

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2021 Regular Session
April 27, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Raymond E. Garofalo, Jr., chairman of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:18 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 Mark Wright, vice chairman

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lisa Lovello, legislative analyst
Bryan D. Vincent, director
Valarie Banks, executive assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 564 by Representative Garofalo

Representative Garofalo presented House Bill No. 564, which provides relative to training with respect to certain concepts related to race and sex in elementary and secondary schools and postsecondary education institutions.

Vice chairman Mark Wright in the chair.

Representative Garofalo offered amendments to House Bill No. 564 that would:

- 1) Name the Act: "The Every Student is Equal Act".
- 2) Add national origin to all references of race and sex.
- 3) Add precise definitions.
- 4) Make the Act effective during the 2021-2022 school year.

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

Claston Bernard, no address given, (225) 454-7184, spoke in support of House Bill No. 564.

Mike Gonzales, no address given, (202) 292-0717, spoke in support of House Bill No. 564.

Jonathan Butcher, no address given, (202) 531-7283, spoke in support of House Bill No. 564.

Representative Garofalo offered a motion to limit opposition testimony to three minutes to which Representative Gary Carter objected.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to impose a three-minute time limit on testimony for House Bill No. 564, to which Representative Gary Carter objected. No vote was taken.

Representative Amedée offered a substitute motion to table discussion on House Bill No. 564 until other bills on the agenda were completed. Representative Gary Carter objected and the administrative assistant called the roll on the substitute motion. The substitute motion failed to pass by a vote of 1 yea and 12 nays. Representative Amedée voted yea. Representatives Garofalo, Brass,

Gary Carter, Edmonds, Freiberg, Hilferty, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Wright voted nay.

The committee considered the original motion by Representative Edmonds to impose a three-minute time limit on testimony for House Bill No. 564. Representative Gary Carter objected, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 3 yeas and 11 nays. Representatives Edmonds, Freiberg, and Charles Owen voted yea. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Brass, Gary Carter, Freeman, Hilferty, Jefferson, Phelps, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Wright voted nay.

Vice Chairman Wright announced that seven emails in support and 104 emails in opposition had been submitted to the committee and shared with the members.

Sandy Holloway, president, Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), 120 Godchaux Drive, Thibodeaux, LA 70501, (985) 414-3131, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 564.

Belinda Davis, BESE member, 4540 Hyacinth Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 202-2698, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 564.

Preston Castille, BESE member, District 8, 3038 Belle Cherie Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70820, (225) 381-0217, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 564.

Catherine Jacquet, 346 East Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (773) 972-1761, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 564.

David Stamps, 1037 Foxtail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70820, (818) 284-8658, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 564.

Justin McCorkle, New Orleans public schools, 3501 Westbend Parkway, (504) 952-9466, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 564.

Kenny Francis, Agenda for Children, 8300 Earhart Boulevard, New Orleans, LA, (504) 233-8426, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 564.

Brigitte Nieland, Stand for Children, 601 Laurel Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 603-5668, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 564.

Melissa Flournoy, Louisiana Progress Action, 2228 Cherokee Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 936-7200, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 564.

Mike McClanahan, NAACP Louisiana State Conference, 3313 Government Street, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 287-4673, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 564.

Jamal Taylor, NAACP Education Committee, 840 West Simcoe, Lafayette, LA 70501, (337) 371-5299, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 564.

Maxwell Ciardullo, Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center, 1340 Poydras Street, Suite 710, New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke in opposition to House No. 564.

Caroline Roemer, Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools, 320 Metairie-Hammond Highway, Metairie, LA 70005, (504) 291-8477, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 564.

Patrick Dobard, New Schools for New Orleans, 1555 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA, (225) 892-1180, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 564.

Davante Lewis, Louisiana Budget Project, 619 Jefferson Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (337) 377-5110, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 564.

Albert L. Samuels, Southern University, 11243 Greencrest Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70811, (225) 774-6258, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 564.

Representative Ken Brass, Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus, P.O. Box 44003, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 342-7342, presented a press statement from the caucus labeled Exhibit A in the committee records and entitled, "The Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus Stands in Opposition Against HB 564", in opposition to House Bill No. 564.

Morgan Lamandre, STAR, 5615 Corporate Boulevard, Suite 200, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 615-7093, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 564.

Harris Quadir, LSU Student Government, 4000 Lake Boulevard Drive, Apt. 110, Baton Rouge, LA 70820, (337) 532-8381, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 564.

Daniela Sestich, LSU Student Government, 4010 West Lakeshore Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (310) 739-7373, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 564.

Representative Garofalo offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 564. No vote was taken. Representative Gary Carter offered a substitute motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 564, to which Representative Edmonds objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed by a vote of 7 yeas and 7 nays. Representatives Brass, Gary Carter, Freeman, Hilferty, Jefferson, Phelps, and St. Blanc voted yea. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Edmonds, Freiberg, Charles Owen, Tarver, and Wright voted nay.

The committee considered Representative Garofalo's original motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 564. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 564 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Brass, Gary Carter, Edmonds,

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

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 13 in support, 31 in opposition, and 3 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: 7 in support and 32 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

Representative Garofalo in the chair.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 18 by Representative Emerson

Representative Emerson presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 18, which requests that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education study and report on processes used to collect, investigate, track, monitor, and disclose complaints and deficiencies relative to child care providers.

Heidi Cain, Clarissa Plantation Road, Opelousas, LA 70570, (337) 247-9716, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 18.

Representative Hilferty offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 18 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 18 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedee, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Jefferson, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

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

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Garofalo recognized bus drivers who had taken unpaid leave from their jobs to testify in favor of House Bill No. 364, which was not heard.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedee, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, and Tarver voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: