

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2014 Regular Session
March 26, 2014

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 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 Wesley T. Bishop
Representative Chris Broadwater
Representative Henry L. Burns
Representative Thomas G. Carmody, Jr.
Representative Simone B. Champagne
Representative Cameron Henry
Representative Paul Hollis
Representative Barry Ivey
Representative Patrick O. Jefferson, Vice Chair
Representative Nancy Landry
Representative Edward J. Price
Representative H. Eugene Reynolds
Representative Jerome Richard
Representative Robert E. Shadoin
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith
Representative Alfred C. Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative John Bel Edwards
Representative Jeff R. Thompson

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Elizabeth L. Borne, Legislative Analyst
Nancy Y. Jolly, Legislative Analyst

Jacqueline Snowden, Secretary

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Beverly Vincent, Sergeant at Arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 946 by Representative Schroder

Representative Schroder presented House Bill No. 946, which provides for limitations and prohibitions on the collection and sharing of student information and provides penalties for violations.

Representative Richard offered a set of amendments, the substitute for House Bill No. 946. Representative Richard offered a motion to adopt the proposed substitute. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Wesley Bishop, Henry Burns, Carmody, Champagne, Henry, Hollis, Ivey, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Price, Reynolds, Richard, Smith, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

Speaking in support of House Bill No. 946 were Ms. Beth Appleton, representing herself, 17556 Shady Elm, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, (225) 756-5869; Ms. Nikki Gaspard, representing her children, 205 Timberwood Dr., Madisonville, LA 70447, (985) 273-2492; Ms. Jennie Williams, representing Twice exceptional, 5350 Groom Rd., #33, Baker, LA 70714, (337) 343-0999; Ms. Kathryn Goppelt, 42291 Clouatre Rd., Gonzales, LA 70737, (225) 675-8002; Ms. Debbie Sachs, representing herself and her children, 2320 Jefferson St., (985) 636-3595; and Ms. Sara Wood, representing herself, her husband, and her four children; 210 Shadnett Dr., Mandeville, LA 70448.

The names of persons who signed witness cards to speak in support of House Bill No. 946 but either decided not to speak or were not present when called are contained in Exhibit A.

The names of persons who signed witness cards in support of House Bill No. 946 but did not wish to speak are contained in Exhibit B.

The names of persons who were available to provide information on House Bill No. 946 are contained in Exhibit C.

Representative Richard offered a motion to report House Bill No. 946 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 946 was reported by substitute by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Wesley Bishop, Henry Burns, Carmody, Champagne, Henry, Hollis, Ivey, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Price, Reynolds, Richard, Smith, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

House Bill No. 555 by Representative Henry

Representative Henry presented House Bill No. 555, which provides for limitations and prohibitions on the collection and sharing of student information and provides penalties for violations.

The names of persons who signed witness cards to speak in support of House Bill No. 555 but either decided not to speak or were not present when called are contained in Exhibit A.

The names of persons who signed witness cards in support of House Bill No. 555 but did not wish to speak are contained in Exhibit B.

Representative Henry offered a motion to report House Bill No. 555 favorably, to which Representative Smith objected. A roll call vote was taken and House Bill No. 555 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Carter, Wesley Bishop, Henry Burns, Carmody, Champagne, Henry, Hollis, Nancy Landry, Price, Reynolds, and Richard voted yea. Representatives Smith and Alfred Williams voted nay.

House Bill No. 975 by Representative Wesley Bishop

Representative Wesley Bishop presented House Bill No. 975, which provides relative to the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA).

Representative Smith offered a set of amendments to House Bill No. 975 that would provide as follows:

1. Changes proposed law from authorizing a designee of the state superintendent to serve to requiring that an employee of the state Dept. of Education be appointed by the state superintendent.

Representative Smith offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Wesley Bishop, Carmody, Champagne, Henry, Hollis, Nancy Landry, Price, Reynolds, Richard, Smith, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

Speaking in support of House Bill No. 975 was Mr. Kyle Wedberg, CEO and president of NOCCA, 2800 Chartres St., New Orleans, LA 70117, (504) 940-2707.

Representative Price offered a motion to report House Bill No. 975 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 975 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Wesley Bishop, Carmody, Champagne, Henry, Hollis, Nancy Landry, Price, Reynolds, Richard, Smith, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

House Bill No. 944 by Representative Fannin

Representative Fannin presented House Bill No. 944, which provides relative to the high school career option program.

Representative Carmody offered a set of amendments to House Bill No. 944 that would provide as follows:

1. Makes various changes to the career major course requirements.
2. Adds that students pursuing a career diploma shall take the WorkKeys test or may choose to take the ACT.
3. Deletes provisions that allows for the completion of a series of career and technical education courses leading to a work or postsecondary education credential and instead requires the completion of a regionally designed series of Career and Technical Education Jump Start course work and workplace-based learning experiences leading to a statewide or regional Jump Start credential.

Representative Carmody offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Hollis, Ivey, Nancy Landry, Price, Reynolds, Richard, and Smith voted yea.

Speaking in support of House Bill No. 944 was Mr. John White, state superintendent of schools, representing the state Department of Education and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, Claiborne Bldg., Baton Rouge, LA.

Providing information was Dr. James A. Caillier, representing the Taylor Foundation, Poydras St., New Orleans, LA.

Speaking in opposition to House Bill No. 944 was Ms. Erika McConduit-Deggs, representing the Urban League of Greater New Orleans, 2912 Canal St., New Orleans, LA 70119.

The names of persons who signed witness cards to speak in support of House Bill No. 946 but either decided not to speak or were not present when called are contained in Exhibit A.

The names of persons who signed witness cards in support of House Bill No. 944 but did not wish to speak are contained in Exhibit B.

The names of persons who were available to provide information on House Bill No. 944 are contained in Exhibit C.

Representative Carter offered a motion to report House Bill No. 944 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 944 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Ivey, Nancy Landry, Price, Reynolds, Richard, and Smith voted yea.

House Bill No. 260 by Representative Cox

Representative Cox presented House Bill No. 260, which lowers the minimum ACT score required for initial TOPS-Tech Award eligibility from 17 to 16.

Presenting information on House Bill No. 260 was Ms. Erin Bendily, representing the state Department of Education, Claiborne Bldg., Baton Rouge, LA.

The names of persons who signed witness cards in support of House Bill No. 260 but did not wish to speak are contained in Exhibit A.

The names of persons who signed witness cards in opposition to House Bill No. 260 but did not wish to speak are contained in Exhibit B.

The names of persons who were available to provide information on House Bill No. 260 are contained in Exhibit C.

Representative Carter offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 260. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 260 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Ivey, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Price, Reynolds, Richard, and Smith voted yea.

House Bill No. 385 by Representative Harrison

Representative Harrison presented House Bill No. 385, which provides relative to Taylor Opportunity Program for Students.

Providing information were Mr. Barry Erwin, representing the Council for a Better Louisiana (CABL), P. O. Box 4308, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 344-2225 and Dr. James A. Caillier, representing the Taylor Foundation, Poydras St., New Orleans, LA.

Available to present information on House Bill No. 385 but not wishing to speak were Ms. Sujuan Boutte', executive director, Office of Student Financial Assistance, 602 North 5th St., Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 219-7295 and Mr. George Eldredge, general counsel, Office of Student Financial Assistance, 602 North 5th St., Baton Rouge, (225) 219 7668.

Opposed to House Bill No. 385 but not wishing to speak were Mr. Eric Sunstrom, representing the Houma Chamber of Commerce, P. O. Box 80106, Baton Rouge, LA 70898, 757-9908 and Mr. Nathan James, representing the Governor's Office, (225) 454-7133.

Representative Carmody offered a motion to report House Bill No. 385 favorably, to which Representative Wesley Bishop objected. A roll call vote was taken and by a vote of 4 yeas and 8 nays, the motion failed to pass. Representatives Carmody, Ivey, Richard, and Smith voted yea. Representatives Carter, Wesley Bishop, Henry Burns, Champagne, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Price, and Reynolds voted nay.

Representative Ivey offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 385. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 385 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Wesley Bishop, Henry Burns, Carmody, Champagne, Ivey, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Price, Reynolds, Richard, and Smith voted yea.

House Bill No. 977 by Representative Jackson

House Bill No. 977 provides relative to eligibility for Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS).

Representative Carter offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 977. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 977 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Wesley Bishop, Henry Burns, Carmody, Champagne, Ivey, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Price, Reynolds, Richard, and Smith voted yea.

House Bill No. 728 by Representative Jackson

Representative Jackson presented House Bill No. 728, which provides for the transfer of certain sixteenth section land in Ouachita Parish.

Representative Wesley Bishop offered a motion to report House Bill No. 728 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 728 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Wesley Bishop, Henry Burns, Carmody, Champagne, Ivey, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Price, Reynolds, Richard, and Smith voted yea.

House Bill No. 1009 by Representative Greene

House Bill No. 1009 provides relative to Taylor Opportunity Program for Students award payments for first-time recipients qualifying on or after July 1, 2017.

Representative Carter offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 1009. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 1009 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Champagne, Hollis, Ivey, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Price, Reynolds, Richard, Shadoin, and Smith voted yea.

House Bill No. 510 by Representative Greene

House Bill No. 510 increases the ACT score and grade point average required for a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students Opportunity Award.

Representative Carter offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 510. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 510 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Champagne, Hollis, Ivey, Nancy Landry, Price, Reynolds, Richard, Shadoin, and Smith voted yea.

House Bill No. 997 by Representative Hunter

Representative Hunter presented House Bill No. 997, which places certain residency and program of study requirements on Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) award recipients and authorizes use of TOPS awards for postgraduate study in certain circumstances.

Providing information on House Bill No. 997 was Dr. James A. Caillier, representing the Taylor Foundation, Poydras St., New Orleans, LA.

Opposed to House Bill No. 997 but not wishing to speak was Mr. Eric Sunstrom, representing the Houma Chamber of Commerce, P. O. Box 80106, Baton Rouge, LA 70898, 757-9908.

Representative Carter offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 997. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 997 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Champagne, Hollis, Ivey, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Price, Reynolds, Richard, Shadoin, and Smith voted yea.

House Bill No. 180 by Representative Dove

Representative Dove presented House Bill No. 180, which authorizes Montessori programs to extend through high school.

Supporting House Bill No. 180 but not wishing to speak were Ms. Tania Nyman, representing One Community One School District, 1278 Aberdeen Ave., Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 907-3527 and Ms. Belinda Davis, representing One Community One School District, 9566 Donna Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70815, (225) 202-2698.

Representative Carter offered a motion to report House Bill No. 180 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 180 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Champagne, Hollis, Ivey, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Price, Reynolds, Richard, Shadoin, and Smith voted yea.

House Bill No. 1016 by Representative Pierre

Representative Pierre presented House Bill No. 1016, which provides for State Seal of Biliteracy to recognize high school graduates who meet certain academic eligibility criteria relative to language proficiency.

Accompanying Representative Pierre Ms. Nicole Boudreaux, representing the Louisiana Consortium of Immersion Schools, 1057 Dudley Menard Rd., Broussard, LA 70518, (337) 521-7127.

Supporting House Bill No. 1016 but not wishing to speak were Ms. Patrice Pujol, representing the Superintendent's Association, 11837 Home Port Dr., Maurepas, LA, (225) 915-4588; Ms. Ann Burruss, representing herself, 110 Seville Blvd., Lafayette, LA 70503, (337) 852-3669; and Mr. Scott Richard, representing the Louisiana School Boards Association, 7912 Summa Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 769-3191.

Representative Price offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1016 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 1016 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Champagne, Hollis, Jefferson, Price, Reynolds, Shadoin, and Smith voted yea.

House Bill No. 763 by Representative Ortego

Representative Ortego presented House Bill No. 763, which provides relative to foreign language immersion programs in public schools.

Accompanying Representative Ortego and providing information was Ms. Terri Hammatt, representing the state Department of Education, Claiborne Bldg., Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 342-3181.

Supporting the bill were Ms. Ann Burruss, representing herself, 110 Seville Blvd., Lafayette, LA 70503, (337) 852-3669; Ms. Brigitte Nieland, representing the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, 3113 Valley Creek Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 928-5388; and Ms. Ayn W. Stehr, representing the National Association of Social Worker's La. Chapter, 18906 Spyglass Hill Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 241-0947.

Speaking in opposition to House Bill No 763 were Ms. Patrice Pujol, representing the Superintendent's Association, 11837 Home Port Dr., Maurepas, LA 70449, (225) 715-4588 and Mr. Michael Faulk, representing the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, P. O. Box 78094, Baton Rouge, LA 70837, (225) 650-2908.

Also opposing the bill were Mr. Scott Richard, representing the Louisiana School Boards Association, 7912 Summa Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 769-3191; Ms. Markey W. Pierre', representing the Louisiana School Boards Association, 401 Market St., Ste. 550, Shreveport, LA 71101, (318) 675-0116; and Mr. Hollis G. Milton, superintendent, West Feliciana Parish schools, 4727 Fidelity St., St. Francisville, LA 70775 (225) 937-6757.

Representative Henry offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 763. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 763 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Henry, Ivey, Jefferson, Price, Reynolds, and Smith voted yea.

House Bill No. 690 by Representative Broadwater

Representative Broadwater presented House Bill No. 690, which permits public school districts and schools to participate in group purchasing for materials, equipment, and supplies.

Mr. Dannie P. Garrett, III, representing the Louisiana School Boards Association, 263 Third St., Ste. 707, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 382-0333 and Mr. Jerome Puyau, superintendent, Vermilion Parish Schools, 220 S. Jefferson St., Abbeville, LA 70510, (337) 898-5764, accompanied Representative Broadwater in presenting the bill.

Representative Broadwater offered a set of amendments to House Bill No. 690 that would provide as follows:

1. Adds a specific request for proposals process at a school district purchasing cooperative shall follow in the solicitation of vendors for materials, equipment, and supplies.

Representative Broadwater offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Henry, Ivey, Jefferson, Price, Reynolds, and Smith voted yea.

The names of persons who signed witness cards to speak in support of House Bill No. 690 but either decided not to speak or were not present when called are contained in Exhibit A.

The names of persons who signed witness cards in support of House Bill No. 690 but did not wish to speak are contained in Exhibit B.

Representative Smith offered a motion to report House Bill No. 690 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 690 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Champagne, Henry, Ivey, Jefferson, Price, Reynolds, and Smith voted yea.

House Bill No. 242 by Representative Armes

Representative Armes presented House Bill No. 242, which provides relative to compensation for school support personnel for substitute teaching.

Accompanying Representative Armes in presenting the bill were Ms. Mary Patricia Wray, representing the Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9633 Brookline Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 923-1037 and Mr. Mike Myers, representing Red River United, 1726 Line Ave., Shreveport, LA 71101, (318) 424-4579.

Also supporting House Bill No. 242 were Mr. Steve Monaghan, representing the Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9633 Brookline Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 923-1037 and Ms. Debbie Meaux, representing the Louisiana Association of Educators, 8322 One Calais Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 343-9243.

Opposing the bill but not wishing to speak were Ms. Patrice Pujol, representing the Superintendent's Association, 11837 Home Port Dr., Maurepas, LA 70449, (225) 715-4588 and Mr. Michael Faulk, representing the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, P. O. Box 78094, Baton Rouge, LA 70837, (225) 650-2908; Mr. Scott Richard, representing the Louisiana School Boards Association, 7912 Summa Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 769-3191; Mr. Donald Songy,

associate executive director, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, 37617 Seven Oaks Ave., Prairieville, LA 70769; and Mr. Lee Faucette, representing the Louisiana Association of School Executives, 12615 Stoneway Place, Baton Rouge, LA 70818, (225) 261-5560.

Representative Smith offered a motion to report House Bill No. 242 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 242 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Champagne, Henry, Ivey, Jefferson, Price, Reynolds, and Smith voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen F. Carter, Chairman
House Committee on Education