

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2016 Regular Session
May 11, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Nancy Landry, chairman of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:12 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 Chris Broadwater
Representative Stephen F. Carter
Representative Rick Edmonds
Representative Julie Emerson
Representative Reid Falconer
Representative Jeffrey "Jeff" Hall
Representative Walt Leger, III
Representative Edward J. Price, vice chairman
Representative Scott M. Simon
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Joseph Bouie, Jr.
Representative Stephanie Hilferty

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 Roussel, clerk
Mitchell Webb, page

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Senate Bill No. 80 by Senator Morrish

Senator Morrish presented Senate Bill No. 80, a constitutional amendment to authorize the postsecondary education management boards to establish tuition and fee amounts charged by institutions under their supervision and management.

Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to adopt a two-minute rule for discussion of bills. Without objection, the motion to adopt the two-minute rule passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Leger, Price, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

Representative Nancy Landry offered amendments to Senate Bill No. 80 that would remove provisions making amendment submission to the voters contingent upon the enactment of Senate Bill No. 79 of the 2016 R.S. and to make technical changes. Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Leger, Price, and Smith voted yea.

Representative Steve Carter offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 80 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 80 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Leger, Price, and Smith voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 470 by Senator Morrish

Senator Morrish presented Senate Bill No. 470, which provides relative to reduction of TOPS award amounts or the number of TOPS recipients in the event of insufficient funding.

Representative Nancy Landry offered amendments to Senate Bill No. 470 that would:

1. Remove present law that provides, if the legislature appropriates insufficient money to fund all awards, for making students ineligible based on ACT score and the ability of families to pay tuition.
2. Remove proposed law that would have subjected the pro rata reduction of award amounts to the approval of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget.

Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Leger, Price, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

Representative Price offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 470 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 470 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Leger, Price, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 1088 by Representative Stokes

Representative Stokes presented House Bill No. 1088, which provides relative to district-level policies for the allocation of public school funding in certain parishes.

Representative Nancy Landry offered amendments to House Bill No. 1088 to amend the title and to provide that the amount of minimum foundation program formula funds allocated to the local school board in such a district, and the amount of such funds allocated to any charter school that is located within such a district and that operates a gifted or talented program where students identified as gifted or talented comprise at least 20% of the total student population, shall not be reduced by the school board or by the local superintendent.

Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Hall, Leger, Price, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

Allison Bent, Benjamin Franklin High School, 2001 Leon C. Simon, New Orleans, LA 70122, (504) 494-1138, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1088.

Latoye A. Brown, Audubon Charter School, 428 Broadway St., New Orleans, LA 70118, (504) 324-7100, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1088.

Patrick Widhalm, 316 Stephens Ave., Natchitoches, LA, (318) 354-8281, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1088.

Patrick Dobard, superintendent, Recovery School District, 1615 Poydras St., New Orleans, LA, (225) 505-3504, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1088.

Shawn Fleming, Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council, 626 Main St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-6804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1088.

Henderson Lewis, Orleans Parish School Board, 3520 General DeGaulle Dr., New Orleans, LA 70114, (504) 359-5678, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1088.

Caroline Roemer, Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools, New Orleans, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1088.

Brent Barriere, Orleans Parish School Board, 201 St. Charles Ave., Ste. 4600, New Orleans, LA, (504) 556-5528, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1088.

John Martin, Citizens for One, 5705 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, LA 70115, (504) 895-0236, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1088.

Jennifer Coco, Southern Poverty Law Center, 1055 St. Charles Ave., Ste. 505, New Orleans, LA 70130, (504) 486-8982, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1088.

Rashida Govan, Urban League of Greater New Orleans, 4640 S. Carrollton Ave., New Orleans, LA 70119, (504) 620-2332, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1088.

Amanda Aiken, New Orleans College Prep, 2301 Marengo St., New Orleans, LA 70115, (504) 234-9632, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1088.

Elizabeth Ostberg, the NET Charter High School, 1614 Oretna Castle Haley Blvd., New Orleans, LA, 70113, (504) 267-9060, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1088.

Christopher Hines, Crescent City Schools, 3811 N. Galvez St., New Orleans, LA 70117, (504) 383-5181, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1088.

Stefan Lallinger, First Line Schools, 3519 Trafalgar St., New Orleans, LA 70119, (504) 655-6197, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1088.

Sarah Vandergriff, 1324 New York St., New Orleans, LA 70122, (504) 430-6749, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1088.

Jennifer Lyman, 405 Webster St., New Orleans, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1088.

Brady Shannon, Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools, 1555 Poydras St., New Orleans, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1088.

Erik Olivo, Morris Jefferson Community School, 211 S. Lopez, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1088.

Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 1088. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 1088 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Leger, Price, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support and 15 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 416 by Representative Jones

Representative Jones presented House Bill No. 416, a constitutional amendment which provides for the election of a president of each local public school district and for his appointment, subject to school board approval of the local superintendent.

Scott M. Richard, Louisiana School Boards Association, 7912 Summa Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (337) 278-5398, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 416.

Donald Songy, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, 37617 Seven Oaks Ave., Prairieville, LA, (225) 323-3921, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 416.

Brian M. LeJeune, superintendent, Jefferson Davis Parish School Board, P.O. Box 640, Jennings, LA 70546, (337) 824-1834, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 416.

Brigitte Nieland, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, 3113 Valley Forge, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 603-5668, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 416.

Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 416. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 416 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Leger, Price, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 443 by Representative Jones

House Bill No. 443, provides for each local public school district to have a president elected by the qualified electors of the district.

Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 443. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 443 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Leger, Price, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 19 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 79 by Senator Morrish

Senate Bill No. 79, which provides relative to TOPS awards amounts, was on the meeting agenda but did not receive a hearing by the committee.

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

Senate Bill No. 307 by Senator Morrish

Senate Bill No. 307, which provides relative to the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission and the Louisiana Tuition Trust Authority, was on the meeting agenda but did not receive a hearing by the committee.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 351 by Senator Morrish

Senate Bill No. 351, which provides relative to the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium for Research and Education, was on the meeting agenda but did not receive a hearing by the committee.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support. 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 11:49 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Nancy Landry
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: