

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2016 Regular Session
May 18, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Nancy Landry, chairman of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:03 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 Walt Leger, III
Representative Edward J. Price, vice chairman
Representative Scott M. Simon

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Jeffrey "Jeff" Hall
Representative Stephanie Hilferty
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith

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
Ivy Souter, page

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 771 by Representative Schroder

On behalf of Representative Schroder, Shawn Fleming, Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council, 626 Main St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-6804, presented House Bill No. 771, which provides relative to state assessments as a requirement for student promotion and graduation.

Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to adopt a two-minute rule for discussion. Without objection, a two-minute rule was adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Falconer, Price, and Simon voted yea.

Representative Price offered amendments to House Bill No. 771 that would remove proposed law that students not be required to demonstrate proficiency on "high stakes" for promotion or graduation. Representative Price offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Price, and Simon voted yea.

Representative Simon offered amendments to House Bill No. 771 that would narrow the application of proposed law relative to a former high school student's petition to receive a high school diploma to students with exceptionalities, except gifted or talented students. Representative Simon 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, Bouie, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Price, and Simon voted yea.

Ashley McReynolds, 1862 Tudor Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70815, spoke in support of House Bill No. 771.

April Dunn, 3902 White Sands Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70814, (225) 272-4080, spoke in support of House Bill No. 771.

Blaire K. Jones, 873 Alva Dr., Breaux Bridge, LA 70517, (337) 342-1232, spoke in support of House Bill No. 771.

John White, state superintendent of education, 1201 Claiborne Bldg., Baton Rouge, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 771.

Stephanie Desselle, CABL, P. O. Box 4308, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 344-2225, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 771.

Sarah Vandergriff, Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools, 1555 Poydras St., New Orleans, LA, (504) 430-6749, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 771.

Ben Kleban, New Orleans College Prep, no address given, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 771.

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. 771.

Representative Steve Carter offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 771. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 771 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Price, and Simon voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 11 in support, 11 in opposition, and 3 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 310 by Senator Claitor

Senator Claitor presented Senate Bill No. 310, which requires the Department of Education to collect and report certain special education data.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 310 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 310 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Price, and Simon voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 317 by Senator Donahue

Senator Donahue presented Senate Bill No. 317, which provides relative to student behavior and discipline, including the use of seclusion and physical restraint to address the behavior of students with exceptionalities.

Representative Broadwater offered amendments to Senate Bill No. 317 that would, relative to exclusions from the definition of "physical restraint": (a) add the momentary blocking of a student's actions if the student's action is likely to result in harm to the student or any other person; (b) delete exclusion for holding of student by a school employee for the protection of the student or others; and (c) retain present law exclusion for minimal physical contact for the purpose of safely escorting a student from one area to another.

Representative Broadwater offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Broadwater, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Price, and Simon voted yea.

Shawn Fleming, Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council, 626 Main St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-6804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 317.

Representative Broadwater offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 317 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 317 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Broadwater, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Price, and Simon voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 23 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Resolution No. 154 by Representative Hoffmann

Representative Hoffmann presented House Resolution No. 154, which requests a study relative to the feasibility and advisability of allowing Anatomy and Physiology to satisfy certain requirements for high school graduation and qualification for Taylor Opportunity Program for Students awards.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 154 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 154 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Price, and Simon voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 353 by Senator Bishop

Senator Bishop presented Senate Bill No. 353, which provides for the Louisiana Expectant and Parenting Students Act.

Representative Nancy Landry offered amendments to Senate Bill No. 353 that would provide that proposed law shall be known and may be cited as the Louisiana Expectant and Parenting Students Act and make technical changes.

Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Price, and Simon voted yea.

Representative Price offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 353 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 353 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Broadwater, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Price, and Simon voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 985 by Representative Schroder

On behalf of Representative Schroder, Michael C. Nation, St. Tammany Parish School Board, 321 N. Theard St., Covington, LA 70434, (985) 892-2276, presented House Bill No. 985, which prohibits requiring students to complete certain financial aid forms as a requirement for graduation.

John White, state superintendent of education, 1201 Claiborne Bldg., Baton Rouge, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 985.

Sarah Vandergriff, Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools, 1555 Poydras St., New Orleans, LA, (504) 430-6749, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 985.

Barrye Bailey, Our Lady of the Lake College, 5414 Brittany Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 768-1701, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 985.

Ben Kleban, New Orleans College Prep, 2301 Marengo St., New Orleans, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 985.

Donque' Stewart, New Orleans College Prep, 2301 Marengo St., New Orleans, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 985.

Sah' Diamond Lee, New Orleans College Prep, 2301 Marengo St., New Orleans, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 985.

Curtis Duronslet, New Orleans College Prep, 2301 Marengo St., New Orleans, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 985.

Amanda Kruger Hill, Cowen Institute, Tulane University, (504) 274-2688, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 985.

Alisha Ferrington, Jobs for American Graduates/Financial Aid Working Group, 433 Rosier Rd., DeVille, LA 71328, (318) 955-9534, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 985.

Emily Londis-Jones, Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance-Financial Working Group, 1 Drexel Dr., New Orleans, LA 70125, (504) 520-7522, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 985.

Representative Price offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 985, to which Representative Amedee objected. The secretary called the roll, and action on House Bill No. 985 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 6 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Bouie, Broadwater, Edmonds, Emerson, and Price voted yea. Representatives Amedee and Simon voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, 13 in opposition, and 4 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 371 by Representative Bouie

Representative Bouie presented House Bill No. 371, which prohibits the construction of schools on former waste sites.

Representative Bouie offered amendments to House Bill No. 371 that would add a requirement that a school governing authority remediate property prior to school construction when the Department of Environmental Quality determines the property does not meet certain standards.

Representative Bouie offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Broadwater, Edmonds, Emerson, Price, and Simon voted yea.

Representative Broadwater offered amendments to House Bill No. 371 that would narrow the application of prohibition against school construction to land formerly used as a landfill for commercial disposal of solid or hazardous waste and make prohibition conditional upon certain determinations and actions relative to remediation.

Representative Broadwater offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Broadwater, Edmonds, Emerson, Leger, Price, and Simon voted yea.

Christopher Ratcliff, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, no address given, (225) 936-5946, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 371.

Gary A. Fulton, Jr., Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, 5536 Tennyson Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70817, (225) 219-3505, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 371.

Ronald Bordelon, Recovery School District, 1615 Poydras, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 373-6200, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 371.

Representative Bouie offered a motion to report House Bill No. 371 with amendments. No vote was taken.

Representative Broadwater offered a substitute motion to report House Bill No. 371 with amendments with a recommendation to recommit to the House Committee on Natural Resources, to which Representative Bouie objected. The secretary called the roll, and House Bill No. 371 was reported with amendments with a recommendation to recommit to the House Committee on Natural Resources by a vote of 5 yeas and 3 nays. Representatives Amedee, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, and Emerson voted yea. Representatives Bouie, Leger, and Price voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support and 13 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 1035 by Representative Hodges

Representative Hodges presented House Bill No. 1035, which requires local school boards to require students in grades four through six to recite a specified passage from the Declaration of Independence.

Representative Price offered amendments to House Bill No. 1035 that would make provisions of the bill permissive. Representative Price offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Edmonds objected. The secretary called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 3 yeas, 5 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Bouie, Leger, and Price voted yea. Representatives Amedee, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, and Emerson voted nay. Representative Nancy Landry abstained.

Scott M. Richard, Louisiana School Boards Association, 7912 Summa Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (337) 278-5398, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1035.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1035 favorably, to which Representative Price objected. The secretary called the roll, and House Bill No. 1035 was reported favorably by a vote of 6 yeas, 2 nays, 1 abstention. Representatives Amedee, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, and Leger voted yea. Representatives Bouie and Price voted nay. Representative Nancy Landry abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 788 by Representative Jefferson

House Bill No. 788, which provides relative to participation by public postsecondary education institutions in the state's risk management program, was on the meeting agenda but did not receive a hearing by the committee.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Nancy Landry
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: