

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2018 Regular Session
April 5, 2018

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Nancy Landry, chairman of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:33 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 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:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Beverly Vincent, sergeant at arms
Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 498 by Representative Jordan**

Representative Jordan presented House Bill No. 498, which requires school crisis management and response plans to provide for parental notification in the event of a shooting or other violent incident or emergency situation.

Representative Amedee offered a motion to report House Bill No. 498 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 498 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Brass, Steve Carter, Falconer, Hall, Simon, 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.

The committee stood at ease until Representative Ivey arrived.

Vice Chairman Hall in the chair.

House Bill No. 413 by Representative Ivey

Representative Ivey presented House Bill No. 413, which creates a new Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) award, the TOPS Transfer Award, and raises grade point average and ACT score required for initial eligibility for a TOPS Opportunity Award.

Chairman Landry in the chair.

Robyn Lively, senior attorney, Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance, 602 North 5th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-7652, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 413.

Representative Nancy Landry offered amendments to the original bill that would:

1. Apply provision raising minimum GPA to maintain eligibility for an Opportunity Award once enrolled in college to students entering college in the fall of 2018 instead of those entering high school in the fall of 2018.
2. Add minimum ACT score for initial eligibility for TOPS Transfer Award (state average but never less than 20, which is the present law requirement for Opportunity Award).

Representative Nancy Landry 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, Brass, Steve Carter, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Simon, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Sujuan Boutte, executive director, Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance, 602 North 5th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-7652, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 413.

James Caillier, Taylor Foundation, no address given, New Orleans, LA, (504) 589-0470, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 413.

Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to adopt a two-minute rule for witness testimony and a three-minute rule during the question and answer period on House Bill No. 413. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Brass, Steve Carter, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Leger, Simon, Smith, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Representative Amedee offered a motion to report House Bill No. 413 with amendments, to which Representative Bouie objected. The secretary called the roll, and House Bill No. 413 was reported with amendments by a vote of 7 yeas, 6 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Amedee, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Simon, Thomas, and Wright voted yea. Representatives Bouie, Brass, Steve Carter, Hall, Leger, and Smith voted nay. Representative Nancy Landry abstained.

House Bill No. 414 by Representative Ivey

Representative Ivey presented House Bill No. 414, which raises grade point average required to maintain eligibility for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) Opportunity Award.

James Caillier, Taylor Foundation, no address given, New Orleans, LA, (504) 589-0420, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 414.

Sujuan Boutte, executive director, Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance, 602 North 5th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-7652, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 414.

Representative Simon offered a motion to report House Bill No. 414 favorably, to which Representative Hall objected. The secretary called the roll, and House Bill No. 414 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas, 5 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Amedee, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Simon, Thomas, and Wright voted yea. Representatives Bouie, Brass, Hall, Leger, and Smith voted nay. Representative Nancy Landry abstained.

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

Vice Chairman Hall in the chair.

House Bill No. 161 by Representative Garofalo

Representative Garofalo presented House Bill No. 161, which provides, under specified circumstances, for repayment of a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) award.

Sujuan Boutte, executive director, Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance, 602 North 5th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-7652, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 161.

James Caillier, Taylor Foundation, no address given, New Orleans, LA, (504) 589-0470, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 161.

Davante Lewis, Louisiana Budget Project, 619 Jefferson Highway., Suite. 1-D, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 614-9126, ext. 2, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 161.

Representative Amedee offered a motion to report House Bill No. 161 favorably, to which Representative Smith objected. The secretary called the roll, and House Bill No. 161 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas, 5 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Amedee, Brass, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Falconer, Hilferty, Simon, and Wright voted yea. Representatives Bouie, Emerson, Hall, Smith, and Thomas voted nay. Representative Nancy Landry abstained.

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

Chairman Landry in the chair.

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.

Sarah Vandergriff, Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools, 1324 New York Street, New Orleans, LA 70122, originally submitted a card in opposition to House Bill No. 225. She wants to remove the red card and submit a white card, instead, indicating the organization is offering information. Ms. Vandergriff did not submit the white card before the end of the committee meeting.

Representative Nancy Landry offered amendments to the original bill that would delete amendments that were passed by the House Committee on Education last week to remove all causes of childhood death and to remove nonpublic schools. Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to adopt the proposed deletion of previously added amendments. Without objection, the motion passed 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.

Representative Hilferty offered a motion to report House Bill No. 225 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 225 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Brass, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Simon, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support, 1 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

The committee stood at ease until Representative Norton arrived.

House Bill No. 575 by Representative Norton

Representative Norton presented House Bill No. 575, which relative to safety, provides for instruction in public schools and public postsecondary education institutions, provides for reporting online content to school and campus security officers and local law enforcement agencies.

Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 575. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 575 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Brass, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Simon, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

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.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**House Concurrent Resolution No. 12 by Representative Bagley**

Representative Landry announced that House Concurrent Resolution No. 12, which creates a task force to study issues related to teacher shortages in Louisiana, had been voluntarily deferred.

Representative Landry announced that House Bill No. 337, which requires public school governing authorities to develop policies relative to notifying certain school visitors of crisis management and response plans, had been voluntarily deferred.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Nancy Landry
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: