

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2017 Regular Session
April 26, 2017

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Nancy Landry, chairman of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m. in Room 1, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Nancy Landry, chairman
Representative Beryl A. Amedée
Representative Joseph Bouie, Jr.
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 Scott M. Simon
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith
Representative Polly Thomas

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Chris Broadwater

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Beverly Vincent, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 111 by Representative Bishop

Representative Bishop presented House Bill No. 111, which requires instruction in litter prevention and awareness for public school students in certain grades.

Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to adopt a two-minute rule for discussion during the meeting. Without objection, the two-minute rule was adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Hall, Leger, Simon, Smith, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Thomas offered an amendment to House Bill No. 111 that would require integration of instruction into any existing curriculum instead of existing science curriculum. Representative Thomas 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, Bouie, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Hall, Leger, Simon, Smith, and Thomas voted yea.

Speaking in support of House Bill No. 111 were:

Susan Russell, Keep Louisiana Beautiful, 807 N. Columbia St., Covington, LA 70471, (985) 502-9024, spoke in support of House Bill No. 111.

Brenda Nixon, Louisiana Environmental Education Commission, 18255 Frenchtown Acres, Greenwell Springs, LA, (225) 205-2680, spoke in support of House Bill No. 111.

Venise Ortego, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 5652 Hwy. 182, Opelousas, LA 70570, (337) 948-0255, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 111.

Scott Richard, Louisiana School Boards Association, 7912 Summa Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (337) 278-5398, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 111.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to report House Bill No. 111 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 111 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Hall, Leger, Simon, Smith, and Thomas voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 452 by Representative Abramson

Representative Abramson presented House Bill No. 452, which makes requirement for in-service training relative to suicide prevention applicable to nonpublic and charter school teachers and other employees.

Joe Chango, 1608 Pauger St., New Orleans, LA 70116, (908) 499-2240, spoke in support of House Bill No. 452.

Representative Leger offered a motion to report House Bill No. 452 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 452 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Hall, Hilferty, Leger, Simon, Smith, and Thomas voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 557 by Representative Seabaugh

Representative Seabaugh presented House Bill No. 557, which provides for criminal background checks relative to early learning centers, school employees, registered family child care providers and in-home providers.

Jenna Conway, assistant superintendent, Early Childhood, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 N. 3rd St., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 342-3736, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 557.

Melanie Bronfin, Louisiana Policy Institute for Children, 426 Atherton Dr., Metairie, LA 70005, (504) 228-0988, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 557,

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to report House Bill No. 557 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 557 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Simon, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 12 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 79 by Representative Foil

Representative Foil presented House Bill No. 79, which prohibits corporal punishment for certain students with exceptionalities.

Donald Songy, office of the governor, State Capitol, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 342-2107, spoke in support of House Bill No. 79.

Michelle Hurst, Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council, 2526 Colonial Way, Zachary, LA 70791, (225) 936-2582, spoke in support of House Bill No. 79.

Allison Badgerow, 175 Elm St., Hahnville, LA 70057, (504) 430-0797, spoke in support of House Bill No. 79.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Bill No. 79 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 79 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Steve Carter, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Simon, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 36 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 531 by Representative Hoffmann

Representative Hoffmann presented House Bill No. 531, which prohibits the use of tobacco products on school property.

Melissa Martin, Louisiana Department of Health, 628 North 4th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-9500, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 531.

Representative Bouie offered a motion to report House Bill No. 531 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 531 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Steve Carter, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, and Thomas voted yea.

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

The committee recessed at 10:58 a.m. The committee reconvened at 11:18 a.m.

House Bill No. 497 by Representative Norton

Representative Norton presented House Bill No. 497, which prohibits corporal punishment in public elementary and secondary schools.

Kate Mehok, Crescent City Schools, 3811 N. Galvez St., New Orleans, LA 70117, spoke in support of House Bill No. 497.

Scott Richard, Louisiana School Boards Association, 7912 Summa Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (337) 278-5398, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 497.

Caroline Roemer, Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools, no address given, New Orleans, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 497.

Roy McCoy, Beekman Charter School, 15190 A M Baker Rd., Bastrop, LA 71220, (318) 281-1743, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 497.

Representative Bouie offered a motion to report House Bill No. 497 favorably, to which Representative Simon objected. The secretary called the roll, and House Bill No. 497 was reported favorably by a vote of 6 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Bouie, Hall, Hilferty, Price, and Smith voted yea. Representatives Amedee, Emerson, Falconer, Simon, and Thomas voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 12 in support and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**House Bill No. 539 by Representative Amedee**

Chairman Landry announced that House Bill No. 539, which removes requirement that certain students in approved home study programs provide documentation of immunization against meningococcal disease, had been voluntarily deferred by the author.

House Bill No. 556 by Representative Pearson

Representative Landry announced that House Bill No. 556, which provides relative to sick leave granted to school bus operators, teachers, and other public school employees in certain instances, had been voluntarily deferred by the author.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Nancy Landry
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: