

# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Minutes of Meeting  
Regular Session, 2012  
April 25, 2012

## I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Stephen F. Carter, chairman of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 8:39 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, Suzie Broussard, and Danny Leming, Sergeant at Arms

#### IV. DISCUSSION

**To receive and consider the report issued January 12, 2012, by the Governance Commission (established by the state Board of Regents pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution No. 184 of the 2011 Regular Session) relative to the governance, management, and supervision of postsecondary education.**

Representative Carmody made opening remarks.

Making the presentation were Mr. Greg Davis, former chairman, the Governance Commission, 444 Cajundome Blvd., Lafayette, LA 70506, (337) 265-2100, and Mr. Barry Erwin, member, the Governance Commission, representing the Council for a Better Louisiana, P. O. Box 4308, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 344-2225. After the presentation, Mr. Davis and Mr. Erwin answered questions from committee members.

#### **House Bill No. 727 by Representative Geymann**

House Bill No. 727 provides for powers, duties, and functions of the Board of Regents.

Representative Carter announced that Representative Geymann has requested that action on House Bill No. 727 be voluntarily deferred. Representative Carter moved that action on House Bill No. 727 be voluntarily deferred. There was no objection, and the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Hollis, Price, Richard, Schroder, and Thompson voted yea.

#### **House Bill No. 395 by Representative Carmody**

House Bill No. 395 provides relative to the expenditure or allocation of funds appropriated to postsecondary education management boards.

Representative Carmody presented the bill to the committee. He was accompanied by Dr. Jim Purcell, commissioner of higher education, representing the Board of Regents, Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 342-4253, and Mr. Robert Levy, chairman, Board of Regents, Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 342-4253.

Representative Carmody announced that he had amendments pending that would add a proposed law provision relative to a management board's authority to redirect up to 5% of the specified formula allocation.

Representative Carmody offered the amendments and moved that they be adopted.

There was no objection, and the amendments were adopted by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Hollis, Jefferson, Landry, Price, Richard, Schroder, Shadoin, Patricia Smith, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

Representative Edwards offered a set of amendments that would change the effective date from signature of the governor to when House Bill No. 396 of the 2012 Regular Session (a proposed constitutional amendment) is adopted at a statewide election and becomes effective.

Representative Edwards 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, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Landry, Price, Richard, Schroder, Shadoin, and Thompson voted yea.

Speaking in support of House Bill No. 395 were: Mr. Greg Davis, former chairman, the Governance Commission, 444 Cajundome Blvd., Lafayette, LA 70506, (337) 265-2100, and Mr. Barry Erwin, member, the Governance Commission, representing the Council for a Better Louisiana, P. O. Box 4308, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 344-2225.

Providing information were Ms. Uma Subramanian, general counsel, representing the Board of Regents, Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 342-4253; Dr. Randy Moffett, president, the University of Louisiana System, 1201 North 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 342-3950; Dr. John Lombardi, president, the Louisiana State University System, 3810 W. Lakeshore Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 578-2111; Dr. Joe May, president, the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, 265 South Foster Dr., Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 922-1647; and Dr. Ronald Mason, president, the Southern University System, Clark Building, Southern Branch Post Office, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 771-4680.

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

Opposing the bill but not wishing to speak was Mr. Rodney Braxton, representing the Southern University System Foundation, 543 Spanish Town Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 381-0166.

Representative Carmody closed on the legislation.

Representative Carmody moved that House Bill No. 395 be reported with amendments. Representative Edwards objected, and the secretary called the roll. House Bill No. 395 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 6 nays. Representatives Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Henry, Hollis, Landry, Schroder, Shadoin, and

Thompson voted yea, and Representatives Broadwater, Edwards, Jefferson, Price, Richard, and Alfred Williams voted nay.

**House Bill No. 396 by Representative Carmody**

House Bill No. 396 (a constitutional amendment) provides relative to the powers of the public postsecondary education management boards and the Board of Regents.

Representative Carmody presented the bill to the committee. He was accompanied by Representative Schroder.

Also presenting information were Ms. Uma Subramanion, general counsel, representing the Board of Regents, (225) 342-4253, and Dr. John Lombardi, president, the LSU System, 3810 West Lakeshore, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 578-2111.

Speaking in support of House Bill No. 396 were Mr. Barry Erwin, representing the Council for a Better Louisiana, P. O. Box 4308, Baton Rouge, LA, 70821, (225) 344-2225; Mr. Greg Davis, former chairman, the Governance Commission, 444 Cajundome Blvd., Lafayette, LA 70506, (337) 265-2100; Mr. Robert Travis Scott, representing the Public Affairs Research Council, 4664 Jamestown, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 926-8414; Dr. Jim Purcell, commissioner of higher education, representing the Board of Regents, Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 342-4253; and Mr. Robert Levy, chairman, Board of Regents, Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 342-4253; and Dr. James Wharton, representing himself, 934 Kenilworth Parkway, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 328-5147.

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

Opposing the bill but not wishing to speak was Mr. Rodney Braxton, representing the Southern University System Foundation, 543 Spanish Town Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 381-0166.

Representative Carmody moved that House Bill No. 396 be reported favorably. Representative Alfred Williams objected, and the secretary called the roll. House Bill No. 396 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 6 nays. Representatives Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Henry, Hollis, Landry, Schroder, Shadoin, and Thompson voted yea, and Representatives Broadwater, Edwards, Jefferson, Price, Richard, and Alfred Williams voted nay.

**House Bill No. 761 by Representative Honore'**

House Bill No. 761 provides relative to the administration of nutrition programs at LSU and Southern laboratory schools.

Representative Honore' presented the bill to the committee. He was accompanied by Mr. Preston Castille, attorney, representing the Southern University laboratory school advisory group, 451 Florida St., 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 389-0517, and Mr. Ronnie Harrison, principal, Southern University laboratory school, 129 Swan St., Baton Rouge, LA 70813, (225) 771-3490, who presented information and answered questions from committee members.

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 Price moved that House Bill No. 761 be reported favorably. There was no objection, and House Bill No. 761 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Landry, Price, Richard, Patricia Smith, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

Representative Price moved that House Bill No. 761 be placed on the Local and Consent Calendar. There was no objection, and the motion to place House Bill No. 761 on the Local and Consent calendar passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Landry, Price, Richard, Patricia Smith, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

**House Bill No. 856 by Representative Honore'**

House Bill No. 856 authorizes a tuition increase at the Southern University Laboratory School.

Representative Honore' presented the bill to the committee. He was accompanied by Mr. Preston Castille, attorney, representing the Southern University laboratory school advisory group, 451 Florida St., 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 389-0517, and Mr. Ronnie Harrison, principal, Southern University laboratory school, 129 Swan St., Baton Rouge, LA 70813, (225) 771-3490, who presented information and answered questions from committee members.

Also supporting the bill but not wishing to speak was Mr. Rodney Braxton, representing the Southern University System Foundation, 543 Spanish Town Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 381-0166.

Representative Wesley Bishop moved that House Bill No. 856 be reported favorably. There was no objection, and House Bill No. 856 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Landry, Price, Richard, Patricia Smith, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

**House Bill No. 411 by Representative Abramson**

House Bill No. 411 provides relative to the sale of educational facilities and property in Orleans Parish.

Representative Abramson presented the bill to the committee. He was accompanied by Ms. Deborah Harkins, representing the Orleans Parish School Board and McGlinchey Stafford, 601 Poydras St., New Orleans, LA 70130, (504) 506-2799.

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

Representative Edwards moved that House Bill No. 411 be reported favorably. There was no objection, and House Bill No. 411 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Landry, Price, Richard, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

Representative Henry moved that House Bill No. 411 be placed on the Local and Consent calendar. There was no objection, and the motion to place House Bill No. 411 on the Local and Consent calendar passed by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Landry, Price, Richard, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

**House Bill No. 165 by Representative Dixon**

House Bill No. 165, a constitutional amendment, provides for a nine-member State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Representative Dixon presented the bill to the committee.

Speaking in support of the bill was Mr. Steve Monaghan, representing the Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9623 Brookline Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 923-1037.

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

Speaking in opposition to the bill were Ms. Penny Dastugue, president, state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), 10 Serenity Dr., Mandeville, LA 70471, (985) 502-9800, and Ms. Stephanie Desselle, representing the Council for a Better Louisiana (CABL), P. O. Box 4308, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 344-2225.

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

Representative Patricia Smith moved that House Bill No. 165 be reported favorably. Representative Shadoin objected, and the secretary called the roll. The motion to report the bill favorably failed by a vote of 6 yeas and 10 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Edwards, Jefferson, Price, Patricia Smith, and Alfred Williams voted yea, and Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carter, Champagne, Hollis, Landry, Richard, Shadoin, and Thompson voted nay.

Representative Champagne moved that action on House Bill No. 165 be involuntarily deferred. There was no objection, and action on House Bill No. 165 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carter, Carmody, Champagne, Edwards, Hollis, Jefferson, Landry, Price, Richard, Shadoin, Patricia Smith, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

### **House Bill No. 820 by Representative Patricia Smith**

House Bill No. 820 requires rather than authorizes sex education instruction in public schools.

Representative Patricia Smith presented the bill to the committee.

Speaking in support of the bill were: Mr. Jeremy Tauriac representing Youth of Advocates of New Orleans, (no address provided), New Orleans, LA; Mr. Bruce Davenport, representing St. John #5 Faith Church, 3613 Hamburg St., New Orleans, LA 70122, (504) 228-3479; Ms. Dena Morrison, a parent, representing Family Road of Greater Baton Rouge, 3128 Guilford Dr., Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 218-1475; Ms. Breasha Warren, representing Young Advocates of New Orleans, 2028 Sumpter St., New Orleans, LA, (504) 512-8335; and Ms. Anika Burer, (no address provided), New Orleans, LA.

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

Speaking in opposition to House Bill No. 820 were: Ms. Veronica Brooks, representing the Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools, 200 Broadway, New Orleans, (225) 301-1759; Ms. Lennie Ditoro, representing herself, 121 Fox Run Dr., Mandeville, LA, (985) 674-1911; Rev. Kelly Boggs, representing the Louisiana Baptist Convention, P. O. Box 311, Alexandria, LA 71309, (318) 442-7728; Mr. Rob Tasman, representing the Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2431 South Acadian Thruway, Ste., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 344-7120; and Ms. Erin Bendily, representing the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the State Department of Education, Claiborne Bldg., 1201 North 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Baton Rouge, LA.

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

On closing, Representative Smith asked Mr. Michael Coburn, representing the State Department of Education, 1201 North 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 342-3344, to join her to provide information and answer questions from committee members.

Representative Smith moved that House Bill No. 820 be reported favorably. The motion to report House Bill No. 820 favorably failed by a vote of 8 yeas and 8 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Carmody, Carter, Jefferson, Landry, Price, Patricia Smith, and Alfred Williams voted yea, and Representatives Henry Burns, Champagne, Henry, Hollis, Richard, Schroder, Shadoin, and Thompson voted nay.

The committee recessed at 1:57 p.m. to assemble on the House Floor for session.

The committee reconvened at 7:02 p.m. upon adjournment of the House.

### **House Bill No. 808 by Representative Harrison**

House Bill No. 808 provides for a program to grade parents on their required participation in the educational progress of their children.

Representative Harrison presented the bill to the committee.

Representative Harrison announced that he had amendments pending. He explained that the first amendment would add language on page 1, lines 13 and 14, as follows: After "program" delete "for grading" and insert "that will provide a tool for use by teachers to assist". The second amendment would change language on page 1, line 14, as follows: After "guardians" delete "on" and insert "to improve".

Representative Carmody offered the amendments and moved that they be adopted. There was no objection, and the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne,



Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Price, Richard, Shadoin, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

Representative Richard moved that House Bill No. 808 be reported with amendments.

Representative Landry made a substitute motion that action on House Bill No. 808 be involuntarily deferred. Representative Wesley Bishop objected, and the secretary called the roll on the substitute motion. The motion that action on House Bill No. 808 be involuntarily deferred passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Landry, Shadoin, and Thompson voted yea, and Representatives Wesley Bishop, Edwards, Price, Richard, and Alfred Williams voted nay.

### **House Bill No. 673 by Representative Harrison**

House Bill No. 673 requires that 80% of minimum foundation program (MFP) funds be spent on classroom instruction for students.

Representative Harrison presented the bill to the committee.

Ms. Beth Scioneaux, assistant superintendent for management and finance, representing the State Department of Education and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Claiborne Bldg., 1201 North 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 342-3617, provided information to and answered questions from committee members.

Speaking in support of the bill was Dr. Michael Walker-Jones, representing the Louisiana Association of Educators, 8322 One Calais Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 343-9243.

Speaking in opposition to House Bill No. 673 was Ms. Veronica Brooks, representing the Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools, 200 Broadway, New Orleans, (225) 301-1759.

Also opposing the bill but not wishing to speak was Ms. Jennifer Ansardi, representing the Jefferson Parish School Board, P. O. Box 55815, Metairie, LA 70055, (504) 606-7700.

Representative Harrison announced that he wanted to voluntarily defer House Bill No. 673.

Representative Carter moved that action on House Bill No. 673 be voluntarily deferred. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Edwards,

Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Price, Richard, Shadoin, 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 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen F. Carter, Chairman  
House Committee on Education