

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2020 Regular Session
May 13, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Raymond E. Garofalo, Jr., chairman of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:03 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 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 Blake Miguez

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

None

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Concurrent Resolution No. 20 by Representative White**

Representative White presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 20, which requests that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education study the compensation schedule for school bus operators.

Mary-Patricia Wray, Louisiana School Bus Operators Association, 711 North 6th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 20.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 20 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 20 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Brass, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, 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.

House Bill No. 37 by Representative McMahan

Representative McMahan presented House Bill No. 37, which provides that the annual amount of a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) award at Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College shall match the annual award amount at other technical community colleges.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report House Bill No. 37 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 37 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Brass, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

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

House Concurrent Resolution No. 33 by Representative Freiberg

Representative Freiberg presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 33, which requests the Board of Regents, Department of Revenue, Louisiana Workforce Commission, and office of student financial assistance to collaborate to study the trajectory of Louisiana's postsecondary graduates.

Maggie Spurlock, Baton Rouge Area Chamber, 564 Laurel Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 33.

Representative Freeman offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 33 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 33 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Brass, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, 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.

House Bill No. 848 by Representative James

On behalf of Representative James, Representative Brass presented House Bill No. 848, which provides that Act No. 833 of the 2014 Regular Session, which provides for alternative pathways for grade level promotion and graduation of certain special education students, shall be known and may be cited as the "April Dunn Act".

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 848 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 848 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Brass, Gary Carter, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 391 by Representative Marino

Representative Marino presented House Bill No. 391, which provides for screening, diagnosis, and intervention with respect to students with dyslexia.

Representative Freeman offered a substitute to House Bill No. 391. Representative Freeman offered a motion to adopt the substitute. Without objection, the substitute was adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Brass, Gary Carter, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Dr. Laura Cassidy, Dyslexia Resource Center, Government Street, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 802-9941, spoke in support of House Bill No. 391.

Representative Freeman offered a motion to report House Bill No. 391 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 391 was reported by substitute by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Brass, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 655 by Representative Mincey

Representative Mincey presented House Bill No. 655, which provides relative to the employment of superintendents of schools.

Dannie Garrett, Louisiana School Boards Association, 635 Main Street #3, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 382-0333, spoke in support of House Bill No. 655.

Representative Charles Owen offered a motion to report House Bill No. 655 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 655 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Brass, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Jefferson, 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 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 611 by Representative McKnight

Representative McKnight presented House Bill No. 611, which provides relative to the collection and sharing of certain student information.

Representative Garofalo offered amendments to House Bill No. 611 that designated a date for sharing certain student information, protected student data, and made technical amendments. Representative Garofalo offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Brass, Gary Carter, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, Tarver, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Dr. Ali Bustamate, Louisiana Workforce Commission, 1001 North 23rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 342-3141, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 611.

Kim Nesmith, Louisiana Department of Education, Claiborne Building, 1201 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 611.

John Schroder, office of the Louisiana state treasurer, 601 Bocage Court, Covington, LA 70433, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 611.

Dannie Garrett, Louisiana School Boards Association, 635 Main Street #3, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 382-0333, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 611.

Jill Cowart, Louisiana Department of Education, Claiborne Building, 1201 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 937-6943, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 611.

Representative Garofalo offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 611. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 611 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Brass, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Jefferson, 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.

House Bill No. 409 by Representative LaCombe

Representative LaCombe presented House Bill No. 409, which provides with respect to purchasing by school boards.

Representative Garofalo offered amendments to House Bill No. 409 that add a provision regarding construal of present law and proposed law, which provide for when purchases may be made through a group purchasing organization. Representative Garofalo offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Brass, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, Tarver, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Representative Brass offered a motion to report House Bill No. 409 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 409 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Brass, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, Tarver, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 853 by Representative Turner

Representative Turner presented House Bill No. 853, which establishes a Digital Content and Curriculum Fund to provide classrooms with digital content and curriculum.

Richard Strong, district superintendent, West Carroll Parish, 410 Davis Road, Oak Grove, LA, (318) 669-0930, spoke in support of House Bill No. 853.

Representative Gary Carter offered a motion to report House Bill No. 853 favorably, to which Representative Charles Owen objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 3 yeas and 12 nays. Representatives Gary Carter, Jefferson, and St. Blanc voted yea. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Brass, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Charles Owen, Phelps, Tarver, Thomas, and Wright voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, 2 in opposition, and 1 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 12:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: