

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2022 Regular Session
April 12, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Lance Harris, chairman of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. in Room 1, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Lance Harris, chairman
Representative Beryl A. Amedée
Representative Kendricks "Ken" Brass
Representative Aimee Adatto Freeman
Representative Barbara Reich Freiberg
Representative Patrick O. Jefferson, vice chairman
Representative Charles Anthony Owen
Representative Tammy T. Phelps
Representative Laurie Schlegel
Representative Vincent "Vinney" J. St. Blanc, III
Representative Phillip Eric Tarver

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Stephanie Hilferty

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Elizabeth L. Borné, legislative analyst
Lisa Lovello, legislative analyst
Jacqueline Snowden, committee administrative assistant
Alexandra Cravins, committee assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Danny Leming, sergeant at arms
Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms
Kalan Jenkins, clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 245 by Representative Mincey

Representative Mincey presented House Bill No. 245, which provides relative to minors taken into protective custody from schools.

Representative Harris offered a motion to adopt a three-minute rule for discussion on items on the agenda. Without objection, a three-minute rule was adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Schlegel, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Representative Jefferson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 245 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 245 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Schlegel, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 263 by Representative Mincey

Representative Mincey presented House Bill No. 263, which requires the establishment of check-out procedures at public schools and school districts.

Representative Tarver offered a motion to report House Bill No. 263 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 263 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Schlegel, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 15 by Representative Cormier

Representative Cormier presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 15, which requests the Board of Regents to purchase chest compression devices for certain public postsecondary education institutions.

James Henderson, University of Louisiana System, 1201 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (318) 426-7104, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 15.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 15 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 15 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Schlegel, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 37 by Representative Amedée

Representative Amedée presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 37, which directs the state Department of Education to publish certain student enrollment information on its website each year.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 37 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 37 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Schlegel, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

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

House Concurrent Resolution No. 47 by Representative Freeman

Representative Freeman presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 47, which requests the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to ensure certain information is emphasized in science curricula.

Marion Penny Freistadt, 1589 Adams Street, New Orleans, LA, (504) 352-2142, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 47.

Ethan J. Melancon, State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education/Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (985) 859-4649, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 47.

Representative Freeman offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 47 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 47 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, Schlegel, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 979 by Representative Freeman

Representative Freeman presented House Bill No. 979, which provides for the sharing of limited student information for the purpose of administering certain federal food assistance programs.

Kim Matherne, Department of Children and Family Services, 627 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-2428, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 979.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 979 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 979 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Schlegel, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 919 by Representative Turner

Representative Turner presented House Bill No. 919, which authorizes the exchange of certain school land by the Union Parish School Board.

Representative Jefferson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 919 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 919 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Schlegel, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

House Bill No. 892 by Representative Green

Representative Green presented House Bill No. 892, which provides relative to school master plans for improving student behavior and discipline.

Representative Harris offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 892. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 892 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Schlegel, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

House Bill No. 4 by Representative Tarver

Representative Tarver presented House Bill No. 4, a constitutional amendment which eliminates the gubernatorial appointment of three members of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, providing for an all-elected membership and reducing the membership to eight.

Tom Costanza, Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2431 South Acadian Thruway, Suite 250, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (504) 874-7829, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 4.

Dr. Belinda Davis, State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, 4540 Hyacinth Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 202-2658, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 4.

Melissa Flournoy, Louisiana Progress Action, 650 North 6th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 936-7200, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 4.

Representative Charles Owen offered a motion to report House Bill No. 4 favorably, to which Representative Jefferson objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 4 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 3 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Freiberg, Charles Owen, Schlegel, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea. Representatives Brass, Jefferson, and Phelps voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 25 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: 99 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 84 by Representative Tarver

Representative Tarver presented House Bill No. 84, which eliminates, subject to adoption of a constitutional amendment, the gubernatorial appointment of three members of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, providing for an all-elected membership and reducing the membership to eight.

Representative Tarver offered a motion to report House Bill No. 84 favorably, to which Representative Jefferson objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 84 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 3 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Freiberg, Charles Owen, Schlegel, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea. Representatives Brass, Jefferson, and Phelps voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 22 in support, and 2 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: 98 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 986 by Representative Edmonds

Representative Edmonds presented House Bill No. 986, which provides relative to school nutrition programs.

Jeff Landry, Focus Foods, 309 Settlers Trace, Lafayette, LA 70508, (337) 989-0071, spoke in support of House Bill No. 986.

Sarah Vandergriff, Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools, 320 Metairie Hammond Highway, 70005, spoke in support of House Bill No. 986.

Ethan J. Melancon, State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education / Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (985) 859-4649, spoke for information only on House Bill No 986.

John Dupre, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 342-3720, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 986.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 986 favorably, to which Representative Phelps objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 986 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 1 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Schlegel, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea. Representative Phelps voted nay.

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

House Bill No. 363 by Representative Bryant

Representative Bryant presented House Bill No. 363, which provides relative to the student growth component in the evaluation of teachers and administrators.

Representative Harris offered amendments to House Bill No. 363 that would require the person being evaluated and his evaluator to meet to discuss student learning targets (SLTs) for each student instead of requiring that the SLTs be developed collaboratively. Representative Harris offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, Schlegel, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 363 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 363 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, Schlegel, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 5 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

Representative Jefferson offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, Schlegel, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Chairman Lance Harris
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: