

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2014 Regular Session
April 23, 2014

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Stephen F. Carter, chairman of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:06 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 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:

Representative Cameron Henry

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
Aaron Jackson, Sergeant at Arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 415 by Representative Hoffmann**

Representative Hoffmann presented House Bill No. 415, which requires the convening of a subcommittee of the Accountability Commission to make recommendations relative to the evaluation of teachers and administrators.

Speaking in support of House Bill No. 415 were Mr. John White, state superintendent of education, representing the state Department of Education and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), Claiborne Bldg., Baton Rouge, LA; and Ms. Mary Patricia Wray, representing the Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9623 Brookline Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 923-1037.

Persons who signed cards in support of House Bill No. 415 but did not wish to speak are included in Exhibit A.

Representative Carmody offered a set of amendments to House Bill No. 415 that would provide as follows:

1. Instead of requiring the convening of an Educator Evaluation Advisory Committee for proposed law purposes, requires the convening of a subcommittee of the Accountability Commission established by the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) for such purposes.
2. Revises membership.

Representative Carmody offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Broadwater,

Henry Burns, Carmody, Champagne, Edwards, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Price, Reynolds, Richard, Shadoin, Smith, and Thompson voted yea.

Representative Richard offered a motion to report House Bill No. 415 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 415 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Henry Burns, Carmody, Champagne, Edwards, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Price, Reynolds, Richard, Shadoin, Smith, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

House Bill No. 533 by Representative Seabaugh

Representative Seabaugh presented House Bill No. 533, which prohibits the inclusion of test scores of a student who has excessive absences in the value-added model or in other measures of student growth for purposes of teacher evaluations.

Representative Reynolds offered a set of amendments to House Bill No. 533 that would change proposed law from providing that the model shall not include any test score of a student who is habitually absent or tardy as defined in present law (five unexcused occurrences in a semester if all reasonable efforts to correct the problem have failed) providing that the model shall not include any test score of a student who has 10 or more unexcused absences in any semester.

Representative Reynolds offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Henry Burns, Carmody, Champagne, Edwards, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Price, Reynolds, Richard, Shadoin, Smith, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

Speaking in support of House Bill No. 533 were Mr. Shane Riddle, representing the Louisiana Association of Educators, 8322 One Calais Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 343-9243; and Ms. Mary Patricia Wray, representing the Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9623 Brookline Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 923-1037.

Representative Reynolds offered a motion to report House Bill No. 533 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 533 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Henry Burns, Carmody, Champagne, Edwards, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Reynolds, Richard, Shadoin, Smith, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 2 by Representative Pierre

Representative Pierre presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 2, which repeals a State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education rule.

Testifying in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 2 were Ms. Mary Patricia Wray, representing the Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9623 Brookline Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 923-1037; Mr. Shane Riddle, representing the Louisiana Association of Educators, 8322 One Calais Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 343-9243; Ms. Debra Schum, representing the Louisiana Association of Principals, 103 Crawford St. (no address given), (504) 909-9650; and Ms. Vicky Johnston, 1207 Tan Tara Circle, Lake Charles, LA 70511, (337) 855-4431.

Speaking in opposition to House Concurrent Resolution No. 2 was Mr. John White, state superintendent of education, Claiborne Bldg., Baton Rouge, LA.

Persons who signed cards in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 2 but did not wish to speak are included in Exhibit A.

Persons who signed cards in opposition to House Concurrent Resolution No. 2 but did not wish to speak are included in Exhibit B.

Representative Edwards offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 2 favorably, to which Representative Carter objected. A roll call vote was taken and by a vote of 8 yeas and 8 nays, the motion failed to pass. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Edwards, Jefferson, Price, Richard, Shadoin, Smith, and Alfred Williams voted yea. Representatives Carter, Henry Burns, Carmody, Champagne, Ivey, Nancy Landry, Reynolds, and Thompson voted nay.

House Bill No. 987 by Representative Thompson

Representative Thompson presented House Bill No. 987, which provides relative to teacher tenure and the removal of teachers.

Representative Thompson offered a substitute to House Bill No. 987. Representative Thompson offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the substitute bill was adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Champagne, Hollis, Ivey, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Price, Reynolds, Richard, Shadoin, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

Speaking in support of the substitute to House Bill No. 987 and presenting highlights of the bill was Ms. Stafford Palmieri, representing the Governor's Office, Fourth Floor, State Capitol, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 342-7015. Also speaking in support of the bill were Mr. Jimmy Faircloth; Ms. Debbie Meaux, representing the Louisiana Association of Educators, 322 One Calais Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 343-9243; Mr. Scott Richard, representing the Louisiana School Boards Association, 7912 Summa Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 769-3191; Mr. Steve Monaghan, president, Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9623 Brookline Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 923-1037; Ms. Patrice Pujol, representing the state superintendents association, 11837 Home Port

Dr., Maurepas, LA 70467, (225) 705-4588; Mr. Michael Walker-Jones, representing the Louisiana Association of Educators, 8322 One Calais Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 343-9243; and Mr. Brian Blackwell, representing the Louisiana Association of Educators, 2600 Citi Place Dr., Ste. 525, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 769-2462.

Persons who signed cards in support of the substitute bill for House Bill No. 987 but did not wish to speak are included in Exhibit B.

Representative Thompson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 987 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 987 was reported by substitute by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Ivey, Nancy Landry, Price, Reynolds, Richard, Shadoin, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 46 by Representative Norton

Representative Norton presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 46, which amends a State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education rule relative to planning time for teachers.

Speaking in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 46 were Ms. Jackie Lansdale, representing Red River United, 1726 Line Ave., Shreveport, LA 71101, (318) 924-4579; Ms. May Patricia Wray, representing the Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9623 Brookline Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 923-1037; Ms. Debbie Meaux, representing the Louisiana Association of Educators, 8322 One Calais Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 343-9243; Ms. Vicky Johnston, 1207 Tan Tara Circle, Lake Charles, LA 70511, (337) 855-443; and Mr. Steve Monaghan, president, Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9623 Brookline Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 923-1037.

Speaking in opposition to House Concurrent Resolution No. 46 were Ms. Debra Schum, representing the Louisiana Association of Principals, 103 Crawford St., (504) 909-9650; and Mr. John White, state superintendent of education, Claiborne Bldg., Baton Rouge, LA.

Persons who signed cards in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 46 but did not wish to speak are included in Exhibit C.

Persons who signed cards in opposition to House Concurrent Resolution No. 46 but did not wish to speak are included in Exhibit D.

Representative Jefferson offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 46 favorably, to which Representative Carter objected. A roll call vote was taken and by a vote of 6 yeas and 7 nays, the motion failed to pass. Representatives Ivey, Jefferson, Reynolds, Richard, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea. Representatives Carter, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Champagne, Hollis, and Nancy Landry voted nay.

Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Concurrent Resolution No. 46. Without objection, action on House Concurrent Resolution No. 46 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Champagne, Hollis, Ivey, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Reynolds, Richard, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

House Bill No. 1129 by Representative Thierry

Representative Thierry presented House Bill No. 1129, which provides relative to professional development for teachers.

Representative Jefferson offered a set of amendments to House Bill No. 1128 that would provide as follows:

1. Changes present law and proposed law to authorize rather than require public school governing authorities to do the following:
 - (a) Provide teachers with professional development opportunities and assistance.
 - (b) Compensate master teachers at a rate relative to the compensation of other teachers with equivalent education and experience. Provides that such rate, if applicable, shall be up to rather than equal to 125% of the compensation of such teachers.
2. Instead of requiring master teachers to perform proposed law duties with respect to mentoring and training other teachers, authorizes Specifies that public school governing authorities may require master teachers to mentor and train other teachers.

Representative Jefferson 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, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Champagne, Hollis, Ivey, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Reynolds, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

Speaking in support of House Bill No. 1129 were Ms. Debbie Meaux, representing the Louisiana Association of Educators, 8322 One Calais Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 343-9243; and Mr. 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. 1129 was Mr. John White, state superintendent of education, Claiborne Bldg., Baton Rouge, LA.

Persons who signed cards in support of House Bill No. 1129 but did not wish to speak are included in Exhibit E.

Persons who signed cards in opposition to House Bill No. 1129 but did not wish to speak are included in Exhibit F.

Representative Champagne offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1129 with amendments, and to recommit to the Committee on Appropriations, to which Representative Jefferson objected.

Representative Smith offered a substitute motion to report House Bill No. 1129 with amendments, to which Representative Champagne objected. A roll call vote was taken and House Bill No. 1129 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 6 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Edwards, Jefferson, Price, Reynolds, Smith, and Alfred Williams voted yea. Representatives Champagne, Hollis, Ivey, Nancy Landry, Shadoin, and Thompson voted nay.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen F. Carter, Chairman
House Committee on Education