena, Phelps, Wilder, and Willard voted yea.

Representative Glorioso offered a motion to report House Bill No. 622 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 622 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Bamburg, Freeman, Galle, Glorioso, Hebert, Illg, Mike Johnson, Jordan, Mandie Landry, Melerine, Mena, Phelps, Wilder, and Willard voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 467 by Representative Hilferty

Representative Hilferty presented House Bill No. 467, which requires health insurance coverage for amino acid-based elemental formulas.

Representative Mike Johnson offered amendments to make technical changes. Representative Mike Johnson offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Bamburg, Galle, Glorioso, Hebert, Illg, Mike Johnson, Jordan, Mandie Landry, Melerine, Mena, Phelps, Wilder, and Willard voted yea.

Representative Mike Johnson offered amendments to:

- (1) Specify coverage for children aged 2 years and younger and require such children to have a diagnosis from a board-certified allergist or gastroenterologist; and
- (2) Apply proposed law to new policies, contracts, or plans issued on and after January 1, 2026. Require existing policies, contracts, or plans to conform with proposed law by January 1, 2027.

Representative Mike Johnson offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley,

Bamburg, Freeman, Galle, Glorioso, Hebert, Henry, Illg, Mike Johnson, Jordan, Mandie Landry, Melerine, Mena, Phelps, and Wilder voted yea.

Representative Illg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 467 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 467 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Bamburg, Freeman, Galle, Hebert, Henry, Illg, Mike Johnson, Jordan, Mandie Landry, Melerine, Mena, Phelps, Wilder, and Willard voted yea.

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

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 467 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 401 by Representative Dickerson

Representative Dickerson presented House Bill No. 401, which provides relative to certain assessed fees on direct premiums of insurers.

Nathan Strebeck, LDI, 1702 N. Third St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 401.

Adam Patrick, LDI, 1702 N. Third St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 401.

Representative Henry offered a motion to report House Bill No. 401 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 401 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Bamburg, Freeman, Galle, Hebert, Henry, Illg, Mike Johnson, Jordan, Melerine, Phelps, Wilder, and Willard voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 408 by Representative Dickerson

Representative Dickerson presented House Bill No. 408, which requires health insurance coverage relative to pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome and related conditions.

Caitlyn Guiffreda, 17373 Wrenwood Dr., Prairieville, LA 70769, spoke in support of House Bill No. 408.

Eric Guiffreda, 17373 Wrenwood Dr., Prairieville, LA 70769, spoke in support of House Bill No. 408.

Michelle Gros, 12209 Deventer Dr., Geismar, LA 70734, spoke in support of House Bill No. 408.

Chair Firment in the chair.

Novalee Gros, 12209 Deventer Dr., Geismar, LA 70734, spoke in support of House Bill No. 408.

Genevieve Gros, 12209 Deventer Dr., Geismar, LA 70734, spoke in support of House Bill No. 408.

Gillian Guiffreda, 17373 Wrenwood Dr., Prairieville, LA 70769, spoke in support of House Bill No. 408.

Rustin Loyd, 11204 Audubon Dr., Hammond, LA 70403, spoke in support of House Bill No. 408.

Abby Crosby, 19866 Louisiana Hwy 42, Livingston, LA 70754, spoke in support of House Bill No. 408.

Emilia Guiffreda, 17373 Wrenwood Dr., Prairieville, LA 70769, spoke in support of House Bill No. 408.

Jeff Drozda, LAHP, 450 Laurel St., Suite 1430, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 408.

Frank Opelka, LDI, 1702 N. Third St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 408.

Representative Wilder offered a motion to report House Bill No. 408 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 408 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Firment, Bagley, Bamburg, Galle, Glorioso, Mike Johnson, Mandie Landry, Melerine, Mena, Phelps, Wilder, and Willard voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 27 in support and 5 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 408 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 382 by Representative Bayham

Representative Bayham presented House Bill No. 382, which requires insurance coverage of home visiting services for newborns and young children.

Representative Firment offered an amendment to remove language that authorized insurers to cover evidence-based home visiting programs beginning in early pregnancy or extending beyond the child's

age of 3. Representative Firment offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Firment, Bagley, Bamburg, Glorioso, Green, Hebert, Mike Johnson, Jordan, Mandie Landry, Mena, Wilder, and Willard voted yea.

Susan East-Nelson, Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families, 7515 Jefferson Hwy., Suite 52, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in support of House Bill No. 382 and provides a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Madeline LeBlanc, no address provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 382.

Tom Costanza, Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2431 S. Acadian Thwy., Suite 250, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 382.

Representative Bagley offered a motion to report House Bill No. 382 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 382 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Firment, Bagley, Bamburg, Galle, Glorioso, Green, Hebert, Jordan, Mandie Landry, Melerine, Mena, Wilder, and Willard voted yea.

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

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 382 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 635 by Representative Bamburg

Representative Bamburg presented House Bill No. 635, which establishes the Creating Holistic Options in Coverage for Enterprise and Self-Insurance (CHOICES) Law.

Representative Firment offered amendments to make technical changes. Representative Firment offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Firment, Bagley, Bamburg, Galle, Glorioso, Green, Hebert, Jordan, Melerine, Mena, Wilder, and Willard voted yea.

Claire Lemoine, LDI, 1702 N. Third St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 635.

Representative Bagley in the chair.

Representative Bamburg offered an amendment to change references from "articles of association" to "articles of incorporation" in relation to redomestication of alien and foreign insurers with respect to filings with the secretary of state. Representative Bamburg offered a motion to adopt the proposed

amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Bamburg, Galle, Glorioso, Green, Hebert, Jordan, Mandie Landry, Melerine, Mena, and Wilder voted yea.

Representative Glorioso offered a motion to report House Bill No. 635 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 635 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Bamburg, Galle, Glorioso, Green, Hebert, Jordan, Mandie Landry, Melerine, Mena, and Wilder voted yea.

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

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 635 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 561 by Representative Firment

Representative Firment presented House Bill No. 561, which provides policy provisions and exceptions relative to surplus lines insurance.

Representative Firment offered amendments to:

- (1) Delete R.S. 9:2778(D) that created an exception regarding arbitration clauses and surplus lines insurers; and
- (2) Make technical changes.

Adam Patrick, LDI, 1702 N. Third St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 561.

Tom Clark, Velocity Underwriters, 301 Main St., Suite 2300, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of House Bill No. 561.

Representative Firment offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Firment, Bagley, Galle, Glorioso, Green, Hebert, Illg, Mike Johnson, Jordan, Mandie Landry, Melerine, Mena, Phelps, Wilder, and Willard voted yea.

Representative Firment offered amendments to make technical changes. Representative Firment offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Firment, Bagley, Galle, Glorioso, Green, Hebert, Henry, Illg, Mike Johnson, Jordan, Mandie Landry, Melerine, Mena, Phelps, Wilder, and Willard voted yea.

David Bruchhaus, Cameron Parish, 5920 Sawgrass Cir., Lake Charles, LA 70605, spoke in opposition to House Bill No.561.

Tom Barrett, Cameron Parish Police Jury and School Board, no address provided, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 561.

Dane Bolin, Calcasieu Parish Police Jury, 1015 Pithon St., Lake Charles, LA 70601, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 561.

Brian Katz, Louisiana Association of Justice, 909 Poydras St., Suite 1860, New Orleans, LA 70005, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 561.

Representative Glorioso offered a motion to report House Bill No. 561 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 561 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Firmment, Bagley, Bamburg, Freeman, Galle, Glorioso, Hebert, Henry, Illg, Mike Johnson, Jordan, Melerine, Mena, Phelps, Wilder, and Willard 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.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 561 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Firmment offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Firmment, Bagley, Bamburg, Freeman, Galle, Glorioso, Hebert, Henry, Illg, Mike Johnson, Jordan, Melerine, Mena, Phelps, Wilder, and Willard voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Michael "Gabe" Firmment
House Committee on Insurance

Date adopted: