

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Minutes of Meeting
Regular Session, 2012
April 18, 2012

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Stephen F. Carter, chairman of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 8:59 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 Jerome Richard
Representative John M. Schroder
Representative Robert E. Shadoin
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith
Representative Jeff R. Thompson
Representative Alfred C. Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT:

III. STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Paul Jones, Legislative Analyst
Nancy Y. Jolly, Legislative Analyst
Jackie Snowden, Secretary
Angelika Washington, Clerk
Beverly Vincent, Mattie Franklin, and Danny Leming, Sergeant at Arms

IV. DISCUSSION**Pursuant to Article VII, Section 10.8(C)(3)(g) of the state constitution and R.S. 17:3805, consideration for legislative approval of the plan submitted by the Jefferson Davis Parish School System for the expenditure of Education Excellence Fund (EEF) monies.**

Mr. Paul Jones, committee senior legislative analyst, made introductory remarks and informed committee members about the origin of the fund.

Available to present information was Mr. Joe Salter, representing the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the State Department of Education, 1201 Claiborne Bldg., Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 342-3745.

Representative Carter moved that the plan submitted by the Jefferson Davis Parish School System for the expenditure of EEF monies be approved. There was no objection, and the plan was approved by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Hollis, Jefferson, Price, Shadoin, Patricia Smith, and Thompson voted yea.

House Bill No. 883 by Representative Henry Burns

House Bill No. 883 authorizes the Board of Regents to increase the licensure fee for postsecondary, academic degree-granting institutions operating in Louisiana.

Representative Leger presented the bill on behalf of Representative Burns.

Available to provide information, if requested, was Mr. Larry Tremblay, representing the Board of Regents, (225) 342-4253.

Representative Richard moved that House Bill No. 883 be reported favorably. There was no objection, and House Bill No. 883 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Hollis, Jefferson, Price, Richard, Schroder, Shadoin, Patricia Smith, and Thompson voted yea.

Representative Richard moved that House Bill No. 883 be placed on the Local and Consent calendar. There was no objection, and the motion to place House Bill No. 883 on the Local and Consent calendar passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Hollis, Jefferson, Price, Richard, Schroder, Shadoin, Patricia Smith, and Thompson voted yea.

House Bill No. 707 by Representative Schroder

House Bill No. 707 provides relative to student assessment and statewide education standards.

Representative Schroder presented the bill to the committee. He was accompanied by Ms. Erin Bendily, representing the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the State Department of Education, 1201 North 3rd St., Baton Rouge, LA.

Also supporting the bill but not wishing to speak was Ms. Stephanie Desselle, representing the Council for a Better Louisiana, 251 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 344-2225.

Representative Carmody moved that House Bill No. 707 be reported favorably. There was no objection, and House Bill No. 707 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Hollis, Jefferson, Price, Richard, Schroder, Shadoin, Patricia Smith, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

House Bill No. 609 by Representative Seabaugh

House Bill No. 609, a constitutional amendment, removes geographic limitations on the legislature's authority to create new school boards and on provisions relative to financing education.

Representative Seabaugh presented the bill to the committee.

Representative Seabaugh announced that an amendment was pending. The amendment adds a requirement and provision for voter approval of the creation of a school board and its district on or after January 1, 2013.

Representative Carmody offered the amendment and moved that the amendment be adopted. There was an objection, and the secretary called the roll. The motion to adopt the amendment passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Hollis, Jefferson, Richard, Shadoin, and Thompson voted yea, and Representatives Wesley Bishop, Price, Patricia Smith, and Alfred Williams voted nay.

Speaking in opposition to House Bill No. 609 were Mr. Steve Monaghan, representing the Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9623 Brookline Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 79809, (225) 923-1037; Ms. Burnadine Moss Anderson, representing the city of Shreveport, 505 Travis St., Ste. 200, Shreveport, LA, (318) 673-5009; Mr. Michael Myers, representing Red River United, 409 Galway Dr., Shreveport, LA 71115, (318) 798-3641; and Ms. Jackie Lansdale, representing Red River United, 11726 Line, Shreveport, LA, (318) 424-4579.

Also opposing the bill but not wishing to speak were persons whose names are included in Attachment A.

Presenting information to the committee was Mr. Kyle Ardoin, representing the Louisiana Secretary of State's office, (225) 922-2880.

Representative Carmody moved that House Bill No. 609 be reported with amendments. Representative Patricia Smith objected, and the secretary called the roll. The motion to report House Bill No. 609 with amendments passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 6 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Schroder, Shadoin, and Thompson voted yea, and Representatives Wesley Bishop, Edwards, Price, Richard, Patricia Smith, and Alfred Williams voted nay.

House Bill No. 1109 by Representative Price

House Bill No. 1109 authorizes school boards to sell used personal computing devices to students or their parents or guardians.

Representative Price presented the bill to the committee.

Speaking in support of the bill and answering questions from committee members was Mr. Jake Ragusa, representing Ascension Parish Schools, LACUE, 1100 Webster St., Donaldsonville, LA 70346, (225) 391-7000.

Also supporting the bill but not wishing to speak were persons whose names are included in Attachment B.

Representative Price closed on the legislation.

Representative Broadwater moved that House Bill No. 1109 be reported favorably. There was no objection, and House Bill No. 1109 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Price, Richard, Shadoin, and Patricia Smith voted yea.

Representative Broadwater also moved that House Bill No. 1109 be placed on the Local and Consent calendar. There was no objection, and the motion to place House Bill No. 1109 on the Local and Consent calendar passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Price, Richard, Shadoin, and Patricia Smith voted yea.

House Bill No. 631 by Representative Lorusso

House Bill No. 631 provides relative to eligibility of certain students from military families to participate in interscholastic athletics.

Representative Lorusso presented the bill to the committee.

Representative Lorusso was accompanied by Ms. Shelby Hudson (daughter) and Major Charles Hudson (father), representing military families, 1214 Lower Guerre Circle, New Orleans, LA 70117, (504) 373-7696, both of whom presented more information in support of the legislation.

Also providing information were Mr. Keith Alexander, representing the Louisiana High School Athletic Association, 11999 Apt. 311, Longridge Ave., Baton Rouge, LA.

Also supporting the bill and available to provide information, if requested, but not wishing to speak were persons whose names are included in Attachment C.

Representative Burns moved that House Bill No. 631 be reported favorably. There was no objection, and House Bill No. 631 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Price, Richard, Shadoin, Patricia Smith, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

Representative Burns then moved that House Bill No. 631 be placed on the Local and Consent calendar. There was no objection, and the motion to place House Bill No. 631 on the Local and Consent calendar passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Price, Richard, Shadoin, Patricia Smith, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

House Bill No. 407 by Representative Patricia Smith

House Bill No. 407 provides relative to harassment, intimidation, and bullying in public schools.

Representative Smith presented the bill to the committee. She was accompanied by Dr. Jennifer Curry, representing the Louisiana School Counselors Association.

Also speaking in support of House Bill No. 407 were Ms. Joyce Haynes, representing the Louisiana Association of Educators, 8322 One Calais, Baton Rouge, LA, (337) 945-1827; Ms. Stephanie Patrick, representing the Advocacy Center, 8325 Oak, New Orleans, LA, (504) 522-2337; Ms. Tiffany Phelps, representing the Centre for the Arts, 1164 W. Main St., New Roads, LA, (225) 618-6770; Ms. Adrienne Critcher, representing People Acting for Change and Equality (PACE), 817 Ontario St.,

Shreveport, LA 71106, (318) 869-3930; Ms. Jeannie Doiron, 121 Landry St., Thibodaux, LA 70301, (985) 446-5533; Ms. Tiane Oliver, representing Vietnamese American Youth Leadership Association, 5035 Michoud Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70125, (504) 575-6333; Ms. Jessica Morton, representing Haley "Danielle" Cox (her deceased daughter), 4636 Sligo Rd., Haughton, LA 71037, (318) 455-6664; Mr. John Morton, representing Haley "Danielle" Cox (his deceased daughter), 4636 Sligo Rd., Haughton, LA 71037, (318) 455-6664; the Rev. William Barnwell, 1917 Audubon St., New Orleans, LA 70118, (504) 862-0311; Mr. Daniel Banguel, 5842 Tioga Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70812, (225) 773-1004; Ms. Carmen D. Weisner, ACSW, LCSW, Executive Director, NASW-LA, 700 North 10th St., Ste. 200, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 346-1234; and Ms. Deborah D. Harkins, representing the Orleans Parish School Board, 829 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, LA 70130, (504) 556-2255.

Also speaking in support were Ms. Dianne Hanley, a parent, 5407 Loranger Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 291-9142; the Rev. John Henson, 534 Gladstone Blvd., Shreveport, LA 71104, (318) 990-1641; Ms. Katherine Clarke, representing the Louisiana Association of Educators, 10466 Jefferson Hwy., (510) 316-0278; State Representative Kenneth Cox; Ms. Sylvia G. Pearson, 213 Harding St., Jefferson, LA 70121, (504) 908-0027; Mr. Steve Monaghan, representing the Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9623 Brookline Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 79809, (225) 923-1037; Mr. Stephen Kauffman, 8225 Florida Blvd., Ste. A, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 925-8884; Ms. Veronica Brooks, representing the Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools, (225) 301-1759; Ms. Najeli Mendoza, representing the Vietnamese American Youth Leadership Association, 5085 Michoud Blvd., New Orleans, LA; Ms. Christina Estaves, 9771 Jefferson Hwy., #183, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (504) 931-8799; Ms. Cristiane Wijngaarde, representing Vietnamese American Youth Leadership Association, 5035 Michoud Blvd., New Orleans, LA, (504) 575-6333; Ms. Brittany Howard, representing Mental Health America of Louisiana, 824 Goodwood Blvd., Ste. E4, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 978-2177; Mr. Terrance Sylvester, representing the Vietnamese American Youth Leadership Association, 7643 Berg Rd., New Orleans, LA 70128; Mr. Jugo Fortanel, representing Vietnamese American Youth Leadership Association, 16302 Chef Menteur Hwy., #18, New Orleans, LA 70129, (504) 495-8194; Ms. Quenisha Guss, P. O. Box 1002, Port Allen, LA 70767, (225) 302-4082; and State Representative Alfred Williams, 701 South Acadian Thruway, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 388-9122.

Also supporting the bill but not wishing to speak were persons whose names are included in Attachment D.

Speaking in opposition to House Bill No. 407 were Professor Michelle Ghetti, 18531 Lake Tulip Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70817, (225) 771-4900; Mr. Russell Armstrong, education policy advisor to Governor Bobby Jindal, P. O. Box 94004, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9004, (225) 342-6160; and Mr. Gene Mills, representing Louisiana Family Forum Action, 655 St. Ferdinand St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 344-8533.

Also opposing the bill but not wishing to speak were persons whose names are included in Attachment E.

Representative Thompson announced that he had an amendment for consideration. He explained that the amendments address concerns that he has with the bill in its current posture. Representative Thompson stated that the amendments would provide as follows:

- (1) Leaves in the bill enumerated items that will instruct teachers relative to what they should look for in a bullying situation.
- (2) Increases guidelines for teacher training, adding four hours to a teacher's existing three in-service days.
- (3) Incorporates a removal of unnecessary language in the bill relative to who would be considered a victim of bullying.
- (4) Removes the list of motives for bullying indicated in the bill.

Representative Thompson offered the amendments and moved that they be adopted. Representative Patricia Smith objected, and the secretary called the roll. Representative Thompson's motion to adopt the amendments passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Richard, Shadoin, and Thompson voted yea, and Representatives Henry Burns, Edwards, Price, Patricia Smith, and Alfred Williams voted nay.

In her closing, Representative Patricia Smith moved that action on House Bill No. 407 be voluntarily deferred. There was no objection, and the motion that action on House Bill No. 407 be voluntarily deferred passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Price, Richard, 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 12:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen F. Carter, Chairman
House Committee on Education