

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Minutes of Meeting
Regular Session, 2012
April 11, 2012

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Stephen F. Carter, Chairman of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., in Committee Room 1, in the State Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The secretary called the roll.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Stephen F. Carter, Chairman
Representative Patrick O. Jefferson, Vice Chairman
Representative Wesley T. Bishop
Representative Christopher Broadwater
Representative Henry L. Burns
Representative Thomas Carmody
Representative Simone Champagne
Representative John Bel Edwards
Representative Cameron Henry
Representative Paul B. Hollis
Representative Nancy Landry
Representative Edward J. Price
Representative John M. Schroder
Representative Robert E. Shadoin
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith
Representative Jeff R. Thompson
Representative Alfred C. Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Jerome Richard

III. STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Paul Jones, Legislative Analyst
Nancy Y. Jolly, Legislative Analyst
Jackie Snowden, Secretary
Beverly Vincent and Suzie Broussard, Sergeant at Arms
Angelika Washington, Committee Clerk

IV. DISCUSSION

House Bill No. 418 by Representative Harrison

House Bill No. 418 restructures the Health Education Authority of Louisiana.

At the request of the author, Representative Carter moved that action on House Bill No. 418 be voluntarily deferred. There was no objection, and action on House Bill No. 418 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Hollis, Jefferson, Price, Schroder, Shadoin, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

House Bill No. 661 by Representative Harrison

House Bill No. 661 requires the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to provide for a school health care system in all public schools.

At the request of the author, Representative Carter moved that action on House Bill No. 661 be voluntarily deferred. There was no objection, and action on House Bill No. 661 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Hollis, Jefferson, Price, Schroder, Shadoin, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

House Bill No. 662 by Representative Harrison

House Bill No. 662 requires the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to provide for a social services program in all public schools.

At the request of the author, Representative Carter moved that action on House Bill No. 662 be voluntarily deferred. There was no objection, and action on House Bill No. 662 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Hollis, Jefferson, Price, Schroder, Shadoin, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

House Bill No. 255 by Representative Leger

House Bill No. 255 authorizes the transfer of specified property by the Orleans Parish School Board.

Representative Leger presented the bill to the committee.

Representative Leger announced that he had amendments he wanted to propose. The amendments would provide as follows:

- (1) Adds provision relative to the sale of the purchased property back to the school board (prior to it being offered to others) if Kingsley House, Inc., determines the property is no longer needed.
- (2) Makes a technical correction.

Representative Carmody offered the amendments and moved that they be adopted. There was no objection, and the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Hollis, Jefferson, Price, Schroder, Shadoin, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

Supporting the bill but not wishing to speak were Ms. Arwin Bascle, representing Kingsley House, 1720 Nicholson #26, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (504) 296-4349; and Ms. Carmen D. Weisner, representing ACSW, LCSW, executive director, NASW-LA, 700 North 10th St., Ste. 200, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 346-1234.

Available to provide information in support, if requested, was Dr. Keith Liederman, representing Kingsley House, 1600 Constance St., New Orleans, LA, (504) 523-6221.

Representative Thompson moved that House Bill No. 255 be reported with amendments. There was no objection, and House Bill No. 255 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Hollis, Jefferson, Price, Schroder, Shadoin, Patricia Smith, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

House Bill No. 901 by Representative Patricia Smith

House Bill No. 901 permits parents of public school students to opt out of certain LEAP tests.

Representative Smith moved that action on House Bill No. 901 be voluntarily deferred. There was no objection, and action on House Bill No. 901 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Hollis, Jefferson, Price, Schroder, Shadoin, Patricia Smith, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

House Bill No. 833 by Representative Norton

House Bill No. 833 provides for early dismissal from public elementary and secondary schools under certain circumstances.

Representative Norton presented the bill to the committee. She was accompanied by Ms. Jackie Lansdale, representing Red River United, 1726 Line Ave., Shreveport, LA, (318) 424-4575, who provided highlights of the legislation and answered questions from committee members.

Speaking in opposition to the legislation was Ms. Erin Bendily, representing the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and the State Department of Education, Claiborne Building, 1201 North 3rd St., Baton Rouge, LA.

Also available to provide information in opposition, if requested, was Ms. Catherine Pozniak, representing BESE.

Representative Thompson moved that action on House Bill No. 833 be involuntarily deferred. There was no objection, and the motion that action on House Bill No. 833 be involuntarily deferred passed by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Henry, Jefferson, Landry, Price, Shadoin, Patricia Smith, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

House Bill No. 834 by Representative Norton

House Bill No. 834 eliminates provisions relative to LEAP, iLEAP, end of course testing, and the graduation exit exam for students in public schools.

Representative Norton presented the bill to the committee. She was accompanied by Ms. Jackie Lansdale, representing Red River United, 1726 Line Ave., Shreveport, LA, (318) 424-4575, who provided highlights of the legislation and answered questions from committee members.

Speaking in support of the bill were Mr. Michael W. Myers, representing Red River United of Caddo River, 409 Galway Dr., Shreveport, LA 71115, (318) 798-3640; and Mr. Jason Weile, a self-watchdog and independent, P. O. Box 6, Abbeville, LA 70511, (337) 652-2560.

Also supporting the bill but not wishing to speak was Ms. Mary Patricia Wray, representing the Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 8620 Menlo Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808.

Speaking in opposition to House Bill No. 834 were Ms. Erin Bendily, representing the

state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and the State Department of Education, Claiborne Building, 1201 North 3rd St., Baton Rouge, LA; and Mr. Russell Armstrong, education policy advisor for Governor Bobby Jindal, P. O. Box 94004, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9004, (225) 342-6160.

The following persons whose names are attached were opposed to the bill and available to provide information in opposition, if requested, but did not wish to speak. (See Attachment A)

Representative Wesley Bishop moved that House Bill No. 834 be reported favorably. Representative Thompson objected, and the secretary called the roll. The motion that House Bill No. 834 be reported favorably failed by a vote of 3 yeas and 13 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Patricia Smith, and Alfred Williams voted yea, and Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Landry, Price, Schroder, Shadoin, and Thompson voted nay.

Representative Thompson moved that action on House Bill No. 834 be involuntarily deferred. The motion passed by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Landry, Price, Schroder, Shadoin, Patricia Smith, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

House Bill No. 236 by Representative Hodges

House Bill No. 236 provides relative to Internet and cell phone safety instruction in public schools.

Representative Hodges presented the bill to the committee. She was accompanied by Mr. Toby Aguillard, representing the Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff's Office, 15472 Club Deluxe Road, Hammond, LA, (985) 981-0037. Mr. Aguillard provided information and answered questions from committee members.

Providing information was Ms. Erin Bendily, representing the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and the State Department of Education, Claiborne Building, 1201 North 3rd St., Baton Rouge, LA. She answered questions from committee members.

Supporting the bill but not wishing to speak were Ms. Tia Embaugh, representing the American Academy of Pediatrics, 1839 Carter Ave., (225) 976-7901; and Mr. Dale Hoffpauir, representing the Louisiana Family Forum, 655 St. Ferdinand, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 344-8533.

Representative Hodges closed on the legislation.

Representative Jefferson moved that House Bill No. 236 be reported favorably. There was no objection, and House Bill No. 236 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Hollis, Jefferson, Landry, Price, Schroder, Shadoin, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yeas.

House Bill No. 692 by Representative Alfred Williams

House Bill No. 692 provides relative to the membership of the board of directors of the Research Park Corporation.

Representative Williams presented the bill to the committee. He was accompanied by Mr. Stephen Loy, representing the Research Park Corporation, 7117 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 218-1100; and Ms. Kimberly Robinson, representing Jones Walker, 8555 United Plaza Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 248-2064. Mr. Loy and Ms. Robinson provided information and answered questions from committee members.

Representative Williams announced that he had amendments he wanted to adopt. The set of amendments adds a provision relative to voting recusal by the designee from the Baton Rouge Area Chamber and a provision permitting the designee to perform services for certain persons contracting with the corporation provided that the designee recuses himself from any vote regarding such person.

Representative Williams offered the amendments and moved that they be adopted. There was no objection, and the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Hollis, Jefferson, Landry, Price, Schroder, Shadoin, Patricia Smith, and Alfred Williams voted yeas.

Also supporting the bill but not wishing to speak were Mr. Jim Nickel and Mr. Bud Courson, representing the LA Tech Park, 453 Lafayette St., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 346-6900; and Ms. Erin Monroe Wesley, representing the Baton Rouge Area Chamber, 564 Laurel St., Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 339-1168.

Representative Bishop moved that House Bill No. 692 be reported with amendments. There was no objection, and House Bill No. 692 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Edwards, Hollis, Jefferson, Landry, Price, Schroder, Shadoin, Patricia Smith, and Alfred Williams voted yeas.

Representative Jefferson in the chair.

House Resolution No. 9 by Representative Carter

House Resolution No. 9 requests that the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), in collaboration with the Louisiana Serve Commission, study the feasibility of establishing a "distinction for community service" diploma endorsement.

Representative Carter presented the resolution to the committee.

Speaking in support of the resolution were Mr. Robert Lancon, representing the Louisiana Legislative Youth Advisory Council, 2146 Main St., Jeanerette, LA 70544, (337) 677-7064; and Mr. Nathan Bell, representing the Louisiana Legislative Youth Advisory Council, 7461 Sevenoaks Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 963-0433.

Representative Barrow also presented information on the resolution.

Also supporting the resolution but not wishing to speak were Ms. Janet Pace, representing the Louisiana Serve Commission, 1051 North 3rd St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-3125; Ms. Denise Dowell, representing the Louisiana Serve Commission, 1051 North 3rd St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-3937; and Mr. Lee Faucette, representing the Louisiana Association of School Executives, Box 40217, Baton Rouge, LA 70835-0217, (225) 261-5560.

Representative Carter closed on the resolution.

Representative Broadwater moved that House Resolution No. 9 be reported favorably. There was no objection, and House Resolution No. 9 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Landry, Price, Shadoin, Patricia Smith, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

House Bill No. 525 by Representative Barrow

House Bill No. 525 requires public high school students to perform community service as a prerequisite for graduation.

Representative Barrow indicated that she and Representative Carter have similar instruments. She explained that her legislation was to initially be a prerequisite for graduation.

She told committee members that the amendments to House Bill No. 525 in the form of the substitute bill being presented mirrors provisions included in House Resolution No. 9 by Representative Carter.

Ms. Catherine Pozniak, representing BESE, (no address was provided), was available to present information in opposition to the bill, if requested.

Representative Wesley Bishop moved to adopt the substitute bill. There was no objection, and the substitute bill was adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Henry, Jefferson, Landry, Price, Shadoin, Patricia Smith, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

Representative Wesley Bishop moved that House Bill No. 525 be reported by substitute. There was no objection, and House Bill No. 525 was reported by substitute by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Henry, Jefferson, Landry, Price, Shadoin, Patricia Smith, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business for discussion.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen F. Carter, Chairman
House Committee on Education