

House Committee on Insurance

Minutes of Meeting
2025 Regular Session
May 7, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Michael "Gabe" Firment, chair of the House Committee on Insurance, called the meeting to order at 9:13 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 Chad Brown, vice chair
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:

None

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 Echols presented House Bill No. 264, which provides for the utilization of pharmaceutical rebates by a pharmacy benefit manager.

Randy Davis, Louisiana Division of Administration, 1201 N. Third St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 264.

Heath Williams, Office of Group Benefits, 1201 N. Third St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 264.

Matthew Cross, Louisiana Independent Pharmacies Association, 543 Spanish Town Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 264.

George Guidry, Koch Incorporated/Georgia Pacific Corporation, 450 Laurel St., Suite 1420, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 264.

Phil Christofanelli, Pharmaceutical Care Management Association, 537 Sgt Pepper Dr., Saint Peters, MO 63376, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 264

Joshua Sonnier, Ironworks Local #623, 6153 Airline Hwy., Baton Rouge, LA 70805, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 264.

Joe Maranto, United Association Local #198, 8700 Sharee Pl., Denham Springs, LA 70726, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 264.

Representative Firment offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 264. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 264 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Firment, Bagley, Brown, Freeman, Galle, Glorioso, Hebert, Henry, Illg, 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, 9 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Further action was taken by the committee on House Bill No. 264 on May 14, 2025. Please check for the subsequent action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 264.

House Bill No. 258 by Representative Taylor

Representative Taylor presented House Bill No. 258, which provides relative to automobile liability insurance premiums of policyholders sixty-five years of age or older.

Adam Patrick, Louisiana Department of Insurance, 1702 N. Third St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 258.

Representative Firment offered an amendment to delete the \$10,000 penalty per violation and authorize the commissioner to impose penalties pursuant to the La. Insurance Code (Title 22). Representative Firment offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Firment, Brown, Freeman, Galle, Glorioso, Hebert, Henry, Illg, Jordan, Mandie Landry, Melerine, Phelps, Wilder, and Willard voted yea.

Representative Jordan offered a motion to report House Bill No. 258 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 258 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Firment, Brown, Freeman, Glorioso, Hebert, Henry, Illg, Jordan, Mandie Landry, Melerine, Mena, Phelps, Wilder, and Willard voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support, 1 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 622 by Representative Lyons

Representative Firment announced that action on House Bill No. 622, which levies an insurance premium tax and dedicates the revenue to the Louisiana Fortify Homes Program, was voluntarily deferred.

House Bill No. 357 by Representative Freeman

Representative Freeman presented House Bill No. 357, which requires health insurance coverage for integrative cancer treatments.

Melanie Sheen, Ochsner Health, 1514 Jefferson Hwy., New Orleans, LA 70121, spoke in support of House Bill No. 357.

Julie Stokes, Louisiana Oncology Society, 246 Garden Rd., Red River, LA 70123, spoke in support of House Bill No. 357.

Representative Firment offered amendments to:

- (1) Require covered treatments to be recommended by nationally recognized cancer treatment guidelines; and
- (2) Make a technical change.

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, Freeman, Glorioso, Hebert, Illg, Jordan, Mandie Landry, Melerine, Mena, Phelps, Wilder, and Willard voted yea.

Representative Firment offered amendments to:

- (1) Apply proposed law to any new policy, contract, or plan issued on and after January 1, 2026 and require existing policies to conform with proposed law by January 1, 2027; and
- (2) Make a technical change.

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, Freeman, Glorioso, Hebert, Illg, Jordan, Mandie Landry, Melerine, Mena, Phelps, Wilder, and Willard voted yea.

Representative Firment offered amendments to remove application to Medicaid enrollees. 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, Freeman, Glorioso, Hebert, Illg, Mike Johnson, Jordan, Mandie Landry, Melerine, Mena, Phelps, and Willard voted yea.

Leslie Landry, 1051 Eighth St., Gretna, LA 70053, spoke in support of House Bill No. 357.

Representative Willard offered a motion to report House Bill No. 357 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 357 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Firment, Bamberg, Freeman, Galle, Glorioso, 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: 12 in support, 2 in opposition, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 224 by Representative Galle

Representative Galle presented House Bill No. 224, which decreases the annual premium tax on certain vehicle insurance policies.

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 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Firment, Bamburg, Galle, Hebert, Illg, Mike Johnson, Jordan, Melerine, Mena, and Phelps voted yea.

Representative Jordan in the chair.

Representative Galle offered a motion to report House Bill No. 224 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 224 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bamburg, Galle, Glorioso, Hebert, Illg, Mike Johnson, Jordan, Melerine, Phelps, and Wilder voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Chair Firment in the chair.

House Bill No. 574 by Representative Jordan

Representative Jordan presented House Bill No. 574, which prohibits the use of certain rating factors in insurance underwriting.

Ben Riggs, Real Reform Louisiana, 1717 Perkins Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in support of House Bill No. 574.

Peter Robins-Brown, Louisiana Progress Action, 650 N. Sixth St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 574.

Caitlin Murray, National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies, 3601 Vincennes Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46268, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 574.

Jimmy Ordeneaux, Louisiana Farm Bureau Insurance, 701 Poydras St., Suite 3800, New Orleans, LA 70139, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 574.

Benjamin Albright, Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of Louisiana, 18153 E. Petroleum Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 574.

Rodney Braxton, Insurance Council of Louisiana, 543 Spanish Town Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 574.

Kevin Cunningham, American Property Casualty Insurance Association, 543 Spanish Town Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 574.

Representative Jordan offered a motion to report House Bill No. 574 favorably, to which Representative Henry objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 9 yeas and 9 nays. Representatives Brown, Freeman, Glorioso, Green, Jordan, Mandie Landry, Mena, Phelps, and Willard voted yea. Representatives Firmment, Bamburg, Galle, Hebert, Henry, Illg, Mike Johnson, Melerine, and Wilder voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in opposition and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 137 by Senator Talbot

Representative Firmment announced that action on Senate Bill No. 137, which requires insurers to notify the Department of Insurance upon ceasing, pausing, or resuming the writing of policies in a particular region, was voluntarily deferred.

House Bill No. 356 by Representative Braud

Representative Firmment announced that action on House Bill No. 356, which creates the Stated Value Homeowner's Policy Act, was voluntarily deferred.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Bamburg offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 18 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Firmment, Bamburg, Brown, Freeman, Galle, Glorioso, Green, Hebert, Henry, Illg, Mike Johnson, Jordan, Mandie Landry, Melerine, Mena, Phelps, Wilder, and Willard voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Michael "Gabe" Firment
House Committee on Insurance

Date adopted: