

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2015 Regular Session
May 12, 2015

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 Chairman
Representative Wesley T. Bishop
Representative Chris Broadwater
Representative Henry L. Burns
Representative Thomas G. Carmody, Jr.
Representative John Bel Edwards
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 Jerome Richard
Representative Robert E. Shadoin
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative H. Eugene Reynolds

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Beverly Vincent, Sergeant at Arms
Janet Anthony, Sergeant at Arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 21 by Representative Edwards**

Representative Edwards presented House Bill No. 21, which prohibits the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education from authorizing charter schools under certain circumstances.

Representative Edwards offered amendments to House Bill No. 21 that deleted language relative to creating a school that would predominantly enroll students with exceptionalities. Representative Edwards offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Edwards, Hall, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Leger, Price, Richard, Shadoin, and Smith voted yea.

Speaking in support of House Bill No. 21 were:

Ms. Angela Alef, representing The People, L.L.C., 1500 Prytania, New Orleans, LA, (504) 450-6112.

Mr. Brian M. LeJeune, superintendent, Jefferson Davis Parish School Board, P. O. Box 640, Jennings, LA 70546, (337) 824-1834.

Mr. Steve Monaghan, president, Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9632 Brookline Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 923-1037.

Mr. Scott Richard, executive director, Louisiana School Boards Association, 7912 Summa Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 769-3191.

Ms. Doris Voitier, executive director, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, (504) 301-2080.

Ms. Kathleen Schott Espinoza, representing Power of Public Education-Lafayette, 165 N. Arlington, Lafayette, LA 70503, (337) 739-2470.

Mr. Michael Deshotels, 22505 Fairway View Dr., Zachary, LA 70791, (225) 235-1632.

Mr. Michael Faulk, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, P. O. Box 78094, Baton Rouge, LA 70837, (225) 650-2908.

Speaking in opposition to House Bill No. 21 were:

Ms. Anna West, representing One Community One School District, 1803 Olive St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 368-7927.

Ms. Millie M. Harris, representing JCFA, 475 Manhattan, Harvey, LA 70058.

Ms. Brigitte Nieland, representing the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, 3113 Valley Creek Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 928-5388.

Mr. Erich Hein, representing the Jefferson Chamber Foundation Academy, 475 Manhattan Blvd., Harvey, LA 70058.

Mr. Gene Thibodeaux, representing Lake Charles Charter Academy Foundation, 3910 Marie Court, Lake Charles, LA 70607, (337) 433-9403.

Mr. Gifford Briggs, representing the Lafayette Chamber Foundation, 105 Huffington Lane, Lafayette, LA 70508, (225) 892-7638.

Ms. Veronica Brooks, representing the Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools, 1555 Poydras St., New Orleans, LA 70117, (225) 301-1759.

Ms. Carol McCall, representing Citizens for One Greater New Orleans, 1538 Nashville Ave., New Orleans, LA 70115, (504) 891-5532.

Mr. John White, state superintendent of education, representing the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the State Department of Education, Claiborne Bldg., Baton Rouge, LA.

Ms. Stephanie Desselle, representing the Council for a Better Louisiana (CABL), P. O. Box 4308, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 344-2325.

Ms. Stafford Palmieri, representing the Governor's Office, 4th Floor, State Capitol, (225) 342-7015.

Ms. Caroline R. Shirley, representing the Louisiana Association for Public Charter Schools, New Orleans, LA.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 17 in support and 18 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Edwards offered a motion to report House Bill No. 21 with amendments, to which Representative Carter objected. The secretary called the roll, and by a vote of 6 yeas and 10 nays, the motion failed to pass. Representatives Edwards, Hall, Jefferson, Richard, Shadoin, and Smith voted yea. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Henry, Hollis, Ivey, Nancy Landry, and Leger voted nay.

Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 21. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 21 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Edwards, Hall, Henry, Hollis, Ivey, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Leger, Richard, Shadoin, and Smith voted yea.

House Bill No. 340 by Representative Edwards

Representative Edwards presented House Bill No. 340, which provides relative to eligibility of kindergarten students for participation in the voucher program.

Representative Edwards offered amendments to House Bill No. 340 regarding the eligibility of entering kindergarten students in the voucher program, and that further clarified that such eligibility applies to kindergarten classes located in school systems that use attendance zones and schools, and school systems that do not (such as the Recovery School District). Representative Edwards offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Carmody, Carter, Edwards, Hall, Henry, Hollis, Ivey, Nancy Landry, and Smith voted yea.

Speaking in support of House Bill No. 340 were:

Mr. Scott Richard, executive director, Louisiana School Boards Association, 7912 Summa Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 769-3191.

Ms. Doris Voitier, executive director, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, (504) 301-2080.

Mr. Brian M. LeJeune, superintendent, Jefferson Davis Parish School Board, P. O. Box 640, Jennings, LA 70546, (337) 824-1834.

Mr. Steve Monaghan, president, Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9632 Brookline Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 923-1037.

Mr. Trey Folsie, superintendent of schools, St. Tammany Parish Public Schools, 321 S. Theard, Covington, LA 70433, (985) 898-3216.

Mr. Jim Melohn, representing St. Charles Parish School Board, 13855 River Rd., Luling, LA 70070, (504) 416-6198.

Ms. Kathleen Schott Espinoza, representing Power of Public Education-Lafayette, 165 N. Arlington, Lafayette, LA 70503, (337) 739-2470.

Mr. Michael Deshotels, 22505 Fairway View Dr., Zachary, LA 70791, (225) 235-1632.

Mr. Michael Faulk, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, P. O. Box 78094, Baton Rouge, LA 70837, (225) 650-2908.

Speaking in opposition to House Bill No. 340 were:

Ms. Mavis Hill, representing the Black Alliance for Educational Options (BAEO), 7310 Shubrick St., New Orleans, LA 70127, (504) 722-8600.

Ms. Kaleshe Garrison, representing BAEO, 1233 Estalofe Ave., Harvey, LA, (504) 362-0422.

Mr. Jamal Brown, representing BAEO (no address given).

Ms. Lauren Crump, 2657 Harding Blvd., Apt. 4, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 205-7064.

Ms. Kelli Bottger, representing the Louisiana Federation for Children, 37397 Cypress Alley Ave., Gonzales, LA 70737, (225) 936-9800.

Mr. Ronald Briggs, representing Good Shepherd School, 353 Baronne St., New Orleans, LA 70420, (504) 289-7163.

Ms. Crystal Landry (no address given), (225) 244-2308; Ms. Rebecca Wilson (no address given), (225) 445-9157.

Ms. Erin Bendily, representing state superintendent of education John White, Claiborne Bldg., Baton Rouge, LA.

Ms. Brigitte Nieland, representing the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry (LABI), 3113 Valley Creek Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 928-5388.

Ms. Shari M. Burks, 3706 Jackson Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 636-5460.

Ms. Stafford Palmieri, representing the Governor's Office, 4th Floor, State Capitol, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 342-7015.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 15 in support and 20 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Edwards offered a motion to report House Bill No. 340 with amendments, to which Representative Nancy Landry objected. The secretary called the roll, and by a vote of 4 yeas and 11 nays, the motion failed to pass. Representatives Edwards, Hall, Richard, and Smith voted yea. Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Henry, Hollis, Ivey, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Price, and Shadoin voted nay.

Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 340. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 340 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Edwards, Hall, Henry, Hollis, Ivey, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Price, Richard, Shadoin, and Smith voted yea.

House Bill No. 648 by Representative Schroder

Representative Schroder presented House Bill No. 648, which provides relative to access by parents and teachers to assessments administered to students.

Ms. Erin Bendily, representing the state Department of Education, and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, presented highlights of the bill.

Representative Carter offered amendments to House Bill No. 648 that would provide as follows:

1. Change definition of "assessment" to specify that it does not include a national assessment that the state Department of Education is prohibited from providing to a parent for review.
2. Relative to teacher access to assessment results, limit such access to subjects the teacher taught the student and add provision for review of individualized student assessment reports.
3. Add provisions for an assessment review period for parents and for penalties for parents who violate the provisions of proposed law.

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 Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Hall, Hollis, Ivey, Nancy Landry, Leger, Price, Shadoin, and Smith voted yea.

Testifying in opposition to House Bill No. 648 were:

Ms. Karen Champagne, representing The People, L.L.C., 1500 Prytania, New Orleans, LA 70115.

Ms. Stephanie Beard, 76450 Highway 1082, Covington, LA, (985) 809-1442.

Ms. Angela Alef, representing The People L.L.C., 1500 Prytania, New Orleans, LA, (504) 450-6112.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 11 in support and four in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Leger offered a motion to report House Bill No. 648 with amendments, to which Representative Shadoin objected. The secretary called the roll, and House Bill No. 648 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 1 nay. Representatives Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Hall, Hollis, Ivey, Nancy Landry, Leger, Price, Richard, and Smith voted yea. Representative Shadoin voted nay.

House Bill No. 718 by Representative Schroder

Representative Schroder presented House Bill No. 718, which provides relative to the collection and sharing of certain student information.

Presenting highlights of the bill were:

Mr. Dan Garrett, representing the Louisiana School Boards Association and the St. Tammany Parish School Board, 263 Third St., Ste. 707, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 382-0333.

Mr. Louis Boullion, representing the St. Tammany Parish School Board, 215 West 17th Ave., Covington, LA 70434, (985) 898-3237.

Speaking in opposition to the bill were:

Ms. Debbie Sachs, 2320 Jefferson St., Mandeville, LA.

Ms. Karen Champagne, representing The People, L.L.C., 1500 Prytania, New Orleans, LA 70115;
Ms. Stephanie Beard, 76450 Highway 1082, Covington, LA, (985) 809-1442.

Ms. Angela Alef, representing The People L.L.C., 1500 Prytania, New Orleans, LA, (504) 450-6112.

Representative Carter offered amendments to House Bill No. 718 that would provide as follows:

1. Prohibit a contractor from using student information to conduct predictive modeling to limit educational opportunities instead of to direct such opportunities.

2. Relative to proposed law exclusion of certain initial contracts for services acquired from certain present law requirements, exclude instructional materials from such requirement instead of services.
3. Add entities that are responsible for a student to present law definition of "parent or legal guardian".
4. Require each public school governing authority to make student information available at the main office of the governing authority instead of on its website.

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 Henry Burns, Carter, Carmody, Hall, Ivey, Nancy Landry, Leger, Price, Richard, Shadoin, and Smith voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 13 in support, one in opposition, and one for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Broadwater offered a motion to report House Bill No. 718 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 718 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Hall, Ivey, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Leger, Price, Richard, Shadoin, and Smith voted yea.

House Bill No. 653 by Representative Mike Johnson

Representative Mike Johnson presented House Bill No. 653, which provides relative to exemptions from the requirements for school instructional time under certain circumstances.

Representative Carter offered amendments to House Bill No. 653 that would provide as follows:

1. Retain present law requiring certification of the catastrophe or disaster by the state superintendent and requirement for submission of relevant information to him.
2. Add that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) rules and regulations include a procedure for appeal of a decision by the state superintendent to BESE.
3. Delete proposed law condition that the national catastrophe or disaster be one for which the governor declares a state of emergency.

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, Wesley Bishop,

Henry Burns, Carmody, Hall, Ivey, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Leger, Price, Richard, and Smith voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Henry Burns offered a motion to report House Bill No. 653 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 653 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Hall, Ivey, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Leger, Price, Richard, and Smith voted yea.

House Bill No. 411 by Representative James

Representative James presented House Bill No. 411, a constitutional amendment, which provides relative to the authority to set admission standards at public postsecondary education institutions.

Speaking in support of the bill were:

Mr. Preston Castille, representing the Southern University Alumni Federation, 451 Florida St., 8th Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 301-0217.

Dr. Victor Ukpolo, chancellor, Southern University-New Orleans, Press Dr., New Orleans, LA (504) 286-5311.

Presenting information was Dr. Larry Tremblay, representing the Louisiana Board of Regents, Claiborne Bldg., Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 342-4253.

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

Representative Price offered a motion to report House Bill No. 411 favorably, to which Representative Carmody objected. The secretary called the roll, and House Bill No. 411 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Hall, Henry, Ivey, Jefferson, Leger, Price, Richard, and Smith voted yea. Representatives Broadwater, Carmody, Carter, and Nancy Landry voted nay.

House Bill No. 320 by Representative Woodruff

Representative Woodruff presented House Bill No. 320, which provides relative to dropout prevention and recovery.

Representative Leger offered amendments to House Bill No. 320 that would provide as follows:

1. Retain present law provision authorizing all schools and school districts providing instruction to high school students of offer dropout recovery programs and remove proposed law provision that would have required the offering of such program in schools with low graduation rates.
2. Instead of requiring the funding of students in such programs as provided in the minimum foundation program (MFP) formula, provide that school districts and charter schools should maximize the use of Title 1 and at-risk funds through the MFP to establish such programs.

Representative Leger offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Carmody, Carter, Hall, Henry, Ivey, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Leger, Price, Richard, and Smith voted yea.

Speaking in support of House Bill No. 320 was Ms. Liz Mangham, representing the Graduation Alliance, 543 Spanish Town Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 939-6169.

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

Representative Leger offered a motion to report House Bill No. 320 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 320 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Carter, Hall, Henry, Ivey, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Leger, Price, and Richard voted yea.

House Bill No. 333 by Representative Wesley Bishop

Representative Wesley Bishop presented House Bill No. 333, which provides exceptions in the GRAD Act relative to remedial education course offerings by certain public universities.

Speaking in support of House Bill No. 333 were:

Dr. Larry Tremblay, representing the Louisiana Board of Regents, Claiborne Bldg., Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 342-4253.

Dr. Joseph Rallo, commissioner of higher education, representing the state Board of Regents, Claiborne Bldg., Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 342-4253.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 11 in support, one 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. 333 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 333 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Carmody, Carter, Hall, Henry, Ivey, Jefferson, Leger, Price, Richard, Shadoin, and Smith voted yea.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 81 by Representative Thierry

Representative Jefferson, on behalf of Representative Thierry, presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 81, which creates the Task Force on Summer Hunger.

Speaking in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 81 was Mr. Dylan Waguespack, representing Louisiana Progress Action, 650 North 6th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (504) 450-7496.

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

Representative Leger offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 81 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 81 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Carmody, Carter, Hall, Henry, Ivey, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Leger, Price, Richard, Shadoin, and Smith voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen F. Carter, chairman
House Committee on Education