

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2015 Regular Session
April 29, 2015

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Stephen F. Carter, chairman of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 8:56 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 Wesley T. Bishop
Representative Chris Broadwater
Representative Henry L. Burns
Representative Thomas G. Carmody, Jr.
Representative Jeffrey "Jeff" Hall
Representative Cameron Henry
Representative Paul Hollis
Representative Barry Ivey
Representative Nancy Landry
Representative Walt Leger, III
Representative Edward J. Price
Representative H. Eugene Reynolds
Representative Jerome Richard
Representative Robert E. Shadoin
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative John Bel Edwards

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

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 598 by Representative Foil**

Representative Foil presented House Bill No. 598, which provides for implementation of the ABLÉ Account savings program for persons with disabilities.

Representative Carmody offered amendments to the bill that would require the executive director of The Arc of Louisiana instead of the chairperson of the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council to ensure the seating of the ABLÉ Account Authority members and the authority's convening. Representative Carmody offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Carmody, Carter, Hall, Jefferson, Price, Reynolds, Richard, Shadoin, and Smith voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: five in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Carmody offered a motion to report House Bill No. 598 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 598 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Carmody, Carter, Hall, Jefferson, Price, Reynolds, Richard, Shadoin, and Smith voted yea.

House Bill No. 85 by Representative Miller

Representative Miller presented House Bill No. 85, which provides relative to the name of the technical college in St. John the Baptist Parish.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: one in support and three for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Price offered a motion to report House Bill No. 85 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 85 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Hall, Jefferson, Price, Reynolds, Richard, Shadoin, and Smith voted yea.

House Bill No. 345 by Representative Hoffmann

Representative Carter presented House Bill No. 345 on behalf of Representative Hoffmann, which provides relative to the teacher evaluation advisory subcommittee.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: eight in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Richard offered a motion to report House Bill No. 345 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 345 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Hall, Jefferson, Price, Reynolds, Richard, Shadoin, and Smith voted yea.

House Bill No. 129 by Representative Jefferson

Representative Jefferson presented House Bill No. 129, which provides relative to nonresident tuition and fees for certain public institutions of higher education.

Representative Price offered amendments to House Bill No. 129 that would make technical changes. Representative Price offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Carmody, Carter, Hall, Jefferson, Price, Reynolds, Richard, Shadoin, and Smith voted yea.

Speaking in support of House Bill No. 129 was Mr. Preston Castille, representing the Southern University Alumni Federation, P. O. Box 2471, Baton Rouge, LA.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 33 in support and two for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Broadwater offered a motion to report House Bill No. 129 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 129 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Carmody, Carter, Hall, Hollis, Jefferson, Price, Reynolds, Richard, Shadoin, and Smith voted yea.

Vice Chairman Jefferson in the chair.

House Bill No. 359 by Representative Wesley Bishop

Representative Wesley Bishop presented House Bill No. 359, which requires public school governing authorities in Orleans Parish to offer sex education instruction to students in certain grades.

Providing information in support of House Bill No. 359 was Ms. Marsha Broussard, representing the Louisiana Public Health Institute, 1515 Poydras, Suite 1200, New Orleans, LA 70131, (504) 301-9851.

Speaking in support of House Bill No. 359 were:

Ms. Julie Schwam Harris, representing the Legislative Agenda for Women (LAW), 1208 Pine St., New Orleans, LA 70113, (504) 650-2746.

Ms. Latoya Cantrell, councilwoman, representing the city of New Orleans, 1100 Perdido Street, New Orleans, LA, (504) 658-1020.

Ms. Kendra LeSar, representing the Louisiana Public Health Institute, 1515 Poydras St., Ste. 1200, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 609-3933.

Ms. Lee Barrios, 178 Abita Oaks Loop, Abita Springs, LA, (985) 789-8304.

Speaking in opposition to House Bill No. 359 were:

Ms. Latessia McClellan, representing concerned citizens, 2130 N. Johnson St., New Orleans, LA 70116, (504) 913-7989.

Mr. Gene Mills, representing the Louisiana Family Forum, 655 St. Ferdinand St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802.

Mr. Rob Tasman, representing the Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2431 S. Acadian Thruway, Ste., 250, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 344-7120.

Ms. Lennie Ditoro, 121 Fox Run Dr., (504) 339-2911.

Ms. Leslie Ellison, 1016 Horace, New Orleans, LA, (504) 367-8872.

Ms. Aneita Paige, a concerned citizen, 2327 Victoria Ave., Harvey, LA, (504) 368-4008.

Mr. Abraham Hamilton, Jr., a concerned citizen, 1721 Wedgwood Dr., Harvey, LA 70858, (504) 352-0330.

Ms. Nayita Wilson, a concerned citizen, 1716 Watling Dr., Marrero, LA 70072, (504) 912-3166.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 15 in support, 17 in opposition, and one for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Wesley Bishop offered a motion to report House Bill No. 359 favorably, to which Representative Richard objected. A roll call vote was taken and House Bill No. 359 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 6 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Carmody, Hall, Jefferson, Leger, Price, and Smith voted yea. Representatives Henry Burns, Henry, Hollis, Ivey, Reynolds, and Richard voted nay.

Chairman Carter in the chair.

House Bill No. 695 by Representative Abramson

Representative Abramson presented House Bill No. 695, which provides relative to the loading and unloading of students on to and off of school buses.

Speaking in support of House Bill No. 695 was Mr. Gary Reese, representing the Louisiana Association of School Transportation Officials, 6013 Choctaw, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 226-3784.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 14 in support and one in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Leger offered amendments to House Bill No. 695 that would provide as follows:

1. Require loading/unloading students at or near their homes on a shoulder unless the shoulder is determined by the school governing authority to be less safe rather than unless it is determined to be safe.
2. Prohibit loading /unloading students at school or at or near their homes on certain roadways instead of certain highways.

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

Representative Leger offered a motion that House Bill No. 695 be reported with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 695 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carter, Hall, Henry, Ivey, Jefferson, Leger, Price, Reynolds, Shadoin, and Smith voted yea.

House Bill No. 694 by Representative Abramson

Representative Abramson presented House Bill No. 694, which provides relative to the sale of certain immovable property by and to the Orleans Parish School Board.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support and one for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Leger offered a motion to report House Bill No. 694 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 694 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carter, Hall, Henry, Ivey, Jefferson, Leger, Price, Reynolds, Richard, and Smith voted yea.

Representative Jefferson in the chair.

House Bill No. 326 by Representative Wesley Bishop

Representative Wesley Bishop presented House Bill No. 326, which authorizes surveys of public school students in Orleans Parish regarding risk behaviors.

Speaking in support of House Bill No. 326 was Ms. Julie Schwam Harris, representing the Legislative Agenda for Women (LAW), 1208 Pine St., New Orleans, LA 70113, (504) 650-2746.

Speaking in support of House Bill No. 326 was Ms. Taslim van Hattlum, representing the Louisiana Public Health Institute, 1515 Poydras St., Ste. 1200, New Orleans, LA 70112, (202) 660-3578.

Speaking in opposition to House Bill No. 326 was Ms. Beth Appleton, 17556 Shady Elm, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, (225) 756-5869.

Speaking in opposition to House Bill No. 326 was Ms. Nayita Wilson, a concerned citizen, 1716 Watling Dr., Marrero, LA 70072, (504) 912-3166.

Speaking in opposition to House Bill No. 326 was Ms. Latessia McClellan, representing concerned citizens, 2130 N. Johnson St., New Orleans, LA 70116, (504) 913-7989

Speaking in opposition to House Bill No. 326 was Ms. Leslie Ellison, 1016 Horace, New Orleans, LA, (504) 367-8872.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 15 in support, eight in opposition, and one for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Leger offered a motion to report House Bill No. 326 favorably, to which Representative Ivey objected. A roll call vote was taken and House Bill No. 326 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 1 nay. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Carmody, Hall, Hollis, Jefferson, Leger, Price, Reynolds, and Smith voted yea. Representative Ivey voted nay.

House Bill No. 608 by Representative Jackson

Representative Jackson presented House Bill No. 608, which authorizes certain school districts to increase, with voter approval, their level of indebtedness.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: three in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Wesley Bishop offered a motion to report House Bill No. 608 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 608 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Henry Burns, Carmody, Hall, Hollis, Ivey, Jefferson, Leger, Price, Reynolds, and Smith voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Any legislation scheduled on this Weekly Committee Schedule that is not discussed before the House convenes on Wednesday, April 29, will be heard on Wednesday, April 29, upon adjournment of the House.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen F. Carter, chairman
House Committee on Education