

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2018 Regular Session
April 4, 2018

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Nancy Landry, chairman of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:32 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 Ken Brass
Representative Stephen F. Carter
Representative Rick Edmonds
Representative Julie Emerson
Representative Reid Falconer
Representative Jeffrey "Jeff" Hall, vice chairman
Representative Stephanie Hilferty
Representative Walt Leger, III
Representative Scott M. Simon
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith
Representative Polly Thomas
Representative Mark Wright

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Joseph Bouie, Jr.

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. 344 by Representative Steve Carter**

Representative Steve Carter presented House Bill No. 344, which provides relative to the statutory rights of teachers.

Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to adopt two-minute rule for members' questions on House Bill No. 344. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Hall, Amedee, Brass, Steve Carter, Falconer, Hilferty, Leger, and Wright voted yea.

Dr. Keith Leger, Council for a Better Louisiana, 251 Florida Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (337) 540-9441, spoke in support of House Bill No. 344.

Aaron Jura, 2637 North Galvez Street, New Orleans, LA 70117, (678) 365-6645, spoke in support of House Bill No. 344.

Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to adopt a two-minute rule for witness testimony during the meeting. Without objection, a two-minute rule for witness testimony was adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Brass, Steve Carter, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Leger, Simon, Smith, and Wright voted yea.

Karen K. Parrino, 7850 Lazy Oak Circle, Denham Springs, LA 70726, (225) 665-4477, spoke in support of House Bill No. 344.

McKenna Jenkins, 19127 Null Road, Loranger, LA 70446, (985) 247-5634, spoke in support of House Bill No. 344.

Clarence Osteen, 2637 North Galvez, New Orleans, LA 70117, (773) 558-2688, spoke in support of House Bill No. 344.

Lauren Trahan, 121 Arrowwood Road, Youngsville, LA 70592, (337) 654-5910, spoke in support of House Bill No. 344.

Meredith McGovern, 422 Antietam Drive, Bossier City, LA 71112, (713) 208-9902, spoke in support of House Bill No. 344.

Debra Schum, Louisiana Association of Principals, 103 Crawford Street, Winnfield, LA 71483, (504) 909-4650, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 344.

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. 344.

Cynthia Posey, Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9623 Brookline Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 603-1969, spoke in support of House Bill No. 344.

Representative Hilferty offered a motion to report House Bill No. 344 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 344 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Brass, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Falconer, Hilferty, Leger, Simon, Smith, and Wright voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 20 in support, 1 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 343 by Representative Steve Carter

Representative Steve Carter presented House Bill No. 343, which provides relative to the statutory rights of teachers.

Representative Amedee offered amendments to the original bill that would change the phrase "omission of information" to "the intentional omission of information". Representative Amedee 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, Brass, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Falconer, Hilferty, Leger, Simon, Smith, and Wright voted yea.

Dr. Keith Leger, Council for a Better Louisiana, 251 Florida Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (337) 540-9441, spoke in support of House Bill No. 343.

Karen K. Parrino, 7850 Lazy Oak Circle, Denham Springs, LA 70726, (225) 665-4477, spoke in support of House Bill No. 343.

Keith Courville, Associated Professional Educators of Louisiana (A+PEL), Wrenwood Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 571-4822, spoke in support of House Bill No. 343.

Aaron Jura, 2637 North Galvez Street, New Orleans, LA 70117, (678) 365-6645, spoke in support of House Bill No. 343.

Meredith McGovern, 422 Antietam Drive, Bossier City, LA 71112, (713) 208-9902, spoke in support of House Bill No. 343.

Representative Leger offered a motion to reconsider the previously adopted amendments. Without objection, the vote on the previously adopted amendments was reconsidered by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Brass, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Falconer, Hilferty, Leger, Simon, Smith, and Wright voted yea.

Representative Leger offered a motion to withdraw the previously adopted amendments. Without objection, the previously adopted amendments were withdrawn by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Brass, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Falconer, Hilferty, Leger, Simon, Smith, and Wright voted yea.

Representative Leger offered amendments that would add language to the original bill to protect teachers from coercion, harassment, and undue influence relative to any membership in any organization or participation in any political campaign. Representative Leger 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, Brass, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Falconer, Hilferty, Leger, Simon, Smith, and Wright voted yea.

Scott M. Richard, Louisiana School Boards Association, 7912 Summa Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (337) 278-5398, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 343.

Debra Schum, Louisiana Association of Principals, 103 Crawford Street, Winnfield, LA 70793, (504) 909-4650, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 343.

Tom Tate, Louisiana Association of Educators, 3327 One Calais, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 921-5637, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 343.

Cynthia Posey, Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9623 Brookline Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 603-1969, spoke in support of House Bill No. 344.

Representative Leger offered a motion to report House Bill No. 343 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 343 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Hall, Amedee, Brass, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Falconer, Hilferty, Leger, Simon, and Wright voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 18 in support and 3 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Vice Chairman Hall in the chair.

House Bill No. 387 by Representative Edmonds

Representative Edmonds presented House Bill No. 387, which revises the Parents' Bill of Rights for Public Schools.

Erin Bendily, state Department of Education, 1201 North 3rd Street, Claiborne Building., Baton Rouge, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 387.

Chairman Landry in the chair.

Rameisha Johnson, M.Ed., ED Navigator, 1435 Desire Street, New Orleans, LA 70117, (504) 330-1088, spoke in support of House Bill No. 387.

Joni Smith, 2017 Louisiana Teacher of the Year, 17114 Parker Lane, Hammond, LA 70403, (985) 969-3866, spoke in support of House Bill No. 387.

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. 387.

Representative Amedee offered a motion to report House Bill No. 387 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 387 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Brass, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Hall, Hilferty, Simon, Smith, and Wright voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 9 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 625 by Representative Edmonds

Representative Edmonds presented House Bill No. 625, which provides relative to maternity and adoptive leave for teachers.

Joni Smith, 2017 Louisiana Teacher of the Year, 17114 Parker Lane, Hammond, LA 70403, (985) 969-3866, spoke in support of House Bill No. 625.

Marketa Garner Walters, secretary, Department of Children and Family Services, 627 North 4th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-6930, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 625.

Wiley Brazier, V, 16333 Coliseum Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, (225) 324-5828, spoke in support of House Bill No. 625.

Carey Koch, 5970 Menlo Drive, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 907-5880, spoke in support of House Bill No. 625.

Mallory Wall-Padgett, Stand for Children Louisiana, 601 Laurel Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (337) 912-9051, spoke in support of House Bill No. 625.

Representative Hilferty offered a motion to report House Bill No. 625 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 625 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Brass, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Hall, Hilferty, Simon, Smith, and Wright voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 31 in support and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

The committee recessed at 12:07 p.m.

The committee reconvened at 12:53 p.m.

Chairman Landry announced that the following bills would be rolled over to tomorrow's (Thursday's) meeting: House Bills Nos. 413, 414, and 161; and HCR No. 12.

House Bill No. 499 by Representative Smith

Representative Smith presented House Bill No. 499, which provides relative to sex education instruction in public schools.

Dr. Lisanne Brown, 1515 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 301-9813, spoke in support of House Bill No. 499.

Julie Finger, M.D., 3211 DeSoto Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, (504) 982-5891, spoke in support of House Bill No. 499.

Racheal Hebert, Sexual Trauma, Awareness and Response (STAR), 623 South Eugene Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (985) 855-2534, spoke in support of House Bill No. 499.

Morgan Lamandre, legal director, STAR, 5615 Corporate Boulevard, Suite 200, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 615-7093, spoke in support of House Bill No. 499.

Nicolette Gordon, assistant area agent, Youth Development, Southern University Land Grant Campus/OMG Club, 8599 Joor Road, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 284-3597, spoke in support of House Bill No. 499.

Sashika Baunchand, Outstanding Mature Girls Organization, 8599 Joor Road, Suite C, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 456-6955, spoke in support of House Bill No. 499.

Dr. Elizabeth Meyers, 909 Sharon Street, Denham Springs, LA 70726, (225) 963-1711, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 499.

Elizabeth Demarest, Louisiana Family Forum, 655 St. Ferdinand Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 344-8533, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 499.

Dr. Will Hall, Louisiana Baptists Office of Public Policy, 1250 MacArthur Drive, Alexandria, LA 71309, (318) 449-4348, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 499.

Victoria Kelley, 600 Wooddale Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 939-3297, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 499.

Rev. Brian Gunter, pastor, First Baptist Church of Pollock, P. O. Box 309, Pollock, LA 71467, (318) 312-9861, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 499.

Latessia McClellan, 7524 Tricia Court, New Orleans, LA 70128, (504) 913-7989, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 499.

Dorinda Bordlee, 4801 Hessmer Avenue, Metairie, LA 70002, (504) 231-7234, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 499.

Kristie Cross, Louisiana Family Forum, 655 Street Ferdinand Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 344-8533, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 499.

Tyler Bosworth, director, Louisiana Alliance of Children's Advocacy Centers, no address given, (225) 281-8441, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 499.

Chelsea Buckley, Outstanding Mature Girls, no address given, spoke in support of House Bill No. 499.

Alexus Maiden, Outstanding Mature Girls, 10536 North Harvey Drive, no city given, (225) 200-8525, spoke in support of House Bill No. 499.

Representative Smith offered a motion to report House Bill No. 499 favorably, to which Representative Edmonds objected. The secretary called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas, 8 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Brass, Steve Carter, Hall, Leger, and Smith voted yea. Representatives Amedee, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hilferty, Simon, Thomas, and Wright voted nay. Representative Nancy Landry abstained.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 499. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 499 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, 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: 17 in support, 13 in opposition, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 554 by Representative Smith

Representative Smith presented House Bill No. 554, which authorizes the state Department of Education and the Department of Health to survey students regarding certain risk behavior associated with chronic health conditions.

Representative Smith offered amendments to the original bill that the survey be done only in high schools and that the student, at the request of parents or legal guardians be permitted to request that the student be excused from completing the survey. Representative Smith 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, Brass, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Simon, Smith, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Dr. Lianne Brown, 1515 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 301-9813, spoke in support of House Bill No. 554.

Julie Finger, M.D., 3211 DeSoto Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, (504) 982-5891, spoke in support of House Bill No. 554.

Rev. Brian Gunter, pastor, First Baptist Church of Pollock, P. O. Box 309, Pollock, LA 71467, (318) 765-3525, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 554.

Latessia McClellan, 7524 Tricia Court, New Orleans, LA 70128, (504) 913-7989, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 554.

Kristie Cross, Louisiana Family Forum, 655 St. Ferdinand Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 344-8533, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 554.

Drive Will Hall, Louisiana Baptists Office of Public Policy, 1250 MacArthur Drive, Alexandria, LA 71309, (318) 449-4348, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 554.

Jacob Schei, Southwest Louisiana AHEC, 103 Independence Boulevard, Lafayette, LA 70506, (337) 478-4822, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 554.

Representative Smith offered a motion to report House Bill No. 554 with amendments, to which Representative Edmonds objected. The secretary called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 3 yeas, 9 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Brass, Hall, and Smith voted yea. Representatives Amedee, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hilferty, Simon, Thomas, and Wright voted nay. Representative Nancy Landry abstained.

Representative Simon offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 554, to which Representative Smith objected. The secretary called the roll, and action on House Bill No. 554 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 9 yeas and 3 nays. Representatives Amedee, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hilferty, Simon, Thomas, and Wright voted yea. Representatives Brass, Hall, and Smith voted nay. Representative Nancy Landry abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 19 in support, 14 in opposition, and 1 for information only. 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 2:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Nancy Landry
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: