

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2014 Regular Session
April 9, 2014

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Elizabeth L. Borné, Committee Legislative Analyst
Nancy Y. Jolly, Committee Legislative Analyst
Jacqueline Snowden, Committee Secretary

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Beverly Vincent, Sergeant at Arms
Candice Pointer, Sergeant at Arms
Joyce Trotter, Sergeant at Arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 954 by Representative Leger**

Representative Leger presented House Bill No. 954, which provides relative to the Cecil J. Picard LA 4 Early Childhood Program.

Representative Carter offered a set of amendments to House Bill No. 954 that would provide as follows:

1. Reinstates and retains the following present law provisions repealed in the original bill:
 - (a) Authority for school systems to work collaboratively with other governmentally funded early childhood education providers.
 - (b) Program specifications with respect to student-teacher ratios, classroom and instructional supplies, and lead teachers.
2. Reinstates and revises the following present law provisions repealed in the original bill:
 - (a) The requirement that the state Department of Education (DOE) allocate funding for a program for early childhood development and enrichment activity classes.
 - (b) Provisions relative to school systems' use of 10% of any increase in LA 4 funding to provide for LA 4 through collaborative agreements with nonschool system providers.
 - (c) Program specifications with respect to the minimum hours provided per day, standards, and space and facilities.

- (d) Certain requirements for DOE relative to LA 4.
3. Adds to proposed law the following requirements for the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE):
 - (a) Annually determine the difference in dollar amount between the funding required to meet the measured funding demand and the funding available in the fiscal year.
 - (b) Assess all funding streams in order to facilitate diverse delivery and fulfill demand to the greatest extent possible.
 4. Changes proposed law references from "early learning centers" to "public school systems" with respect to what entities offer and receive funding for LA 4.
 5. Deletes the following proposed law:
 - (a) Provision that LA 4 serve as the state's unified strategy for administering all publicly funded early childhood programs for four-year-olds through the Early Childhood Care and Education Network (created in present law) and requirement that such programs comply with BESE rules for network participation.
 - (b) Requirement that DOE support the establishment of a seamless early childhood education system by allocating funds as provided in proposed law.
 - (c) Provision authorizing a cost for children participating in early childhood programs funded through the Child Care Assistance Program, subject to BESE rules.

Representative Carter offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Champagne, Edwards, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Price, Reynolds, Richard, Shadoin, and Thompson voted yea.

Representative Shadoin offered a set of amendments to House Bill No. 954 that would change "shall" to "may" in appropriate areas of the previous amendment and in the bill. Representative Shadoin offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Carter objected. A roll call vote was taken and the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Henry Burns, Edwards, Henry, Jefferson, Price, Reynolds, Shadoin, and Smith voted yea. Representatives Carter, Broadwater, Carmody, Champagne, and Nancy Landry voted nay.

Speaking in support of House Bill No. 954 were Mr. John White, state superintendent of schools, state Department of Education, Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge, LA; Dr. Phillip Rozeman, representing Blueprint Louisiana, 510 Longleaf Rd., Shreveport, LA, (318) 426-7401; Mr. Alan

Young, representing CCAL, 1001 Southland Park Dr., (no city given), (318) 686-8181; and Ms. Melanie Bronfin, representing the Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families, P. O. Box 64507, Baton Rouge, LA 70896.

Representative Broadwater offered a motion to report House Bill No. 954 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 954 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Edwards, Henry, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Reynolds, Shadoin, and Smith voted yea.

House Bill No. 988 by Representative Schroder

Representative Schroder presented House Bill No. 988, which permits public school governing authorities to develop and implement curriculum, content, and methodology in lieu of that recommended by the state Department of Education or the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Representative Carter offered a set of amendments to House Bill No. 988 that would provide as follows:

1. Changes proposed law references to "curriculum content and methodology" to "curriculum, content, and methodology."
2. Applies proposed law authority to public school governing authorities instead of local public school boards.

Representative Carter offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Edwards, Henry, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Reynolds, Shadoin, and Smith voted yea.

Speaking in support of House Bill No. 988 were Ms. Anna Arthurs, 401 Hale Dr., Thibodaux, LA 70301, (504) 812-0361; Ms. Kathryn Goppelt, 42291 Clouatre Rd., Gonzales, LA 70731, (225) 675-8002; Mr. Jim Crumling, representing the Acadiana Patriots, 203 Grand Prairie Dr., Lafayette, LA 70506, (337) 654-2805; Ms. Lottie P. Beebe, member, Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, District 3, 525 Clause Dr., Breaux Bridge, LA 70517, (337) 412-2564; Ms. Brooke Falgout, a parent, (no address given); and Ms. Sandra McDade, 3112 Pines Rd., Shreveport, LA, (318) 458-1418.

Providing information 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. 988 but did not wish to speak are contained in Exhibit A.

The names of persons who were available to provide information on House Bill No. 988 but did not wish to speak are contained in Exhibit B.

The names of persons who were opposed to House Bill No. 988 but did not wish to speak are contained in Exhibit C.

Representative Broadwater offered a motion to report House Bill No. 988 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 988 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Ivey, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Price, Reynolds, Richard, Smith, and Thompson voted yea.

House Bill No. 127 by Representative Harrison

Representative Harrison presented House Bill No. 127, which provides for election of the state superintendent of education.

Representative Broadwater offered a set of amendments to House Bill No. 127 to require that appointees to the state superintendent position shall have been a superintendent of a local public school system and have a master's degree in school administration or shall have at least four years of administrative experience in business and have a master's degree in business administration. Representative Broadwater offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Ivey, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Price, Reynolds, Richard, Shadoin, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

After discussion by the members, Representative Broadwater offered a motion to withdraw his original amendment. Without objection, the motion to withdraw the previously adopted amendments passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Price, Reynolds, Richard, Shadoin, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

Representative Reynolds offered a set of amendments to House Bill No. 127 that would require the qualifications for the state superintendent of education to include at least 10 years of supervisory experience in elementary or secondary education and a master's degree plus 30 additional hours in education administration supervision, or a doctorate degree in education. Representative Reynolds offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Nancy Landry objected. A roll call vote was taken and by a vote of 7 yeas and 9 nays, the motion failed to pass. Representatives Henry Burns, Henry, Price, Reynolds, Shadoin, Smith, and Alfred Williams voted

yea. Representatives Carter, Broadwater, Carmody, Champagne, Edwards, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Richard, and Thompson voted nay.

Supporting House Bill No. 127 were Ms. Debbie Meaux, representing the Louisiana Association of Educators, 8322 One Calais Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 343-9243; Ms. Anna Arthurs, 401 Hale Dr., Thibodaux, LA 70301, (504) 812-0361; Mr. Steve Monaghan, representing the Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9623 Brookline Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 923-1037; Ms. Lottie P. Beebe, Ed.D., member, State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), representing District 3, 525 Clause Dr., Breaux Bridge, LA 70517, (337) 412-2564; Ms. Kathryn Goppelt, 42291 Clouatre Rd., Gonzales, LA 70731, (225) 675-8002; Mr. Jim Crumling, representing the Acadiana Patriots, 203 Grand Prairie Dr., Lafayette, LA 70506, (337) 654-2805; Ms. Sandra McDade, 3112 Pines Rd., Shreveport, LA (318) 458-1418; and Dr. Elizabeth Meyers, representing herself, 909 Sharon St., Denham Springs, LA 70726.

Speaking in opposition to House Bill No. 127 were Ms. Stephanie Desselle, representing the Council for a Better Louisiana, P. O. Box 4308, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 344-2225; Dr. Phillip Rozeman, representing Magnolia School and the Shreveport Chamber, 510 Longleaf Rd., Shreveport, LA; Mr. Chas Roemer, president, BESE, 6837 Rue Bocage, Baton Rouge, LA 70805, (225) 200-3606; and Ms. Stafford Palmieri, representing the Governor's Office, 4th Floor, State Capitol, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 342-7015.

The names of persons who signed witness cards in support of House Bill No. 127 but did not wish to speak are contained in Exhibit A.

The names of persons who were opposed to House Bill No. 127 but did not wish to speak are contained in Exhibit B.

Representative Richard offered a motion to report House Bill No. 127 favorably, to which Representative Nancy Landry objected. A roll call vote was taken and House Bill No. 127 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Price, Reynolds, Richard, Shadoin, Smith, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea. Representatives Carter, Carmody, Champagne, and Nancy Landry voted nay.

House Bill No. 125 by Representative Harrison

Representative Harrison presented House Bill No. 125 (Constitutional Amendment) which provides for the statewide election of the state superintendent of education.

Representative Champagne offered a set of amendments to House Bill No. 125 that would add a term limits provision.

Representative Champagne offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Price, Reynolds, Richard, Smith, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

Speaking in opposition to the bill was Ms. Stephanie Desselle, representing the Council for a Better Louisiana, P. O. Box 4308, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 344-2225.

The names of persons who signed witness cards in support of House Bill No. 125 but did not wish to speak are contained in Exhibit A.

The names of persons who were opposed to House Bill No. 125 but did not wish to speak are contained in Exhibit B.

Representative Henry offered a motion to report House Bill No. 125 with amendments, to which Representative Nancy Landry objected. A roll call vote was taken and House Bill No. 125 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 7 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Edwards, Henry, Jefferson, Price, Reynolds, Richard, Smith, and Alfred Williams voted yea. Representatives Carter, Henry Burns, Carmody, Champagne, Hollis, Nancy Landry, and Thompson voted nay.

House Bill No. 171 by Representative Pearson

Representative Pearson presented House Bill No. 171, which requires school boards and charter school governing authorities to offer to their employees the opportunity to participate in the La. Public Employees Deferred Compensation Plan.

The names of persons who signed witness cards in support of House Bill No. 127 but did not wish to speak are contained in Exhibit A.

The names of persons who signed witness cards to provide information if requested on House Bill No. 127 but did not wish to speak are contained in Exhibit B.

Representative Carmody offered a motion to report House Bill No. 171 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 171 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Wesley Bishop, Henry Burns, Carmody, Champagne, Edwards, Hollis, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Price, Richard, Smith, and Thompson voted yea.

House Bill No. 124 by Representative Smith

Representative Smith presented House Bill No. 124, which provides relative to employment eligibility requirements for teachers in charter schools.

Speaking in support of House Bill No. 124 were Ms. Carolyn Hill, member, State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), representing District 8, P. O. Box 1863, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 241-9182; Ms. Debbie Meaux, representing the Louisiana Association of Educators, 8322 One Calais Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 343-9243; Ms. Mary Patricia Wray, representing the Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9623 Brookline Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 923-1037; and Ms. Lottie P. Beebe, Ed.D., member, BESE, representing District 3, 525 Clause Dr., Breaux Bridge, LA 70517, (337) 412-2564.

Speaking in opposition to House Bill No. 124 were Ms. Veronica Brooks, representing the Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools, 1555 Poydras St., New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 274-3652; Ms. Stafford Palmieri, representing the Governor's Office, 4th Floor, State Capitol, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 342-7015; and Mr. John White, state superintendent of education, representing the state Department of Education and BESE, Claiborne Bldg., Baton Rouge, LA 70802.

The names of persons who signed witness cards in opposition to House Bill No. 124 but did not wish to speak are contained in Exhibit A.

Representative Smith offered a motion to report House Bill No. 124 favorably, to which Representative Nancy Landry objected. A roll call vote was taken and by a vote of 4 yeas and 11 nays, the motion failed to pass. Representatives Edwards, Price, Richard, and Smith voted yea. Representatives Carter, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Champagne, Hollis, Ivey, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, and Thompson voted nay.

Representative Ivey offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 124. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 124 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Champagne, Edwards, Hollis, Ivey, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Price, Richard, Smith, and Thompson voted yea.

House Bill No. 192 by Representative Pearson

Representative Pearson presented House Bill No. 192, which provides relative to the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence (voucher) Program, including scholarship amounts, funding, and eligibility requirements for kindergarten students.

Speaking in support of House Bill No. 192 were Mr. Dannie P. Garrett, III, representing the Louisiana School Boards Association, 263 Third St., Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 382-0333; Mr.

Jim Melohn, representing the St. Charles Parish School Board, 13855 River Rd., Luling, LA 70070, (504) 416-6198; and Mr. Jerome Puyau, superintendent, Vermilion Parish Schools, 220 S. Jefferson St., Abbeville, LA 70510.

Representative Smith offered a motion to report House Bill No. 192 favorably, to which Representative Champagne objected. A roll call vote was taken and by a vote of 3 yeas and 11 nays, the motion failed to pass. Representatives Edwards, Price, and Smith voted yea. Representatives Carter, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Champagne, Hollis, Ivey, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, and Thompson voted nay.

Representative Champagne offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 192. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 192 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Champagne, Edwards, Hollis, Ivey, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Price, Smith, and Thompson voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen F. Carter, Chairman
House Committee on Education