

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2021 Regular Session
April 22, 2021

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 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 Mark Wright, vice chairman

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Barbara Reich Freiberg

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Elizabeth L. Borne, legislative analyst
Lisa Lovello, legislative analyst
Jennifer Watson, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 85 by Representative McKnight

Representative McKnight presented House Bill No. 85, which creates a literacy program for certain public school students.

Representative Garofalo offered amendments to House Bill No. 85 that would:

1. Specify that the applications the department shall process and accept are those for both students and service providers.
2. Specify that potential service providers shall include those with expertise in early literacy.
3. Change the annual deadline from October 31 to September 30 for public school governing authorities to notify parents of eligible students regarding the program application process and require that authorities notify parents after the September 30 deadline if a reading deficiency is discovered after such date.
4. Increase maximum payment for services per student from \$500 to \$1,000.
5. Specify that the teaching certificate an eligible tutor holds shall be in elementary education or reading and requires that an eligible tutor be trained in the state English language arts standards.
6. Add reading services provided by public schools and public school districts to the list of eligible expenses.
7. Change the types of funds that can be used for program purposes.

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

Representative Jason Hughes spoke in support of House Bill No. 85.

Ethan Melancon, Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE)/Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (985) 859-4649, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 85.

Dr. Keith Leger, Louisiana Department of Education, no address given, (337) 540-9441, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 85.

Stephen Waguespack, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, no address given, spoke in support of House Bill No. 85.

Representative Wright offered a motion to report House Bill No. 85 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 85 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Brass, Gary Carter, Freeman, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Wright voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 18 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 1 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 11 by Representative Hughes

Representative Hughes presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 11, which requests the Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to develop a plan for providing school literacy coaches for students in kindergarten through second grade in elementary schools identified as needing improvement.

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

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 11 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 253 by Representative McKnight

Representative McKnight presented House Bill No. 253, which provides relative to the governance and funding of the Special School District, which provides special education services through its schools and programs.

Representative Garofalo offered amendments to House Bill No. 253 that would increase board membership from 9 to 11 by adding a member of the Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) appointed by the BESE president and an additional member appointed by the governor. 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, Freeman, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Wright voted yea.

Ethan Melancon, Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE)/Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (985) 859-4649, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 253.

Beth Scioneaux, Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE), 5th Floor, Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-3617, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 253.

Ernest E. Garrett, III, LDOE/ SSD/ SSP/ LSDVI, 2888 Brightside Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 757-3370, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 253.

Karen Harris, 21337 Jon Michelle, Zachary, LA 70791, (225) 454-5675, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 253.

Quentina Timoll, LDOE, 6153 Ridgemore Drive, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 955-4177, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 253.

Jay Isch, Deaf Focus, 4332 Rhoda Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 341-6337, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 253.

Representative Jefferson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 253 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 253 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Brass, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Freeman, Hilferty, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, Tarver, 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. 60 by Representative Brass

Representative Brass presented House Bill No. 60, which removes the termination of the Dual Enrollment Framework Task Force.

Kim Hunter Reed, Board of Regents, no address given, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 60.

Michael Faulk, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, 2713 Indian Mound Boulevard, Monroe, LA, (225) 229-6021, spoke in support of House Bill No. 60.

Representative Jefferson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 60 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 60 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Brass, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Freeman, Hilferty, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Wright voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 119 by Representative Hughes

Representative Hughes presented House Bill No. 119, which provides relative to the Advisory Council on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Kim Hunter Read, commissioner of higher education, no address given, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 119.

Representative Freeman offered a motion to report House Bill No. 119 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 119 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Brass, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Freeman, Hilferty, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, Tarver, 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. 409 by Representative Freeman

Representative Freeman presented House Bill No. 409, which provides relative to campus safety and accountability.

Representative Freeman offered amendments to House Bill No. 409 that would:

1. Revise terminology to refer to "power-based abuse" instead of "power-based violence" and revise terminology contained within the definition of "power-based abuse".
2. Add requirement for management boards to report annually to the Board of Regents.
3. Specify that each memorandum of understanding (MOU) shall be written and signed by all parties.

4. Revise procedures for communication between institutions about student transfers and transcript withholding between institutions relative to students under investigation.
5. Apply training requirement to members of the Board of Regents.
6. Reinstate present law relative to frequency of survey administration.

Airzola Cleaves, Sexual Trauma Awareness and Response (STAR), 5615 Corporate Boulevard, Suite 200, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 615-7093, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 409.

Kim Hunter Reed, Board of Regents, no address given, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 409.

Representative Freeman offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Brass, Edmonds, Freeman, Hilferty, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Akai Smith, Ph.D., Southern University System, J.S. Clark Administration Building, 4th Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70813, (225) 771-4955, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 409.

Airzola Cleaves, STAR, 5615 Corporate Boulevard, Suite 200, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 615-7093, spoke in support of House Bill No. 409.

Joshua Sretanics, LSU students, Tigers Against Sexual Assault, 14155 Highway 73, Unit 34, Prairieville, LA 70769, (225) 408-9650, spoke in support of House Bill No. 409.

Angelina Cantelli, Tigers Against Sexual Assault, no address given, spoke in support of House Bill No. 409.

Kerry Williams, 9863 Mollylea, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 409.

Ricky Bryant, 5002 Feliciana Drive, Bossier City, LA 71112, (318) 470-6322, spoke in support of House Bill No. 409.

Representative Freeman 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 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Edmonds, Freeman, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Wright voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 11 in support and 10 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 1 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 42 by Representative Davis

On behalf of Representative Davis, Kim Hunter Reed presented House Bill No. 42, which provides relative to financial aid.

Kim Hunter Reed, Board of Regents, no address given, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 42.

Representative Garofalo offered technical amendments to House Bill No. 42. 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, Edmonds, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Wright voted yea.

Representative Amedée offered amendments to House Bill No. 42 that would exempt private loans from proposed law. Representative Amedee 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, Amedee, Edmonds, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Wright voted yea.

Chandler Vidrine, Board of Regents, Council of Student Body Presidents and Southern University SGA, no address given spoke for information only on House Bill No. 42.

Representative Tarver offered a motion to report House Bill No. 42 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 42 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedee, Edmonds, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, Tarver, 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. 394 by Representative Riser

Representative Riser presented House Bill No. 394, which provides for mandatory reporting of sexual misconduct at postsecondary education institutions and requires such institutions to post reports relative to campus security policies and campus crime statistics on their websites.

Representative Garofalo offered amendments to House Bill No. 394 that would remove provisions relative to mandatory reporting of incidents of sexual misconduct. Representative Garofalo offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Wright voted yea.

Representative Garofalo offered amendments to House Bill No. 394 that:

1. Instead of providing for a Tuition Opportunity Programs for Students (TOPS) reduction for an institution's failure to comply, provides a prohibition against the Bond Commission's approving an institution's debt incurrence for a two-year period.
2. Limit applicability of proposed law to public institutions.

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, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Freeman, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Wright voted yea.

Joshua Sretanics, Tigers Against Sexual Assault, 14155 Highway 73, Unit 34, Prairieville, LA 70769, (225) 408-9650, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 394.

Mia Lejeune, LSU student, Tigers Against Sexual Assault, 3347 Nicholson Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (337) 384-3357, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 394.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to report House Bill No. 394 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 394 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Freeman, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Wright voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, 6 for information only, and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 1 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Adoption of minutes from meetings of the House Committee on Education held in the 2020 Regular Session on March 11, May 6, May 13, May 19, and May 27, 2020, and in the First Extraordinary Session on June 11 and June 29, 2020

Representative Amedée offered a motion to adopt. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedee, Gary Carter, Edmonds, Freeman, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Wright voted yea.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: