

House Committee on Insurance

Minutes of Meeting
2025 Regular Session
May 14, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Michael "Gabe" Firment, chair of the House Committee on Insurance, called the meeting to order at 9:07 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 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 Aimee Adatto Freeman

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Cheryl Domino, sergeant at arms
Martin Mapp, sergeant at arms
Ralph Palmer, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**Senate Bill No. 40 by Senator Wheat**

Senator Wheat presented Senate Bill No. 40, which updates licensure requirements for persons regulated by the Department of Insurance.

Representative Firment offered amendments to:

- (1) Reinstatement of the total hours of approved instruction or verifiable approved self-study to 24 hours as required in present law;
- (2) Require life insurance producers and consultants, accident and health or sickness insurance providers and consultants, and adjusters and public adjusters to dedicate at least 2 hours of the 24 hours of approved instruction or verifiable approved self-study to legislative updates in insurance law; and
- (3) 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, Bagley, Bamburg, Glorioso, Hebert, Illg, Mike Johnson, Melerine, Mena, and Wilder voted yeas.

Representative Bagley offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 40 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 40 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Firment, Bagley, Bamburg, Brown, Glorioso, Hebert, Illg, Mike Johnson, Melerine, Mena, Wilder, and Willard voted yeas.

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

Senate Bill No. 111 by Senator Seabaugh

Senator Seabaugh presented Senate Bill No. 111, which provides for fair claims processing.

Vice Chair Brown in the chair.

Chair Firmment in the chair.

Luke Williamson, Louisiana Association for Justice, 955 McClung St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 111.

Representative Wilder offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 111 favorably, to which Representative Willard objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 111 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 3 nays. Representatives Firmment, Bagley, Bamburg, Galle, Glorioso, Hebert, Illg, Mike Johnson, Melerine, and Wilder voted yea. Representatives Jordan, Mena, and Willard voted nay.

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

Representative Jordan in the chair.

Senate Bill No. 136 by Senator Talbot

On behalf of Senator Talbot, Representative Firmment presented Senate Bill No. 136, which provides for rate transparency reports.

Representative Firmment offered amendments to:

- (1) Change a reference from cost of claims to projected cost of claims with respect to information insurers submit within rate transparency reports;
- (2) Clarify that the Louisiana Department of Insurance's rulemaking authority is to be exercised in accordance with the APA;
- (3) Specify that proposed law does not create a private right of action for consumers; and
- (4) Change the effective date from January 1, 2026 to July 1, 2026.

Barrow Peacock, Louisiana Department of Insurance (LDI), 1702 N. Third St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke as the designee of an elected official on Senate Bill No. 136.

Representative Firmment offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Firmment, Bagley, Bamburg, Galle, Glorioso, Illg, Jordan, Melerine, Mena, Phelps, Wilder, and Willard voted yea.

Representative Firment offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 136 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 136 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Firment, Bagley, Bamburg, Galle, Glorioso, Green, Illg, Mike Johnson, Jordan, Melerine, Mena, Phelps, Wilder, and Willard voted yeas.

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

Senate Bill No. 137 by Senator Talbot

On behalf of Senator Talbot, Representative Firment presented 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.

Barrow Peacock, LDI, 1702 N. Third St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke as the designee of an elected official on Senate Bill No. 137.

Representative Firment offered amendments to:

- (1) Rewrite proposed law (R.S. 22:1276) to provide that if insurers stop, pause, or resume selling new automobile or property insurance policies in a certain geographical region, the insurers must also send a written notice with certain inclusions to the commissioner within 10 days of informing respective agents;
- (2) Apply the Public Records Law (R.S. 44.1 et seq.) to information submitted by insurers to the commissioner;
- (3) Describe the terms "cease", "pause", and "resume"; and
- (4) Authorize the commissioner's rulemaking authority in accordance with the APA.

Benjamin Albright, Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of Louisiana (IIABL), 18153 E. Petroleum Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 137.

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, Bamburg, Galle, Glorioso, Green, Hebert, Illg, Mike Johnson, Jordan, Mandie Landry, Mena, Phelps, Wilder, and Willard voted yeas.

Representative Wilder offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 137 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 137 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Firment, Bagley, Bamburg, Galle, Glorioso, Green, Hebert, Illg, Mike Johnson, Jordan, Mandie Landry, Mena, Phelps, and Wilder voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 9 in support, 1 for information only, and 1 designee of an elected official. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 356 by Representative Braud

Representative Braud presented House Bill No. 356, which creates the Stated Value Homeowner's Policy Act.

Chair Firment in the chair.

Benjamin Albright, IIABL, 18153 E. Petroleum Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 356.

Jimmy Ordeneaux, Louisiana Farm Bureau Insurance, 701 Poydras St., Suite 3800, New Orleans, LA 70139, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 356.

Kevin Cunningham, American Property Casualty Insurance Association, 543 Spanish Town Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 356.

Rodney Braxton, Insurance Council of Louisiana, 543 Spanish Town Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 356.

Caitlin Murray, National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies, 850 S. Gadsden St., Tallahassee, FL 32301, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 356.

Representative Glorioso offered a motion to report House Bill No. 356 favorably, to which Representative Firment objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 356 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 7 nays. Representatives Bamburg, Brown, Glorioso, Green, Jordan, Melerine, Phelps, and Willard voted yea. Representatives Firment, Bagley, Galle, Illg, Mike Johnson, Mena, and Wilder voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support and 8 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Vice Chair Brown in the chair.

House Bill No. 264 by Representative Echols

This is a continuation of the discussion on House Bill No. 264 from May 7, 2025. Please check for the prior action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 264.

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

Representative Brown offered amendments to:

- (1) Redefine the term "rebate";
- (2) Authorize the commissioner to examine books, records, and reports of PBMs and review and approve the compensation programs of PBMs to ensure that reimbursements paid to pharmacists or pharmacies is fair and reasonable;
- (3) Provide that information submitted by PBMs to the commissioner is confidential under the Public Records Law; however, the commissioner is authorized to disclose confidential information to insurance departments in other states or for the purposes of certain hearings and proceedings; and
- (4) Make technical changes.

Representative Brown offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Bamburg, Brown, Hebert, Illg, Mandie Landry, Melerine, Mena, Wilder, and Willard voted yea.

Jonathan Hartmann, 515 Aurora Ave., Metairie, LA 70005, spoke for information only on 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.

Representative Wilder offered a motion to report House Bill No. 264 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 264 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Bamburg, Brown, Galle, Green, Hebert, Illg, Mike Johnson, Mandie Landry, Melerine, Mena, Wilder, and Willard voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 9 in support, 4 in opposition, and 2 for information only. 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 Bagley offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Bagley, Bamburg, Brown, Galle, Green, Hebert, Illg, Mike Johnson, Mandie Landry, Melerine, Mena, Wilder, and Willard voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Michael "Gabe" Firment
House Committee on Insurance

Date adopted: