

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2014 Regular Session
May 28, 2014

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Stephen F. Carter, chairman of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:07 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 Chairman
Representative Chris Broadwater
Representative Henry L. Burns
Representative Thomas G. Carmody, Jr.
Representative Simone B. Champagne
Representative John Bel Edwards
Representative Cameron Henry
Representative Barry Ivey
Representative Edward J. Price
Representative H. Eugene Reynolds
Representative Robert E. Shadoin
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith
Representative Jeff R. Thompson
Representative Alfred C. Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Wesley T. Bishop
Representative Paul Hollis
Representative Nancy Landry
Representative Jerome Richard

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
Riley Thomas, Sergeant at Arms
Alyssa Perot-Heltz, Clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 55 by Senator Appel**

Senator Appel presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 55, which provides for legislative approval of the minimum foundation program formula for the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

Speaking in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 55 were Mr. John White, state superintendent of schools, representing the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and the state Department of Education, Claiborne Bldg., Baton Rouge, LA; Mr. Chas Roemer, president, BESE, 6837 Rue Bocage, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 200-1056; and Mr. Donald Songy, associate executive director, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents (LASS), 37617 Seven Oaks Ave., Prarieville, LA 70769, (225) 323-3921.

Opposing Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 55 were Mr. Steve Monaghan, representing the Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9623 Brookline Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 923-1037; and Mr. Michael Myers, representing Red River United, 1726 Line Ave., Shreveport, LA 71101, (318) 424-4579.

Persons who signed witness cards in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 55 but did not wish to speak are included in Exhibit A.

Representative Champagne offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 55 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 55 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Broadwater, Carmody, Champagne, Edwards, Ivey, Jefferson, Price, Reynolds, Smith, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 193 by Representative Hodges

Representative Hodges presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 193, which creates a task force to study and evaluate the effectiveness of drug abuse prevention and education programs in public schools.

Representative Carter offered a set of amendments to House Concurrent Resolution No. 193 that would provide as follows:

1. Adds to task force membership: (a) the presiding officer of Louisiana Teen Challenge or his designee; (b) a church pastor selected by the presiding officer of Louisiana Teen Challenge; and (c) a representative of the Louisiana School Psychological Association, designated by the president of the association.

Representative Carter 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, Edwards, Ivey, Jefferson, Price, Reynolds, Shadoin, Smith, and Thompson voted yea.

Representative Champagne offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 193 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 193 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Broadwater, Carmody, Champagne, Ivey, Jefferson, Reynolds, Shadoin, Smith, and Thompson voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 385 by Senator LaFleur

Senator LaFleur presented Senate Bill No. 385, which provides for empowered community schools.

Representative Carter offered a set of amendments to Senate Bill No. 385 that would prohibit the provisions of the bill from applying to school systems in parishes with a minimum of three school systems and a population of more than 440,000.

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, Champagne, Edwards, Jefferson, Price, Reynolds, Shadoin, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

Supporting Senate Bill No. 385 were Ms. Debra Schum, representing the Louisiana Association of Principals, 103 Crawford St., Winnfield, LA, (504) 909-9650; Mr. Scott Richard, executive director, Louisiana School Boards Association, 7912 Summa Ave, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 769-3191; Mr. Steve Monaghan, representing the Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9623 Brookline Ave.,

Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 923-1037; Mr. Donald Songy, associate executive director, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, 37617 Seven Oaks Ave., Prairieville, LA 70769; Mr. Lee Faucette, representing the Louisiana Association of School Executives, 12615 Stoneway Place, Baton Rouge, LA 70818, (225) 261-5560; and Mr. Jim Melohn, St. Charles Parish School Board, 13855 River Road, Luling, LA 70070, (504) 416-6198.

Representative Champagne offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 385 with amendments, to which Representative Smith objected. A roll call vote was taken and by a vote of 4 yeas and 7 nays, the motion failed to pass. Representatives Carter, Broadwater, Henry Burns, and Champagne voted yea. Representatives Carmody, Jefferson, Price, Reynolds, Shadoin, Smith, and Alfred Williams voted nay.

Representative Smith offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on Senate Bill No. 385. Without objection, action on Senate Bill No. 385 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Champagne, Edwards, Jefferson, Price, Reynolds, Shadoin, Smith, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 655 by Senator Buffington

Senator Buffington presented Senate Bill No. 655, which authorizes public or private entities to make certain donations to various educational institutions for recipients of TOPS Awards or GO Grants.

Representative Broadwater offered a set of technical amendments to Senate Bill No. 655.

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, Champagne, Henry, Ivey, Shadoin, Smith, and Thompson voted yea.

Providing information on Senate Bill No. 655 were Mr. R. Lane Sisung, representing the Sisung Group, 701 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, LA, (504) 913-4169; Ms. Sujuan Boutté, executive director, Office of Student Financial Assistance, 602 North 5th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-7295; and Mr. John Carpenter, representing the Legislative Fiscal Office.

Also in support of Senate Bill No. 655 but not wishing to speak were Mr. Michael Myers, representing Red River United, 1726 Line Ave., Shreveport, LA 71101, (318) 424-4579; and Mr. Lee Faucette, representing the Louisiana Association of School Executives, 12615 Stoneway Place, Baton Rouge, LA 70818, (225) 261-5560.

Representative Henry offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 655 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 655 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Carter, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Ivey, Jefferson, Reynolds, Shadoin, Smith, and Thompson voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 656 by Senator Buffington

Senator Buffington presented Senate Bill No. 656, which authorizes public or private entities to make certain donations to various participating schools for recipients of student scholarship programs.

Representative Henry Burns offered a set of amendments to Senate Bill No. 656 that would provide as follows:

1. Relative to the present law requirement that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) allocate to schools participating in the voucher program an amount equal to the per pupil amount allocated to the system in which a student resides, removes proposed law reference to such per pupil amount being provided in the MFP formula.
2. Relative to the present law prohibition against the total of the payment to nonpublic schools and special education tuition for a student exceeding the amount allocated for him if attending a public school, removes the proposed law reference to this amount being allocated pursuant to the MFP formula.

Representative Henry Burns 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, Edwards, Henry, Ivey, Jefferson, Reynolds, Shadoin, and Thompson voted yea.

Testifying in support of Senate Bill No. 656 were Ms. Mary Patricia Wray, representing the Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9623 Brookline Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 923-1037.

Providing information were Mr. R. Lane Sisung, representing the Sisung Group, 701 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, LA, (504) 913-4169; and Mr. John Carpenter, representing the Legislative Fiscal Office.

Supporting the bill but not wishing to speak were Ms. Kelli Bottger, representing the Louisiana Federation for Children, 37397 Cypress Alley Ave., Gonzales, LA 70737, (225) 936-9800; and Mr. Lee Faucette, representing the Louisiana Association of School Executives, 12615 Stoneway Place, Baton Rouge, LA 70818, (225) 261-5560.

Representative Henry Burns offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 656 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 656 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Ivey, Jefferson, Reynolds, Shadoin, and Thompson voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 657 by Senator Buffington

Senator Buffington presented Senate Bill No. 657, which authorizes public or private entities to make certain donations to participating school systems for children enrolled in the Cecil J. Picard LA 4 Early Childhood Program classes.

Representative Broadwater offered a set of amendments to Senate Bill No. 657 that would provide as follows:

1. Adds that nothing in proposed law shall be construed or implemented in a manner that would cause the loss of any federal or other funding that a participating school district would receive for the LA 4 program or other early childhood programs or services.

Representative Broadwater 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, Carmody, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Ivey, Jefferson, Reynolds, Shadoin, Smith, and Thompson voted yea.

Providing information were Mr. R. Lane Sisung, representing the Sisung Group, 701 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, LA, (504) 913-4169; and Mr. John Carpenter, representing the Legislative Fiscal Office.

Also in support of Senate Bill No. 657 but not wishing to speak were Mr. Michael Myers, representing Red River United, 1726 Line Ave., Shreveport, LA 71101, (318) 424-4579; and Mr. Lee Faucette, representing the Louisiana Association of School Executives, 12615 Stoneway Place, Baton Rouge, LA 70818, (225) 261-5560.

Representative Broadwater offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 657 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 657 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Ivey, Jefferson, Reynolds, Shadoin, Smith, and Thompson voted yea.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 134 by Senator Broome

Representative Smith presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 134 on behalf of Senator Broome, which requests the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to study and report to the legislature regarding current student discipline policies and possible changes to these policies.

Available to provide information on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 134 was Ms. Veronica Brooks, representing the Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools, 1555 Poydras St. Ste. 750, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 274-3652.

Representative Smith offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 134 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 134 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Ivey, Jefferson, Reynolds, Shadoin, 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 12:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen F. Carter, Chairman
House Committee on Education