

## **House Committee on Education**

Minutes of Meeting  
2020 Regular Session  
May 6, 2020

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

Representative Raymond E. Garofalo, Jr., chairman of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:05 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 Kendrick "Ken" Brass  
Representative Gary M. Carter, Jr.  
Representative Rick Edmonds  
Representative Aimee Adatto Freeman  
Representative Barbara Reich Freiberg  
Representative Stephanie Hilferty  
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 Patrick O. Jefferson  
Representative Blake Miguez

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

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

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

The committee stood at ease at 9:06 a.m.

The committee reconvened at 9:08 a.m.

**III. OTHER BUSINESS****Adoption of Committee Rules of Procedure**

Representative Garofalo offered a motion to adopt the House Committee on Education Rules of Procedure distributed at the March 11, 2020, organizational meeting for the members' review. There was no objection and the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Brass, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

**Consider for legislative approval the plans submitted by schools and school systems for the expenditure of Education Excellence Fund (EEF) monies.**

Beth Scioneaux, acting state superintendent of schools, Louisiana Department of Education, Claiborne Building, 1201 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 342-3617, described the EEF and how the funds are distributed. Ms. Scioneaux said the EEF originated in the late 1990s, when the state became the beneficiary of funds from the tobacco settlement. She said the legislature dedicated a portion of the settlement to k-12 education and that the Department of Education works with local school systems to help them make plans for the allocation of the funds. She noted that the information distributed to committee members contains reports detailing school system plan submissions.

Representative Garofalo offered a motion to adopt the Education Excellence Fund plans. There was no objection and the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Brass, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

**IV. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION****House Bill No. 823 by Representative Hilferty**

Representative Hilferty presented House Bill No. 823, which creates a new category of early childhood care facility, the early learning home provider, and requires licensure by the state Department of Education as a condition of operation.

Representative Garofalo offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 823. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 823 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Brass, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

### **House Bill No. 251 by Representative Hilferty**

Representative Hilferty presented House Bill No. 251, which recreates the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission.

Representative Garofalo offered amendments to House Bill No. 251 to:

1. Increase commission membership by adding two members.
2. Additionally require the commission to:
  - (a) Establish a task force to identify and recommend alternative state and local funding strategies.
  - (b) Make recommendations relative to the incorporation of family child care providers into the early childhood care and education network.

Representative Garofalo offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Brass, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Gary Carter offered a motion to report House Bill No. 251 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 251 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Brass, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea.

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

### **House Bill No. 559 by Representative Duplessis**

Representative Duplessis presented House Bill No. 559, which provides with respect to early childhood literacy.

Tim Mathis, Legislative Fiscal Office, state of Louisiana, 900 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-7233, spoke for information only (no witness card submitted).

Representative Gary Carter offered a motion to report House Bill No. 559 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 559 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Brass, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, Thomas, and Wright 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. 676 by Representative Emerson**

Representative Emerson presented House Bill No. 676, which prohibits a public postsecondary education institution from withholding certain student services for financial reasons.

Representative Freeman offered amendments that would limit the applicability of proposed law to Louisiana public colleges and universities. Representative Freeman offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Phelps objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, St. Blanc, Thomas, and Wright voted yea. Representatives Brass, Gary Carter, Charles Owen, Phelps, and Tarver voted nay.

Chris Broadwater, Louisiana Community and Technical College System, 265 South Foster, Baton Rouge, LA, (985) 634-3283, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 676.

Dr. Jim Henderson, president, University of Louisiana System, 1201 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 7-300, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-6509, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 676.

Anna Osland, director of workforce and education policy, One Acadiana, 804 East St. Mary Boulevard, Lafayette, LA, (337) 408-3676, spoke in support of House Bill No. 676.

Davante Lewis, Louisiana Budget Project, 619 Jefferson Highway, Suite 1-D, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in support of House Bill No. 676.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Bill No. 676 with amendments, to which Representative Wright objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 676 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 3 nays. Representatives Amedée, Brass, Gary Carter, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Thomas voted yea. Representatives Garofalo, Edmonds, and Wright voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support, 1 in opposition, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 689 by Representative Zeringue**

Representative Zeringue presented House Bill No. 689, which provides relative to the operations of public colleges and universities.

Representative Amedée offered a motion to report House Bill No. 689 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 689 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, Tarver, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support, and 3 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 740 by Representative Wright**

Representative Wright presented House Bill No. 740, which prohibits public postsecondary education institutions from disclosing certain student information.

Representative Wright offered amendments to House Bill No. 740 that would:

1. Broaden exception to the prohibition on sharing information to allow it to be shared with an employee of any public postsecondary education institution or public agency who needs it to perform official duties.
2. Remove postal address from definition of contact information.

Representative Wright 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, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Dr. Kim Hunter Reed, Louisiana Board of Regents, no address given, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 740.

Representative Wright offered a motion to report House Bill No. 740 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 740 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Brass, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**House Bill No. 734 by Representative Brass**

Representative Brass presented House Bill No. 734, which provides relative to access to dual enrollment.

Representative Brass offered amendments to House Bill No. 734 that would:

1. Retain present law provisions relative to the Dual Enrollment Task Force.
2. Add provisions regarding effect of proposed law on developing and continuing agreements between public school boards and public postsecondary education institutions relative to dual enrollment.

Representative Brass offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Brass, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Dr. Kim Hunter Reed, Louisiana Board of Regents, no address given, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 734.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 734 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 734 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Brass, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, Tarver, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals 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. 786 by Representative Garofalo**

Representative Garofalo presented House Bill No. 786, which provides relative to qualifications for Taylor Opportunity Program for Students scholarships.

Representative Garofalo offered a motion to adopt a substitute bill to House Bill No. 786. Without objection, the motion to adopt the substitute to House Bill No. 786 passed by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Brass, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Freiberg, Hilferty, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, Tarver, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Sujuan Boutte, Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance/Louisiana Board of Regents, 602 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 219-7294, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 786.

Representative Garofalo offered a motion to report House Bill No. 786 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 786 was reported by substitute by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Brass, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Freiberg, Hilferty, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, Tarver, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

## **V. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: