

## **House Committee on Education**

Minutes of Meeting  
2016 Regular Session  
April 13, 2016

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Representative Nancy Landry, 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 Nancy Landry, chairman  
Representative Beryl A. Amedée  
Representative Joseph Bouie, Jr.  
Representative Chris Broadwater  
Representative Stephen F. Carter  
Representative Rick Edmonds  
Representative Julie Emerson  
Representative Reid Falconer  
Representative Jeffrey "Jeff" Hall  
Representative Stephanie Hilferty  
Representative Walt Leger, III  
Representative Edward J. Price, vice chairman  
Representative H. Eugene Reynolds  
Representative Scott M. Simon  
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None

#### **STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Elizabeth L. Borne, legislative analyst  
Nancy Y. Jolly, legislative analyst  
Jacqueline Snowden, secretary

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Beverly Vincent, sergeant at arms

Karli Roussell, clerk

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**

**House Bill No. 712 by Representative Jackson**

Representative Jackson presented House Bill No. 712, which provides relative to assignment of students with exceptionalities to schools closest to their home.

Representative Nancy Landry offered amendments to House Bill No. 712 add that a student with an exceptionality, except a gifted or talented student, shall be assigned to a school as requested by the parent if certain conditions are met as specified in proposed law and delete proposed law requirement that local education agencies, in accordance with federal law and to the greatest extent possible, ensure that a student with an exceptionality is educated in the school closest to the student's home regardless of the school attendance zone requirements.

Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Emerson, Amedee, Bouie, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Falconer, Hall, Leger, Price, Reynolds, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

Representative Price offered a motion to report House Bill No. 712 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 712 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Emerson, Amedee, Bouie, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Falconer, Hall, Leger, Price, Reynolds, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 399 by Representative Pope**

Representative Pope presented House Bill No. 399, which provides relative to requirements for local school superintendents' contracts.

Representative Steve Carter offered a motion to adopt the three-minute rule. Without objection, the three-minute rule was adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Leger, Price, Reynolds, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

Representative Smith offered amendments to House Bill No. 399 that would remove the word "may" and replace it with "shall" throughout the bill. Representative Smith offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Leger, Price, Reynolds, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

Donald Songy, associate executive director, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, 37617 Seven Oaks Ave., Prairieville, LA 70769, spoke in support of House Bill No. 399 .

Scott M. Richard, Louisiana School Boards Association, 7912 Summa Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (337) 278-5398, spoke in support of House Bill No. 399 .

Michael Faulk, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, 10510 Joor Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70818, (225) 650-2908, spoke in support of House Bill No. 399 .

Hollis Milton, superintendent, West Feliciana Parish School Board, (no address given), (225) 937-6757, spoke in support of House Bill No. 399 .

Brian M. LeJeune, superintendent, Jefferson Davis Parish School Board, P. O. Box 640 Jennings, LA 70546, (337) 824-1834, spoke in support of House Bill No. 399.

Brigitte Nieland, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, 3113 Valley Creek Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 603-5668, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 399.

Stephanie Desselle, Council for a Better Louisiana (CABL), P. O. Box 4308, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 344-2225, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 399.

Pat Cooper, former superintendent and 44-year educator, 119 North Caster St., New Roads, LA, (601) 248-2830, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 399.

Representative Price offered a motion to report House Bill No. 399 with amendments, to which Representative Amedee objected. The secretary called the roll, and by a vote of 5 yeas and 10 nays, the motion failed to pass. Representatives Bouie, Hall, Price, Reynolds, and Smith voted yea. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hilferty, Leger, and Simon voted nay.

Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 399. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 399 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Leger, Price, Reynolds, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 11 in support, 19 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 98 by Representative Smith**

Representative Smith presented House Bill No. 98, which provides relative to local charter authorizers and Type 1B charter schools.

Speaking in support of House Bill No. 98 were:

Tania Nyman, One Community One School District, 4669 Bennett Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 907-3527, spoke in support of House Bill No. 98.

Carnell Washington, East Baton Rouge Federation of Teachers, 11823 Market Place, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, (225) 266-1065, spoke in support of House Bill No. 98

Michael Deshotels, 22505 Fairway View Dr., Zachary, LA 70791, (225) 235-1632, spoke in support of House Bill No. 98.

Lee Barrios, Louisiana Friends of Public Education, Abita Springs, LA, (985) 789-8304, spoke in support of House Bill No. 98.

Deborah Meaux, Louisiana Association of Educators, , 8322 One Calais Ave., Baton Rouge, LA, (337) 849-3514, spoke in support of House Bill No. 98.

Donald Songy, associate executive director, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, 37617 Seven Oaks Ave., Prairieville, LA 70769, spoke in support of House Bill No. 98.

Marcus Fontenot, Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9623 Brookline Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 923-1037, spoke in support of House Bill No. 98.

Scott M. Richard, Louisiana School Boards Association, 7912 Summa Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (337) 278-5398, spoke in support of House Bill No. 98.

Richard Hartley, office of Governor John Bel Edwards, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, State Capitol, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 342-7015, spoke in support of House Bill No. 98.

Caroline Roemer, executive director, Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools (no address given) New Orleans, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 98 and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Mickey Landry, Choice Foundation, 1651 N. Tonti St., New Orleans, LA, (504) 579-9195, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 98.

Kenneth Campbell, 12263 Canterbury Park, Geismar, LA 70734, (225) 892-2125, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 98.

Representative Smith offered a motion to report House Bill No. 98 favorably, to which Representative Steve Carter objected. The secretary called the roll, and by a vote of 6 yeas and 9 nays, the motion failed to pass. Representatives Bouie, Hall, Leger, Price, Reynolds, and Smith voted yea. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hilferty, and Simon voted nay.

Representative Landry offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 98, to which Representative Reynolds objected. The secretary called the roll, and the motion passed by a vote of 9 yeas and 6 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hilferty, and Simon voted yea. Representatives Bouie, Hall, Leger, Price, Reynolds, and Smith voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 14 in support, and 37 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

### **House Bill No. 167 by Representative Smith**

Representative Smith presented House Bill No. 167, which prohibits the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) from authorizing certain types of charter schools under certain fiscal circumstances.

Carnell Washington, East Baton Rouge Federation of Teachers, 11823 Market Place, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, (225) 266-1065, spoke in support of House Bill No. 167.

Tania Nyman, One Community One School District, 4669 Bennett Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 907-3527, spoke in support of House Bill No. 167.

Ms. Lee Barrios, Louisiana Friends of Public Education, Abita Springs, LA, (985) 789-8304, spoke in support of House Bill No. 167.

Scott M. Richard, the Louisiana School Boards Association, 7912 Summa Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (337) 278-5398, spoke in support of House Bill No. 167.

Brigitte Nieland, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, 3113 Valley Creek Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 603-5668, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 167.

Caroline Roemer, Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools (no address given) New Orleans, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 167.

John White, state superintendent of education, 1201 Claiborne Bldg., Baton Rouge, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 167.

Michael "Duke" Lowrey, 1835 Glen Cove Dr., Benton, LA 71006, (318) 207-4500, spoke in

opposition to House Bill No. 167.

Stephanie Desselle, Council for a Better Louisiana (CABL), P. O. Box 4308, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 344-2225, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 167.

James Garvey, president, BESE, 4800 Beau Lac Lane, Metairie, LA, (504) 830-6500, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 167.

Representative Smith offered a motion to report House Bill No. 167 favorably, to which Representative Simon objected. The secretary called the roll, and the motion failed by a vote of 5 yeas and 10 nays. Representatives Bouie, Hall, Price, Reynolds, and Smith voted yea. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hilferty, Leger, and Simon voted nay.

Representative Smith offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 167, to which Representative Landry objected. No vote was taken.

Representative Nancy Landry offered a substitute motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 167, to which Representative Smith objected. The secretary called the roll on the substitute motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 167, and the motion passed by a vote of 9 yeas and 6 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hilferty, and Simon voted yea. Representatives Bouie, Hall, Leger, Price, Reynolds, and Smith voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 16 in support and 44 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

### **House Bill No. 1004 by Representative Havard**

Representative Havard presented House Bill No. 1004, which provides relative to assets or property acquired or used by charter schools under certain circumstances.

Scott M. Richard, Louisiana School Boards Association, 7912 Summa Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (337) 278-5398, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1004.

Tania Nyman, One Community One School District, 4669 Bennett Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 907-3527, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1004.

Ann Burrus, Power of Public Education Lafayette, 110 Seville Blvd., Lafayette, LA 70503, (337) 326-4225, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1004 and provided a handout, Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Caroline Roemer, Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools (no address given) New Orleans, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1004.

John K. Pierre, South Louisiana Charter Foundation, 9233 Cuyhanga Parkway, Baton Rouge, LA 70805, (225) 771-2555, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1004.

Dr. Phillip Rozeman, Magnolia School of Excellence, 510 Langlest Rd., Shreveport, LA, (318) 426-7801, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1004.

Judge Gene Thibodeux, Lake Charles Charter Academy; Southwest Louisiana Charter, 3910 Marie Ct., Lake Charles, LA 70807, (337) 433-9403, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1004.

Representative Bouie offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1004 favorably, to which Representative Steve Carter objected. The secretary called the roll, and the motion passed by a vote of 4 yeas and 10 nays. Representatives Bouie, Hall, Price, and Smith voted yea. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hilferty, Leger, and Simon voted nay. Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 399. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 399 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Leger, Price, Reynolds, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 1004, to which Representative Smith objected. The secretary called the roll, and action on House Bill No. 1004 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Leger, Price, and Simon voted yea. Representatives Bouie, Hall, Hilferty, and Smith voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 14 in support and 28 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

The committee recessed at 12:48 p.m. The committee reconvened at 1:16 p.m.

### **House Bill No. 879 by Representative Bouie**

Representative Bouie presented House Bill No. 879, which prohibits for-profit operators of charter schools.

Representative Steve Carter offered a motion to adopt the one-minute rule. Without objection, the one-minute rule was adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Falconer, Hall, Leger, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

Scott M. Richard, Louisiana School Boards Association, 7912 Summa Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (337) 278-5398, spoke in support of House Bill No. 879.

Richard Hartley, office of Governor John Bel Edwards, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, State Capitol, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 342-7015, spoke in support of House Bill No. 879.

Deborah Meaux, Louisiana Association of Educators, , 8322 One Calais Ave., Baton Rouge, LA, (337) 849-3514, spoke in support of House Bill No. 879.

Ms. Lee Barrios, Abita Springs, LA, (985) 789-8304, spoke in support of House Bill No. 879.

Tania Nyman, One Community One School District, 4669 Bennett Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 907-3527, spoke in support of House Bill No. 879.

Ann Burrus, in op Power of Public Education Lafayette, 110 Seville Blvd., Lafayette, LA 70503, (337) 326-4225, spoke in support of House Bill No. 879 and provided a handout, Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Brigitte Nieland, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, 3113 Valley Creek Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 928-5388, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 879.

Judge Gene Thibodeux, Lake Charles Charter Academy; Southwest Louisiana Charter, 3910 Marie Ct., Lake Charles, LA 70807, (337) 433-9403, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 879.

Representative Bouie offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 879. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 879 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Leger, Price, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 15 in support and 43 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 502 by Representative Smith**

Representative Smith presented House Bill No. 502, which requires the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to conduct a fiscal impact study prior to making a determination relative to a Type 2 charter school proposal.

Scott M. Richard, Louisiana School Boards Association, 7912 Summa Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (337) 278-5398, spoke in support of House Bill No. 502.

Deborah Meaux, Louisiana Association of Educators, 8322 One Calais Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in support of House Bill No. 502.



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Erin Bendily, State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Louisiana Department of Education, no contact information provided, spoke to provide information only on House Bill No. 502.

Brigitte Nieland, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, 3113 Valley Creek Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 925-5388, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 502.

Caroline Roemer, Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools (no address given), New Orleans, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 502.

Representative Nancy Landry announced that Representative Smith would voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 502 until it could be rescheduled. No vote was taken.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 15 in support, and 29 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 168 by Representative Smith**

House Bill No. 168, which requires charter school teachers to meet the same certification requirements as other public school teachers, was on the meeting agenda but did not receive a hearing by the committee.

Witness cards submitted by persons who did not speak are as follows: 18 in support, and 44 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 674 by Representative Nancy Landry**

House Bill No. 674, which provides for considerations of chartering authorities in reviewing charter proposals and of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education in entering into proposed charters, reviewing proposed charter authorizers, and recruiting chartering groups, was on the meeting agenda but did not receive a hearing by the committee.

Witness cards submitted by persons who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support, and 12 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Nancy Landry  
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: