

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2019 Regular Session
May 7, 2019

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Nancy Landry, chairman of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:41 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 Kendricks "Ken" Brass
Representative Gary M. Carter, Jr., vice chairman
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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Polly Thomas

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Beverly Vincent, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 446 by Representative Steve Carter

Representative Steve Carter presented House Bill No. 446, which provides for a voucher program for certain public school students.

Dr. Erin Bendily, State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, 1201 North 3rd Street, Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 446.

Kelli Bottger, Louisiana Federation for Children, 37397 Cypress Alley Avenue, Gonzales, LA 70737, (225) 936-9800, spoke in support of House Bill No. 446.

Nathan Hoffman, Excellence in Education in Action, P. O. Box 10691, Tallahassee, FL 32302, (217) 503-7368, spoke in support of House Bill No. 446.

Representative Steve Carter offered a motion to report House Bill No. 446 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 446 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Bouie, Brass, Gary Carter, Steve Carter, Emerson, Falconer, Leger, and Simon voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 53 by Representative Moss

Representative Moss presented House Bill No. 53, which provides relative to suicide prevention in schools.

Representative Nancy Landry offered amendments to House Bill No. 53 which would:

1. Require the United Way of Southwest Louisiana's teen text hotline be printed on the back of student identification cards instead of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline hotline number, the Crisis Text Line number, and a local suicide prevention hotline number.
2. Make youth suicide prevention programs applicable to charter schools, instead of the identification card component.
3. Delete provision requiring all school employees to complete suicide prevention training and retain present law requiring employees as provided by rule to complete such training.

4. Add content requirements for suicide prevention in-service training. Remove such proposed law content requirements that would have been applicable to school governing authority policies.
5. Change requirement of frequency of BESE to survey schools on compliance with training requirements from annually to randomly.

Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Brass, Gary Carter, Steve Carter, Emerson, Falconer, Leger, and Simon voted yea.

Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to report House Bill No. 53 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 53 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Brass, Gary Carter, Steve Carter, Emerson, Falconer, Leger, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 100 by Representative Gisclair

Representative Gisclair presented House Bill No. 100, which provides relative to the maximum and minimum size of school boards.

Patrick M. Amedee, Lafourche Parish School Board, 627 Jackson Street, Suite 627, Thibodaux, LA 70301, (985) 476-4811, spoke in support of House Bill No. 100.

Marian Fertitta, Lafourche Parish School Board, 202 Parkside Drive, Thibodaux, LA 70301, (985) 447-3693, spoke in support of House Bill No. 100.

Robby Gisclair, Lafourche Parish School Board, 168 Providence Avenue, Cut Off, LA 70345, (985) 533-6089, spoke in support of House Bill No. 100.

Representative Nancy Landry offered amendments to House Bill No. 100 that remove present law exception allowing a school board to reapportion itself with greater than 15 members under certain circumstances. 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, Bouie, Brass, Gary Carter, Steve Carter, Emerson, Falconer, Leger, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to report House Bill No. 100 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 100 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Bouie, Brass, Gary Carter, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Leger, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Vice Chairman Gary M. Carter, Jr., in the chair.

House Bill No. 208 by Representative Brass

Representative Brass presented House Bill No. 208, which provides relative to educational facilities improvement districts.

Representative Smith offered a motion to report House Bill No. 208 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 208 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Bouie, Brass, Gary Carter, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Leger, Simon, and Smith 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.

Chairman Nancy Landry in the chair.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 40 by Representative Norton

Representative Norton presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 40, which requests the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to adopt policies requiring more rigorous student athlete health screenings.

Erin Bendily, State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, 1201 North 3rd Street, Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge, LA (no witness card), spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 40.

David E. McDaniels, Northshore Sports Foundation, 4735 McDaniel Drive, (318) 518-7666, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 40.

Cindy Bishop, Louisiana Athletic Trainers Association and Louisiana Orthopedic Association, P.O. Box 80053, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-0053, (225) 933-5435, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 40.

Representative Smith offered amendments to House Concurrent Resolution No. 40 which would change the addressee of the request from the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to public school governing authorities. 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, Bouie, Brass, Gary Carter, Steve Carter, Emerson, Falconer, Leger, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

Representative Brass offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 40 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 40 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Bouie, Brass, Gary Carter, Steve Carter, Emerson, Falconer, Leger, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

House Bill No. 160 by Representative Bouie

Representative Bouie presented House Bill No. 160, which provides for the collection and reporting of certain information relative to school safety and discipline.

Representative Bouie offered amendments to House Bill No. 160 that would:

1. Remove age from the list of categories for which student discipline information shall be disaggregated.
2. Add the number of school resource officers.

Representative Bouie offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gary Carter, Bouie, Brass, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Leger, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

Victor M. Jones, Southern Poverty Law Center Action Fund, Children's Right, 201 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70170, spoke in support of House Bill No. 160.

Representative Bouie offered a motion to report House Bill No. 160 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 160 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Gary Carter, Bouie, Brass, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Leger, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 16 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Chairman Nancy Landry in the chair.

House Bill No. 239 by Representative Jimmy Harris

Representative Jimmy Harris presented House Bill No. 239, which provides relative to required instruction in personal financial management for public school students.

Eva Kemp, Democrats for Education Reform LA, 900 Camp Street, Suite 360, New Orleans, LA 70130, (225) 229-0655, spoke in support of House Bill No. 239.

Representative Bouie offered a motion to report House Bill No. 239 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 239 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedée, Bouie, Brass, Gary Carter, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hilferty, Leger, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 14 in support, and 2 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 225 by Representative Edmonds

Representative Edmonds presented House Bill No. 225, which provides relative to the sale or transfer of charter school facilities financed through tax exempt bonds.

Representative Edmonds offered amendments to House Bill No. 225 that would:

1. If a charter operator declines an owner's offer to transfer to it a facility's title, require the facility to be offered for sale to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, rather than the local school board, if the state board is the chartering authority.
2. Relative to such an offer to the chartering authority, exclude those assets financed by tax-exempt bonds from the purchase price.

Representative Edmonds 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, Amedée, Bouie, Brass, Gary Carter, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hilferty, Leger, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

Representative Gary Carter 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, Amedée, Bouie, Brass, Gary Carter, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hilferty, Leger, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 321 by Representative Simon

Representative Simon presented House Bill No. 321, which authorizes school boards and chartering authorities to adopt policies relative to virtual school attendance.

Erin Bendily, State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, 1201 North 3rd Street, Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 321.

Nell Ranu, Southern Poverty Law Center Action Fund, 201 St. Charles Avenue, Suite 200, New Orleans, LA 70170, (504) 494-2042, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 321.

Representative Simon offered amendments to House Bill No. 321 that would add provisions relative to student engagement to the illustrative list of provisions that a chartering authority may include in policies or charter agreements relative to addressing excessive absences.

Representative Simon 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, Amedée, Bouie, Brass, Gary Carter, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hilferty, Leger, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

Representative Simon offered a motion to report House Bill No. 321 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 321 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedée, Bouie, Brass, Gary Carter, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hilferty, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support, and 2 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 167 by Representative Lance Harris

Representative Lance Harris presented House Bill No. 167, which revises requirements for certification, hiring, and dismissal of teachers and other school employees with respect to criminal history.

Dr. Erin Bendily, State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, 1201 North 3rd Street, Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 167.

Joan E. Hunt, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North 3rd Street, Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-3572, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 167.

Representative Nancy Landry offered a substitute bill for House Bill No. 167. Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the motion to adopt the substitute bill passed by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedée, Bouie, Brass, Gary Carter, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hilferty, Leger, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to report House Bill No. 167 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 167 was reported by substitute by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedée, Bouie, Brass, Gary Carter, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hilferty, Leger, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 24 by Representative Glover

Representative Glover presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 24, which requests that the Board of Regents study how to meet education, economic, and workforce needs of the Shreveport-Bossier region, including through establishment of Southern University Law Center campus in Shreveport.

John K. Pierre, Southern University Law Center, 2 Roosevelt Steptoe Drive, Suite 261, Baton Rouge, LA 70813, (225) 774-2555, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 24.

Representative Gary Carter offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 24 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 24 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedée, Bouie, Brass, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hilferty, Leger, Simon, and Smith 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. 470 by Representative Glover

Representative Glover presented House Bill No. 470, which provides for the merger of Louisiana Tech University and Louisiana State University at Shreveport.

Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 470. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 470 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedée, Bouie, Brass, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hilferty, Leger, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in opposition, and 2 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 12:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Nancy Landry
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: