

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2020 Regular Session
May 19, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Raymond E. Garofalo, Jr., chairman of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:06 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 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 Gary M. Carter, Jr.
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

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 23 by Senator Fields**

Senator Fields presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 23, which suspends certain laws relative to school closures due to COVID-19.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 23 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 23 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, 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: 2 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 52 by Senator Fields

Senator Fields presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 52, which requests the Board of Regents and the postsecondary education management boards to adopt a flexible and holistic admissions policy for summer and fall 2020 semesters due to COVID-19.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 52 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 52 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, Tarver, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

House Bill No. 542 by Representative Edmonston

Representative Garofalo announced that House Bill No. 542 by Representative Edmonston, which creates the Dyslexia Commission, had been voluntarily deferred.

Representative Garofalo offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 542. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 542 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, Tarver, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 84 by Senator Fields

Senator Fields presented Senate Bill No. 84, which provides relative to legislative approval of Education Excellence Fund expenditure plans.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 84 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 84 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, 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: 2 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 481 by Senator Fields

Senator Fields presented Senate Bill No. 481, which provides relative to students impacted due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Sujuan W. Boutte, Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance/Louisiana Board of Regents, 602 North 5th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-7294, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 481.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 481 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 481 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, 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: 3 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 78 by Senator Foil

Senator Foil presented Senate Bill No. 78, which provides relative to disbursement of funds from START savings accounts.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 78 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 78 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, 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: 3 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 54 by Senator Boudreaux

On behalf of Senator Boudreaux, Senator Foil presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 54, which memorializes Congress to maintain funding to the Corporation for National and Community Service and its programs, including the LaVetCorps.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 54 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 54 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, Tarver, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 312 by Senator Fesi

On behalf of Senator Fesi, Representative Fontenot presented Senate Bill No. 312, which provides relative to the environmental education and litter reduction section of the state Department of Education.

Leslie Hill, Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, 1201 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA (225) 342-4052, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 312.

Representative Thomas offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 312 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 312 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, Tarver, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 22 by Senator Barrow

Representative Garofalo announced that Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 22 by Senator Barrow, which requests the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to suspend statewide standardized assessments for the 2019-2020 school year due to COVID-19, had been voluntarily deferred.

Representative Garofalo offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 22. Without objection, action on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 22 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, Tarver, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

House Bill No. 425 by Representative Schexnayder

On behalf of Representative Schexnayder, Chad Major presented House Bill No. 425, which revises membership and provides relative to powers and duties of the Louisiana Fire and Emergency Training Commission.

Representative Garofalo offered amendments to House Bill No. 425 that would:

1. Remove proposed law provision prohibiting a vote by the chancellor (or his designee) unless needed for a tiebreaker.
2. Remove proposed law provision granting the commission final authority on the approval of certain matters.
3. Add a requirement that LSU submit the proposed annual budget for the firemen training program to the commission.
4. Add a requirement that the commission be given an opportunity to recommend a candidate to fill an employment vacancy.
5. Add a requirement that the commission be apprised relative to grant opportunities available to FETI.
6. Remove proposed law provision transferring operation and jurisdiction of the firemen training film library from LSU to the commission.

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, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, Tarver, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

Chad Major, Professional Firefighters Association of Louisiana, 8011 Merle Gustafson Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70807, (225) 572-8483, spoke in support of House Bill No. 425.

Winston Decuir, Jr., Louisiana State University, 3810 West Lakeshore Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 578-4126, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 425.

Representative Amedée offered a motion to report House Bill No. 425 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 425 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, 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 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 474 by Representative Freeman

Representative Freeman presented House Bill No. 474, which provides relative to the training requirements of certain mandatory reporters of child abuse and neglect.

Representative Freeman offered amendments to House Bill No. 474 that would:

1. Change timeline for completion of required training from within the first two weeks of each new school year to between June 1st and August 31st annually.
2. Make proposed law effective upon signature by the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

Representative Freeman 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, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, Tarver, Thomas, and Wright voted yea.

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. 474.

Rhenda Hodnett, Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services, 627 North 4th Street, Baton Rouge, LA (225) 342-4044, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 474.

Leslie Hill, Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, 1201 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 342-4052, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 474.

Morgan Lamandre, Sexual Trauma Awareness & Response, 5615 Corporate Boulevard, Suite 200, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 615-7093, spoke in support of House Bill No. 474.

Representative Wright offered a motion to report House Bill No. 474 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 474 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, 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: 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Resolution No. 34 by Representative McKnight

On behalf of Representative McKnight, Representative Garofalo presented House Resolution No. 34, which requests that the state Department of Education, Louisiana Workforce Commission, and

Board of Regents jointly report on the status of data sharing agreements for the purpose of evaluating the Jump Start program.

Representative Wright offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 34 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 34 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, 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: 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 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: