

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2021 Regular Session
April 28, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Raymond E. Garofalo, Jr., chairman of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:08 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:

Elizabeth L. Borne, legislative analyst
Lisa Lovello, legislative analyst
Valarie Banks, executive assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to adopt a 3-minute rule for discussion on all instruments. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Brass, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Tarver, and Wright voted yea.

House Bill No. 410 by Representative Harris

Representative Harris presented House Bill No. 410, which authorizes the Louisiana State University Board of Supervisors to impose course fees associated with the aviation program at Louisiana State University at Alexandria.

Paul Coreil, chancellor, Louisiana State University - Alexandria, 8100 Highway 71 South, Alexandria, LA 71302, (225) 281-6443, spoke in support of House Bill No. 410.

Representative Amedee offered a motion to report House Bill No. 410 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 410 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Brass, Edmonds, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Tarver, 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. 364 by Representative White

Representative White presented House Bill No. 364, which provides relative to the compensation of school bus operators.

Mary-Patricia Wray, Louisiana School Bus Association, 2360 Tulip, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, spoke in support of House Bill No. 364.

Kathy Jarrell, Louisiana School Bus Operators Association, no address given, Simpson, LA (337) 208-6587, spoke in support of House Bill No. 364.

Bred Schnadelbach, HCR 2 Committee, Tangipahoa Parish school board, no address given, (985) 748-2433, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 364.

George F. Horne, School Bus Operator Pay Committee, 5017 Bissonet Drive, Metairie LA 70003-1013, (504) 456-0141, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 364.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 364 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 364 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Brass, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, Tarver, and Wright voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 9 in support, and 2 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Resolution No. 20 by Representative Edmonston

Representative Edmonston presented House Resolution No. 20, which directs elementary and secondary schools and higher education institutions that require a COVID-19 vaccination to inform students or parents of their right to choose not to receive the vaccination.

Representative Edmonston presented a letter dated March 22, 2021, addressed to Robert M. Laughlin, DMD, Dean LSU Health Sciences School of Dentistry, along with Dean Laughlin's return correspondence and a paper from evdvaccine.com entitled, "Global Information about Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine (also known as BNT 162b2)" and other supporting documents for House Resolution No. 20, labeled in the committee records as Exhibit A.

Jill Hines, Health Freedom Louisiana, 1307 Mesa Avenue, Ruston, LA 71270, (904) 318-6018, spoke in support of House Resolution No. 20.

Connie Sampognaro, 510 Griggs Road, Calhoun, LA 71225, (318) 366-3717, spoke in support of House Resolution No. 20.

Kathryn Goppelt, legislative assistant to Representative Edmonston, 42291 Clouatre Road, Gonzales, LA, (225) 241-9485, spoke in support of House Resolution No. 20.

Christopher Alexander, 1300 Steele Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 408-9498, spoke in support of House Resolution No. 20.

Claston Bernard, no address given, (225) 454-7184, spoke in support of House Resolution No. 20.

Catherine Alexander, East Baton Rouge Parish Republican Women, 1380 Steele Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 408-9498, spoke in support of House Resolution No. 20.

Rehm Maham, 1102 West Lee, Baton Rouge, LA, (512) 351-6892, spoke in opposition to House Resolution No. 20.

Representative Amedee offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 20 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 20 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Brass, Edmonds, Freiberg, Hilferty, Phelps, Tarver, and Wright voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support, 1 in opposition, and 1 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: 50 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 19 by Representative Brass

Representative Brass presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 19, which creates a task force to study how to develop a more diverse group of candidates for head coach and athletic director positions at public postsecondary education institutions.

Representative Brass presented a document entitled, "The Doug Williams Center, Building Solutions for Social Advancement", labeled Exhibit B and included in the committee records.

Dr. Jim Henderson, University of Louisiana System, 1201 North 3rd Street, Suite 7-300, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-6950, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 19.

Representative Freeman offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 19 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 19 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Brass, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, and Tarver voted yea.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 20 by Representative Hughes

Representative Hughes presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 20, which requests that the governor appoint additional women to public postsecondary education boards so that women will comprise at least fifty percent of each board's membership by July 1, 2023.

Representative Freeman 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 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Amedée, Brass, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Charles Owen, Phelps, and Tarver voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 528 by Representative Garofalo

On behalf of Representative Garofalo, Cade Brumley, state superintendent of education, 1201 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA, 70802, presented House Bill No. 528, which authorizes a pilot program implementing a balanced calendar at certain schools.

Representative Tarver offered a motion to report House Bill No. 528 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 528 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Brass, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Charles Owen, Phelps, Tarver, and Wright voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 211 by Representative Wright

Representative Wright presented House Bill No. 211, which provides relative to public school choice.

Representative Garofalo offered technical amendments to House Bill No. 211. 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, Brass, Edmonds, Freeman, Hilferty, Charles Owen, Phelps, Tarver, and Wright voted yea.

Representative Wright offered amendments to House Bill No. 211 that clarify eligibility and remove Type 2 language from the bill. Representative Wright 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, Brass, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Charles Owen, Phelps, Tarver, and Wright voted yea.

Ethan Melancon, Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, 1201 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 211.

Kelli Bottger, American Federation for Children, 37397 Cypress Alley Avenue, Gonzales, LA 70737, (225) 936-9800, spoke in support of House Bill No. 211.

Michael Faulk, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, 2713 Indian Mound Boulevard, Monroe, LA, (225) 229-6021, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 211.

Dannie Garrett, Louisiana School Boards Association, 635 Main Street, #3, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 382-0333, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 211.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to report House Bill No. 211 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 211 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Brass, Edmonds, Freiberg, Hilferty, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, Tarver, and Wright voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support and 2 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 170 by Representative Marino

Representative Marino presented House Bill No. 170, which provides relative to reporting of students identified as having dyslexia.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 170 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 170 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Brass, Edmonds, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, 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. 122 by Representative Brass

Representative Brass presented House Bill No. 122, which requires instruction in traffic safety for public school students.

Representative Brass offered amendments to House Bill No. 122 that more specifically defined the target group. Representative Brass offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Brass, Edmonds, Hilferty, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, and Tarver voted yea.

Cassie M. Parker, Destination Zero Deaths-LA SHSP, 5058 West Main Street, Houma, LA 70364, (985) 226-3077, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 122 and presented a PowerPoint entitled, "Louisiana Traffic Safety Education" and labeled Exhibit C in the committee records.

Kenyatta Robertson, safety coalition coordinator, Capitol Region, Destination Zero Deaths, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 337-1745, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 122.

Representative Brass offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 122. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 122 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Garofalo, Brass, Freiberg, Hilferty, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, 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. 324 by Representative Hilferty

Representative Hilferty presented House Bill No. 324, which prohibits corporal punishment in public elementary and secondary schools.

Representative Garofalo offered technical amendments to House Bill No. 324. 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, Brass, Edmonds, Freiberg, Hilferty, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, Tarver, and Wright voted yea.

Susan East Nelson, Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families, 13609 Landmark Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 229-2498, spoke in support of House Bill No. 324.

Ethan Melancon, Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, 1201 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 324.

Tammy Wood, 23825 Sunnyside Lane, Zachary, LA 70791, (225) 270-2787, spoke in support of House Bill No. 324..

Carrie Griffin Monica, Stand for Children Louisiana, 6052 Government Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (504) 875-8595, spoke in support of House Bill No. 324.

Representative Edmonds in the chair.

Michael Faulk, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, 2713 Indian Mound Boulevard, Monroe, LA, (225) 229-6021, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 324.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 324 with amendments, to which Representative Charles Owen objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 324 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Brass, Gary

Carter, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Jefferson, Phelps, Tarver, and Wright voted yea. Representatives Edmonds and Charles Owen voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 22 by Representative Freiberg

Representative Freiberg presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 22, which requests the Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to require public school governing authorities to post certain fiscal information online.

Representative Freeman offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 22 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 22 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Brass, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Tarver, and Wright voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 156 by Representative Freiberg

Representative Freiberg presented House Bill No. 156, which provides for changing the job title of school guidance counselor to school counselor.

Wendy Rock, Louisiana School Counselor Association, 4205 James Drive, Metairie, LA 70003, (504) 779-0094, spoke in support of House Bill No. 156.

Representative Freeman offered a motion to report House Bill No. 156 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 156 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Brass, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, Tarver, and Wright voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 256 by Representative Tarver

Representative Tarver presented House Bill No. 256, which provides relative to payroll deductions for teachers and other school employees for organization dues.

Dr. Keith Courville, Associated Professional Educators of Louisiana, 7902 Wrenwood Boulevard, Suite B, (225) 571-4822, spoke in support of House Bill No. 256.

Dr. Tia T. Mills, Louisiana Association of Educators, 8322 One Calais Avvenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70807, (225) 625-4716, spoke in opposition to House Bill no. 256.

Marcus Thomas, Louisiana Association of Educators, 8322 One Calais Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (337) 380-0927, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 256.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 256 favorably, to which Representative Phelps objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 256 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Brass, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Wright voted yea. Representatives Jefferson and Phelps voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 9 in support and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 368 by Representative Mincey

Representative Mincey presented House Bill No. 368, which provides relative to required instruction in elementary and secondary schools on the health risks of vapor products.

Representative Hilferty offered a motion to report House Bill No. 368 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 368 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Brass, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, 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. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 39 by Representative Mincey

Representative Mincey presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 39, which creates a task force to study issues related to teacher shortages in Louisiana.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 39 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 39 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Brass, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, 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. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 494 by Representative Mincey

House Bill No. 494 provides relative to public school choice.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 494. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 494 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Brass, Edmonds, Freeman, Freiberg, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Wright voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date adopted: