

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Minutes of Meeting
Regular Session, 2012
April 30, 2012

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Stephen F. Carter, chairman of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 10:09 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 Christopher Broadwater
Representative Henry L. Burns
Representative Simone Champagne
Representative John Bel Edwards
Representative Cameron Henry
Representative Paul B. Hollis
Representative Nancy Landry
Representative Jerome Richard
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith
Representative Alfred C. Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Wesley T. Bishop
Representative Thomas Carmody
Representative Edward J. Price
Representative John M. Schroder
Representative Robert E. Shadoin
Representative Jeff R. Thompson

III. STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

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 the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Landry, Richard, Patricia Smith, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

House Bill No. 944 by Representative Harrison

House Bill No. 944 eliminates extended sick leave for public teachers and employees.

At the request of the author, Representative Carter moved that action on House Bill No. 944 be voluntarily deferred. There was no objection, and the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Landry, Richard, Patricia Smith, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

House Bill No. 211 by Representative Harrison

House Bill No. 211 limits class size and requires two teachers in kindergarten through fourth grade classrooms.

At the request of the author, Representative Carter moved that action on House Bill No. 211 be voluntarily deferred. There was no objection, and the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Landry, Richard, Patricia Smith, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

House Bill No. 293 by Representative Harrison

House Bill No. 293 limits applicability of laws relative to a school bus operator becoming a regular and permanent employee of the employing school board and provides relative to removal of certain operators.

Representative Harrison presented the bill to the committee.

Speaking in support of House Bill No. 293 was Ms. Stephanie Desselle, representing the Council for a Better Louisiana, P. O. Box 4308, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 344-2225.

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

Speaking in opposition to House Bill No. 293 were Mr. Steve Monaghan and Ms. Mary-Patricia Wray, representing the Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9623 Brookline Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 923-1037.

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

Representative Richard moved that House Bill No. 293 be reported favorably. There was no objection, and House Bill No. 293 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 3 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carter, Champagne, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Landry, and Richard voted yea, and Representatives Edwards, Patricia Smith, and Alfred Williams voted nay.

House Bill No. 436 by Representative Harrison

House Bill No. 436 requires instruction on the Founding Principles of the United States to be integrated into the high school American history course.

Representative Harrison presented the bill to the committee.

Speaking in support of House Bill No. 436 was Ms. Erin Bendily, representing the state Board of Elementary and Secondary and the State Department of Education, Claiborne Building, 1201 North 3rd St., Baton Rouge, LA.

Representative Harrison announced that he had an amendment for consideration that adds civics, as an alternative to American history, as a course into which proposed law instruction shall be integrated.

Representative Broadwater offered the amendment and moved that it be adopted. There was no objection, and the amendment was adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Landry, Richard, Patricia Smith, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

Representative Landry offered a technical amendment to change "inalienable" to "unalienable." There was no objection, and the amendment was adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Landry, Richard, Patricia Smith, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

Representative Patricia Smith moved that House Bill No. 436 be reported with amendments. There was no objection, and House Bill No. 436 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Landry, Patricia Smith,

and Alfred Williams voted yea.

House Bill No. 927 by Representative Harrison

House Bill No. 927 provides for the governance of public postsecondary education.

Representative Harrison presented the bill to the committee.

Presenting information and answering questions from committee members was Ms. Uma Subramanian, general counsel, Board of Regents, Claiborne Building, 1201 North 3rd St., Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 342-4213.

Speaking in opposition to House Bill No. 927 was Mr. Kevin Cunningham, representing the Southern University System Foundation, 543 Spanish Town Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 381-0166.

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, 381-0166.

Representative Carter, upon the request of the author, moved that action on House Bill No. 927 be voluntarily deferred. There was no objection, and the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Landry, Richard, Patricia Smith, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

House Bill No. 730 by Representative Harrison

House Bill No. 730 requires students to have the same two teachers throughout kindergarten through fourth grade.

Representative Harrison presented the bill to the committee.

Representative Harrison announced that he had amendments pending for adoption. The amendments would clarify class sizes and the school terms in which the bill's provisions would be implemented. Representative Carter offered the amendments and moved that they be adopted. There was no objection, and the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Landry, Richard, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

Supporting House Bill No. 730 but not wishing to speak were Mr. Steve Monaghan,

representing the Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9623 Brookline Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 923-1037, and Ms. Brenda Noland, representing the Louisiana School Psychologists Association, the Louisiana Educational Diagnostician Association, and the National Board Certified Pupil Appraisal Educators, (225) 767-2083, (no address provided).

Speaking in opposition to House Bill No. 730 was Ms. Erin Bendily, representing the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the State Department of Education, Claiborne Building, 1201 North 3rd St., Baton Rouge, LA.

Also opposing the bill but not wishing to speak was Mr. Russell Armstrong, education policy advisor to Governor Bobby Jindal, P. O. Box 94004, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9004, (225) 342-6160.

Representative Jefferson, at the request of the author, moved that action on House Bill No. 730 be voluntarily deferred. There was no objection, and the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carter, Champagne, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Landry, Richard, 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 to provide for a school health care system in all public schools.

Representative Harrison presented the bill to the committee.

Speaking in support of House Bill No. 661 was Ms. Marcella Babcock, representing high school athletics, 10534 Cal Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 296-8109.

Representative Harrison announced that he had an amendment for adoption that adds certified athletic trainers to the list of those authorized to access a students' electronic health reports.

Representative Broadwater offered the amendment and moved that it be adopted. There was no objection, and the amendment was adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Landry, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

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

Speaking in opposition to House Bill No. 661 was Ms. Erin Bendily, representing the

State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the State Department of Education, Claiborne Building, 1201 North 3rd St., Baton Rouge, LA.

Also opposing the bill but not wishing to speak was Mr. Russell Armstrong, education policy advisor to Governor Bobby Jindal, P. O. Box 94004, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9004, (225) 342-6160.

Representative Richard moved that House Bill No. 661 be reported with amendments. There was objection, and House Bill No. 661 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Landry, Richard, and Alfred Williams voted yea, and Representatives Broadwater and Henry Burns voted nay.

House Bill No. 662 by Representative Harrison

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

Representative Harrison presented the bill to the committee.

Speaking in support of House Bill No. 662 was Ms. Brenda Noland, representing the Louisiana School Psychologists Association, the Louisiana Educational Diagnostician Association, and the National board Certified Pupil Appraisal Educators, (225) 767-2083.

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

Speaking in opposition to House Bill No. 661 was Ms. Erin Bendily, representing the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the State Department of Education, Claiborne Building, 1201 North 3rd St., Baton Rouge, LA.

Also opposing the bill but not wishing to speak was Mr. Russell Armstrong, education policy advisor to Governor Bobby Jindal, P. O. Box 94004, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9004, (225) 342-6160.

Representative Carter, upon the request of the author, moved that action on House Bill No. 662 be voluntarily deferred. There was no objection, and the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Landry, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

House Bill No. 716 by Representative Henry

House Bill No. 716 limits applicability of laws relative to a school bus operator becoming a regular and permanent employee of the employing school board and provides relative to removal of certain operators.

Representative Henry moved that action on House Bill No. 716 be voluntarily deferred. There was no objection, and the motion that action on House Bill No. 716 be voluntarily deferred passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Landry, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

House Bill No. 1088 by Representative Henry

House Bill No. 1088 provides for the establishment and administration of a targeted coordinated school health program for the purpose of reducing childhood obesity and a grant program to assist public school governing authorities with implementation.

Representative Henry presented the bill to the committee.

Speaking in support of House Bill No. 1088 was Ms. Berry Burnside, representing the American Heart Association, 2644 South Sherwood Forest Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70816, (225) 229-3183.

Also providing information was Dr. Henry Nass, representing the Louisiana Cancer Prevention and Control Commission, (no address provided).

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

Representative Henry announced that he had an amendment pending for adoption that authorizes, rather than requires, public school governing authorities to implement the program.

Representative Henry moved that the amendment be adopted. There was no objection, and the amendment was adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Landry, Richard, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

Representative Edwards moved that House Bill No. 1088 be reported with amendments. There was no objection, and House Bill No. 1088 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Landry, Richard, 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 12:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen F. Carter, Chairman
House Committee on Education