

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2018 Regular Session
April 26, 2018

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Nancy Landry, chairman of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:43 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 Kendricks "Ken" Brass
Representative Stephen F. Carter
Representative Rick Edmonds
Representative Julie Emerson
Representative Reid Falconer
Representative Stephanie Hilferty
Representative Walt Leger, III
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith
Representative Polly Thomas
Representative Mark Wright

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Joseph Bouie, Jr.
Representative Scott M. Simon

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. 670 by Representative Nancy Landry**

Representative Nancy Landry presented House Bill No. 670, which provides relative to school choice.

Representative Nancy Landry offered amendments to House Bill No. 670 that would:

1. Add a requirement that school governing authorities report policies required by present law to the state Department of Education by December 31, 2018.
2. Remove provision basing what constitutes sufficient capacity on rules promulgated by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Representative Nancy Landry 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, Hall, Amedee, Brass, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Leger, Smith, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to report House Bill No. 670 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 670 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Hall, Amedee, Brass, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Leger, Smith, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support, and 5 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 766 by Representative Pierre

Representative Pierre presented House Bill No. 766, which provides for access to behavioral health services providers in schools.

Nick Gautreaux, Louisiana Association of Behavior Health Providers, 2924 Knight Street, Building 4, Suite 434, Shreveport, LA 71105, (337) 319-0085, spoke in support of House Bill No. 766.

John Gianforte, MS, LPC, LMFT, president, Louisiana Association of Behavioral Health, 2924 Knight Street, Building #4, Suite 434, Shreveport, LA 71105, (318) 631-1122, spoke in support of House Bill No. 766.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to report House Bill No. 766 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 766 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Hall, Amedee, Brass, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Leger, Smith, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 16 in support, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 394 by Senator White

Senator White presented Senate Bill No. 394, which creates the TOPS-Tech 2Plus2 Award.

Barry Erwin, Council for a Better Louisiana, P. O. Box 4308, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 344-2225, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 394.

James A. Caillier, Taylor Foundation, One Lee Circle, New Orleans, LA, (504) 589-0471, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 394.

Representative Steve Carter offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 394 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 394 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Hall, Amedee, Brass, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Falconer, Leger, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 254 by Senator Appel

Senator Appel presented Senate Bill No. 254, which require the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to establish criteria whereby a teacher may be issued a dyslexia practitioner or dyslexia therapist ancillary certificate.

Dr. Laura Cassidy, Dyslexia Resource Center, no address given, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 254.

Kayla Reggio, Dyslexia Resource Center, 364 Government Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 384-5484, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 254.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 254 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 254 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Hall, Amedee, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Falconer, Leger, 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.

Senate Bill No. 46 by Senator Appel

Senator Appel presented Senate Bill No. 46, which provides relative to the master plan for postsecondary education.

Larry Tremblay, Board of Regents, no address given, (225) 342-4253, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 46.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 46 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 46 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Hall, Amedee, Brass, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Leger, 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.

Senate Bill No. 349 by Senator Appel

Senator Appel presented Senate Bill No. 349, which creates the Technology Strategy Task Force.

Representative Nancy Landry offered amendments to Senate Bill No. 349 that would make technical changes. Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Hall, Amedee, Brass, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Representative Wright offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 349 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 349 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Hall, Amedee, Brass, Edmonds, Emerson, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to adopt a two-minute rule for witness testimony. Without objection, the two-minute rule was adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Hall, Amedee, Brass, Edmonds, Emerson, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

House Bill No. 399 by Representative Gary Carter

Representative Gary Carter presented House Bill No. 399, which, in the event of insufficient funding, provides for reducing or eliminating Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) awards based on certain academic and financial criteria and eliminating payment of certain stipends to students.

Eva Kemp, Democrats for Education Reform, no address given, spoke in support of House Bill No. 399.

Representative Leger offered amendments to House Bill No. 399 that would provide that the Honors and Performance Awards be fully funded with no stipends added, and the remainder of recipients sharing pro rata. Representative Leger offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Thomas objected. The secretary called the roll, and the amendments were adopted by a vote of 6 yeas, 2 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Hall, Brass, Edmonds, Emerson, Leger, and Wright voted yea. Representatives Amedee and Thomas voted nay. Representative Nancy Landry abstained.

Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 399. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 399 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Brass, Edmonds, Emerson, Leger, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

House Resolution No. 112 by Representative Nancy Landry

Representative Landry announced that House Resolution No. 112, which requests that the Louisiana Community and Technical College System develop a pilot scholarship program for certain adults, would be rescheduled to the next committee meeting.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 45 by Representative Brass

Representative Landry announced that House Concurrent Resolution No. 45, which creates the Louisiana Commission on Safe Schools, had been voluntarily deferred at the request of the author.

House Bill No. 671 by Representative Nancy Landry

Representative Landry announced that House Bill No. 671, which provides relative to authorized payroll withholdings for professional organization dues and certain contracts with school boards, would be rescheduled to the next committee meeting.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Nancy Landry
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: