

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2018 Regular Session
March 21, 2018

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Nancy Landry, chairman of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. in Room 1, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Nancy Landry, chairman
Representative Jeffrey "Jeff" Hall, vice chairman
Representative Beryl A. Amedée
Representative Joseph Bouie, Jr.
Representative Ken Brass
Representative Stephen F. Carter
Representative Rick Edmonds
Representative Julie Emerson
Representative Reid Falconer
Representative Stephanie Hilferty
Representative Walt Leger, III
Representative Scott M. Simon
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith
Representative Polly Thomas
Representative Mark Wright

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Camille Arceneaux, clerk
Beverly Vincent, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 193 by Representative Coussan**

Representative Coussan presented House Bill No. 193, which provides relative to funding for university laboratory schools.

Nathan Roberts, University of Louisiana-Lafayette, 104 University Circle, Lafayette, LA 70506, (337) 482-1026, spoke in support of House Bill No. 193.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Bill No. 193 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 193 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Brass, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Hilferty, Simon, Smith, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 199 by Representative Smith

Representative Smith presented House Bill No. 199, which creates the Language Equality and Acquisition for Deaf Kids (LEAD-K) Task Force to develop a framework for assessing children who are deaf or hard of hearing to determine language skills and ensure kindergarten readiness.

Representative Smith offered amendments to the original bill that would revise provisions relative to commission membership as follows:

- (a) Increase the number of commission members from 19 to 22 by adding a mental health professional, a medical professional, and the executive director of the Governor's Office on Disability Affairs.
- (b) Instead of granting sole appointment authority of a majority of the commission to the state superintendent of education, provide for joint appointment by the

superintendent and the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health with input from offices and organizations that serve the deaf community.

- (c) Relative to appointments, add that preference be given, if applicable, to those holding early childhood or deaf education certification.

Representative Smith 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, Brass, Edmonds, Emerson, Hilferty, Simon, Smith, and Wright voted yea.

Shelley Chesney, Children Who Chose Listening and Spoken Language, 18614 Bay Ridge Court., Baton Rouge, LA 70817, (225) 802-7748, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 199.

Melodie Sparks, Deaf Education, 42449 Highway 931, Gonzales, LA 70737, (225) 603-0805, spoke for information only and presented a written statement, Exhibit A, on House Bill No. 199.

Representative Landry announced that a technical change needed to be made to an amendment adopted earlier to provide that instead of requiring that the task force be impartial with regard to language taught to children who are deaf or hard of hearing, require that it be impartial with regard to language modalities used to teach them. Representative Smith offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Brass, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hilferty, Simon, Smith, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

David Medero, president, Baton Rouge Association of the Deaf, Woodstock Drive, Denham Springs, LA 70726, (225) 270-9912, spoke in support of House Bill No. 199.

Jimmy Challis Gore, Louisiana Association of the Deaf, Jones Creek Road, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 308-9816, spoke in support of House Bill No. 199.

Paula Rodriguez, Deaf Focus, 4332 Rhoda Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70737, (225) 235-7273, spoke in support of House Bill No. 199.

Richie Fraychineaud, parent of deaf child, 181 Villere Drive, Destrehan, LA 70047, (504) 383-8852, spoke in support of House Bill No. 199.

Norma Zeringue, parent of deaf child, 11 River Park Drive, (774) 293-4422, spoke in support of House Bill No. 199.

Ari Latino, student, 312 Michigan Avenue, Port Allen, LA 70767, spoke in support of House Bill No. 199.

Candice Latino, 312 Michigan Avenue, Port Allen, LA 70767, (337) 230-2708, spoke in support of House Bill No. 199.

Victoria Reguerra, LSU student, (no address given), (985) 605-7035, spoke in support of House Bill No. 199.

Henry Brinkmann, 4838 Mobile Drive, (225) 329-4553, spoke in support of House Bill No. 199.

Melisa (Lisa) Potter, LCD commissioner, 12589 Archery Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70815, (225) 341-6431, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 199.

Jeri Pilk, 10644 Glenstone Court, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 200-8354, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 199.

Dr. Donna Alleman, director, Louisiana School for the Deaf, 2888 Brightside Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70820, (225) 757-3201, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 199.

Representative Bouie offered a motion to report House Bill No. 199 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 199 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Brass, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Simon, Smith, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 17 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 306 by Representative Thomas

Representative Thomas presented House Bill No. 306, which provides relative to foreign language immersion programs in public schools.

Erin Bendily, state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, 1201 North 3rd Street., Claiborne Building., Baton Rouge, LA 70864, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 306.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Bill No. 306 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 306 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Brass, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Simon, Smith, and Thomas voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 509 by Representative Gary Carter

Representative Gary Carter presented House Bill No. 509, which requires school boards to make presentations at public meetings relative to plans for schools in need of academic improvement.

Representative Edmonds offered amendments to the original bill that would require a school board to provide for the presentation of the plan by board members or other persons designated by the board, instead of requiring a school board to make the presentation of the plan. Representative Edmonds 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, Brass, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Simon, Smith, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to adopt a two-minute rule for testimony on House Bill No. 509. Without objection, a two-minute rule for testimony was adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Brass, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Simon, Smith, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Erin Bendily, state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, 1201 North 3rd Street., Claiborne Bldg., Baton Rouge, LA 70864, spoke in support of House Bill No. 509.

Sarah Vandergriff, Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools, 1324 New York Street, New Orleans, LA 70122, (504) 430-6749, spoke in support of House Bill No. 509.

Raymond Allmon, Our Voice Nuestra Voz, 3301 Freret Street, New Orleans, LA 70115, (225) 361-9035, spoke in support of House Bill No. 509.

Mary Moran, Our Voice Nuestra Voz, 3301 Freret Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 671-7044, spoke in support of House Bill No. 509.

John Warner Smith, Education's Next Horizon, 412 North 4th Street, Suite. 104A, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 933-1177, spoke in support of House Bill No. 509.

Scott Richard, Louisiana School Boards Association, 7912 Summa Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (337) 278-5398, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 509 (no witness card submitted).

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to report House Bill No. 509 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 509 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Brass, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Hall, Simon, Smith, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 11 in support, 1 in opposition (withdrawn after adoption of amendments), and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 663 by Representative White

Representative White presented House Bill No. 663, which creates a commission to study the feasibility of consolidating the Washington Parish and Bogalusa school systems.

Representative Nancy Landry offered amendments to the original bill to increase the number of commission members from 22 to 24 by adding the finance directors for the Bogalusa and Washington Parish school boards. 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, Amedee, Bouie, Brass, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hilferty, Hall, Simon, Smith, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Senator Mizell spoke for information only on House Bill No. 663.

Representative Simon offered a motion to report House Bill No. 663 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 663 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Brass, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hilferty, Hall, Simon, Smith, and Thomas voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Nancy Landry
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: