

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2018 Regular Session
March 28, 2018

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Nancy Landry, chairman of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.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 Concurrent Resolution No. 15 by Representative Jordan**

Representative Jordan presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 15, which requests that the Southern University Board of Supervisors submit a proposal to the Board of Regents for establishing an associate of applied science degree program in process technology and that the Board of Regents approve it.

Rodney Braxton, Southern University System Foundation, 543 Spanish Town Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 381-0166, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 15.

Ray L. Belton, president, Southern University System, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 771-4680, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 15.

Drive Monty Sullivan, president, Louisiana Community and Technical College System, 265 South Foster Drive, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 922-1643, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 15.

Representative Smith offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 15 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 15 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Brass, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Leger, Simon, Smith, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 144 by Representative Abraham

Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to adopt a three-minute rule for testimony on agenda items. Without objection, a three-minute rule for testimony on agenda items was adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Leger, Simon, Smith, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Abraham presented House Bill No. 144, which creates the Louisiana Jobs Now Fund for the purpose of funding postsecondary education degree and certificate production in high-demand fields.

Representative Leger offered amendments to the original bill to add institutions that are members of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (LAICU) as eligible to receive and use monies in the Louisiana Jobs Now Fund. Representative Leger 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, Bouie, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Leger, Simon, Smith, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to report House Bill No. 144 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 144 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Brass, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Leger, Simon, Smith, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support and 3 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 225 by Representative Stagni

Representative Stagni presented House Bill No. 225, which requires instruction in public high schools on prevention of shaken baby syndrome.

Representative Thomas offered amendments to the original bill that would, in addition to the shaken baby syndrome, include instruction in sudden unexpected infant death, other causes of injury and death to infants and young children, including but not limited to motor vehicle crashes, drowning, and unintentional firearm discharges. Representative Thomas 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, Brass, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Leger, Simon, Smith, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Drive Karis Schoellmann, Louisiana Department of Health, 628 North 4th Street, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 225.

Parham Jaber, MD, assistant state health officer, Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Public Health, no address given, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 225.

Caroline Roemer, Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools, New Orleans, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 225.

Domoine D. Rutledge, East Baton Rouge Parish School System, 1050 S. Foster Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 922-5619, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 225.

Debbie Meaux, Louisiana Association of Educators, 8322 One Calais Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 343-9243, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 225.

Scott M. Richard, Louisiana School Boards Association, 7912 Summa Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (337) 278-5398, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 225.

Drive Elizabeth Meyers, TCA Addis Academy, 909 Sharon Street, Denham Springs, LA, (225) 963-1711, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 225.

Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 225. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 225 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Bouie, Brass, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Leger, Simon, Smith, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 716 by Representative Leger

Representative Leger presented House Bill No. 716, which provides relative to sharing of student information with certain postsecondary education institutions conducting academic research.

Drive Elizabeth Meyers, 909 Sharon Street, Denham Springs, LA 70726, (225) 963-1711, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 716.

Representative Bouie offered a motion to report House Bill No. 716 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 716 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Brass, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Leger, Simon, Smith, Thomas, and Wright 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. 87 by Representative James

Representative James presented House Bill No. 87, which provides relative to the definition of institution of postsecondary education for purposes of the Louisiana Student Tuition Assistance and Revenue Trust (START) Program.

Vice Chairman Hall in the chair.

Robyn Lively, senior attorney, Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance 602 North 5th Street, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 219-7652, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 87.

Sujuan W. Boutte, executive director, Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance, 602 North 5th Street, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 219-7294, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 87.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Bill No. 87 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 87 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Brass, Steve Carter, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Leger, Simon, Smith, Thomas, and Wright 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.

Chairman Landry in the chair.

House Bill No. 632 by Representative Hunter

Representative Hunter presented House Bill No. 632, which requires the Board of Regents to develop and implement College Application Week.

Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 632. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 632 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Brass, Steve Carter, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Simon, Smith, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 650 by Representative Foil

Representative Foil presented House Bill No. 650, which creates a program for education savings accounts for tuition expenses for elementary and secondary schools.

Representative Steve Carter offered amendments to the original bill that would remove proposed law providing for a "state match" (earnings enhancements) for Louisiana Student Tuition Assistance and Revenue Trust Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve (START K12) program accounts. Representative Steve Carter 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, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Simon, Smith, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Sujuan W. Boutte, executive director, Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance, 602 North 5th Street, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 219-7294, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 650.

Robyn Lively, senior attorney, Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance, 602 North 5th Street, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 219-7652, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 650.

Representative Hilferty offered a motion to report House Bill No. 650 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 650 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Brass, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Simon, Smith, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 10 in support and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 284 by Representative Smith

Representative Smith presented House Bill No. 284, which revises procedures relative to a student's inability to pay for school meals and a student's meal debt.

Jeanie Donovan, Louisiana Budget Project, 619 Jefferson Davis Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in support of House Bill No. 284.

Representative Smith offered amendments to the original bill to:

1. Add requirement that state Department of Education (DOE) notify schools and districts relative to eligibility to participate in federal Community Eligibility Provision; require DOE to assist them relative to this provision only if school or district requests assistance.

2. Authorize rather than require a school governing authority to contact the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) if a student owes money for at least 10 meals in a single school year; however, maintain the requirement for such notification if there is cause to believe the child is a victim of abuse or neglect.

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, Hall, Hilferty, Simon, Smith, and Wright voted yea.

Representative Smith offered amendments to the original bill to change requirement that school governing authorities provide certain annual documentation to DCFS and the House and Senate education committees to require that documentation be provided only when DCFS or the committees request it. Representative Smith offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Nancy Landry objected. The secretary called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 1 yeas and 12 nays. Representative Smith voted yea. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Brass, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Simon, and Wright voted nay.

Debbie Meaux, Louisiana Association of Educators, 8322 One Calais Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 343-9243, spoke in support of House Bill No. 284.

Cynthia Posey, Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9623 Brookline Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 603-1969, spoke in support of House Bill No. 284.

Susan East Nelson, Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families, 13609 Landmark Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 229-2498, spoke in support of House Bill No. 284.

Erin Brock, Second Harvest Food Bank, 206 South Cortez Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, (504) 729-2842, spoke in support of House Bill No. 284.

Davante Lewis, Louisiana Budget Project, 619 Jefferson Highway, Suite 1-D, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 614-9126, ext. 2, spoke in support of House Bill No. 284.

Drive Nicholas Mitchell, Jesuit Social Research Institute, 6363 Street Charles Avenue, Box 94, (504) 864-7746, spoke in support of House Bill No. 284.

Drive Rachel Herdes, 5017 Chestnut Street, New Orleans, LA 70115, (630) 660-4036, spoke in support of House Bill No. 284.

Scott M. Richard, Louisiana School Boards Association, 7912 Summa Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (337) 278-5398, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 284.

Debra Schum, Louisiana Association of Principals, 103 Crawford Street, Winnfield, LA, (504) 909-4650, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 284.

Joannie Miller, School Nutrition Association of Louisiana, 12573 Wildwood Drive, Bogalusa, LA 70427, (985) 235-7754, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 284.

Representative Smith offered a motion to report House Bill No. 284 with amendments, to which Representative Amedee objected. The secretary called the roll, and House Bill No. 284 was reported with amendments by a vote of 7 yeas, 4 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Bouie, Brass, Emerson, Hall, Hilferty, Simon, and Smith voted yea. Representatives Amedee, Edmonds, Falconer, and Wright voted nay. Representative Nancy Landry abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 9 in support and 5 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Chairman Landry announced that the committee would stand in recess until 2:00 p.m.

Chairman Landry convened the committee at 2:16 p.m.

Chairman Landry announced that the three-minute rule on witness testimony would continue and a time limit would also be placed on author presentation and member questions.

House Bill No. 418 by Representative Ivey

Representative Ivey presented House Bill No. 418, which authorizes public postsecondary education management boards to increase tuition and provides for limitations and exceptions.

Representative Amedee offered a motion to report House Bill No. 418 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 418 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Brass, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Smith, and Wright voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 487 by Representative Zeringue

Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 487, which creates a program for education savings accounts for tuition expenses for elementary and secondary schools.

Representative Falconer offered a motion to report House Bill No. 487 favorably, to which Representative Smith objected. The secretary called the roll, and House Bill No. 487 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Brass, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, and Wright voted yea. Representatives Bouie and Smith voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support and 5 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 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Nancy Landry
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: