

## **House Committee on Education**

Minutes of Meeting  
2020 Second Extraordinary Session  
October 14, 2020

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Representative Raymond E. Garofalo, Jr., chairman of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m. in Room 1, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Representative Raymond E. Garofalo, Jr., chairman  
Representative Beryl A. Amedée  
Representative Gary M. Carter Jr.  
Representative Rick Edmonds  
Representative Aimee Adatto Freeman  
Representative Barbara Reich Freiberg  
Representative Stephanie Hilferty  
Representative Patrick O. Jefferson  
Representative Charles Anthony Owen  
Representative Tammy T. Phelps  
Representative Vincent "Vinney" J. St. Blanc, III  
Representative Phillip Eric Tarver  
Representative Polly Thomas  
Representative Mark Wright, vice chairman

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Kendricks "Ken" Brass  
Representative Blake Miguez

#### **STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Elizabeth L. Borné, legislative analyst  
Lisa Lovello, legislative analyst  
Jacqueline Snowden, committee administrative assistant

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms  
Faye Talbot, sergeant at arms  
Danny Leming, sergeant at arms

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION****Senate Bill No. 45 by Senator Fields**

On behalf of Senator Fields, Representative Zeringue presented Senate Bill No. 45, which provides for the "Lod Cook Act" which authorizes the governor to appoint persons who reside out-of-state as certain at-large members of the public postsecondary boards of supervisors.

Representative Garofalo offered amendments that changed the date of the election where the proposed constitutional amendment will be submitted to the voters from April 24, 2021, to December 5, 2020. Representative Garofalo offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Carter, Freiberg, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Dr. Kim Hunter Reed, Board of Regents, no address provided, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 45.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 45 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 45 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Carter, Freiberg, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**Senate Bill No. 44 by Senator Fields**

On behalf of Senator Fields, Representative Zeringue presented Senate Bill No. 44, a constitutional amendment to authorize the governor to appoint persons who reside out-of-state as certain at-large members of public postsecondary education boards of supervisors.

Representative Garofalo offered amendments to change the election at which the proposed constitutional amendment will be submitted to voters. Representative Garofalo offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of

9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Carter, Freiberg, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Representative Garofalo offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 44 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 44 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Carter, Freiberg, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

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

### **House Bill No. 91 by Representative Amedée**

Representative Amedée presented House Bill No. 91, which provides relative to student discipline.

Representative Amedée offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 91. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 91 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Carter, Freiberg, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

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

### **Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 3 by Senator Cathey**

Senator Cathey presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 3, which requests the Board of Regents to study allowing Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) and GO Grant awards to be used for summer semester immediately following high school graduation.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 3 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 3 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Carter, Edmonds, Freiberg, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

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

### **Senate Bill No. 11 by Senator Cathey**

Senator Cathey presented Senate Bill No. 11, which prohibits certain schools from being members of any interscholastic extracurricular athletic association or organization that does not have certain persons as members of its executive committee.

Representative Freiberg offered amendments that removed the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president of the Senate from the proposed law requirement regarding membership on the governing board of an athletic organization. Representative Freiberg offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Carter, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 11 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 11 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Edmonds, Carter, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

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

#### **House Resolution No. 15 by Representative Pierre**

Representative Pierre presented House Resolution No. 15, which requests the state Department of Education and Louisiana Department of Health to identify resources necessary to install water bottle filling stations in schools.

Ashley Hebert, American Heart Association, 2644 South Sherwood Forest, Suite 108, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, (337) 298-1778, spoke in support of House Resolution No. 15.

Dr. Keith Leger, Louisiana Department of Education, 2901 North River Road, Baton Rouge, LA, (337) 540-9441, spoke for information only on House Resolution No. 15.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 15 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 15 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Carter, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Charles Owen, Phelps, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

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

#### **Senate Bill No. 70 by Senator Jackson**

Senator Jackson presented Senate Bill No. 70, which provides for legislative approval of State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) adopted adjustments to the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) formula by ballot when the legislature is not in session.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 70 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 70 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Carter, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, Tarver, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

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

### **Senate Bill No. 42 by Senator Bouie**

Senator Bouie presented Senate Bill No. 42, which provides for the duties of the local school superintendent when certain schools in the Recovery School District are returned to the transferring school board.

Representative Hughes spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 42.

Representative Garofalo stated that Congressman Richmond wrote a letter in support of Senate Bill No. 42, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Willard spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 42.

Caroline Roemer, Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools, no address provided, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 42.

Representative Carter offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 42 favorably, to which Representative Edmonds objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas and 9 nays. Representatives Carter, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, and Wright voted yea. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted nay.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on Senate Bill No. 42, to which Representative Carter objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and action on Senate Bill No. 42 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 9 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Charles Owen, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea. Representatives Carter, Jefferson, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Wright voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support, and 5 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**Senate Bill No. 31 by Senator Fields**

On behalf of Senator Fields, Dannie Garrett, Louisiana State Bar Association, 635 Main Street #3, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 382-0333, presented Senate Bill No. 31, which prohibits use of statewide student assessments conducted during the 2020-2021 school year for the purposes of evaluating teacher performance or student placement decisions.

Representative Charles Owen offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 31 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 31 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, Tarver, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 82 by Representative Amedée**

Representative Amedée presented House Bill No. 82, which prohibits a school from sharing a student's personally identifiable information relative to illness or disease with the Department of Health for purposes of the Sanitary Code or any other purpose without parental consent.

Patricia Wilton, office of the attorney general of Louisiana, 1885 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 326-6000, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 82.

Representative Tarver offered a motion to report House Bill No. 82 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 82 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

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

**House Bill No. 81 by Representative Garofalo**

Representative Garofalo presented House Bill No. 81, which prohibits a school from sharing a student's personally identifiable information relative to illness or disease with the Department of Health for purposes of the Sanitary Code or any other purpose without parental consent.

Representative Garofalo offered a motion to report House Bill No. 81 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 81 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support, 2 in opposition, and 3 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

### **House Bill No. 96 by Representative Freeman**

Representative Freeman presented House Bill No. 96, which provides relative to sharing of student information for the purpose of administering the pandemic electronic benefits transfer (P-EBT) program.

Representative Garofalo offered amendments that made the requirement that schools share a student's information contingent upon the request of that student's parent. Representative Garofalo offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Jefferson, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Representative Hilferty offered a motion to report House Bill No. 96 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 96 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Jefferson, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 9 in support, and 3 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

### **Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 2 by Senator Fields**

On behalf of Senator Fields, Representative Garofalo presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 2, which requests Louisiana Community and Technical College System and SOWELA administrators to work together to study the impacts of hurricanes Laura and Delta on the institution and its student body in order to inform any legislative requests for the 2021 Regular Session.

Representative Garofalo offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 2 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 2 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Jefferson, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**Senate Bill No. 23 by Senator McMath**

On behalf of Senator McMath, Representative Hilferty presented Senate Bill No. 23, which requires school boards to accept certification of illness from a nurse practitioner or physician assistant when employees use leave due to personal illness.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 23 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 23 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support. 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 12:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Raymond E. Garofalo, Jr.  
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: