

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2022 Regular Session
May 10, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms
Janet Anthony, sergeant at arms
Kalan Jenkins, clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Representative Charles Owen offered a motion to adopt a three-minute rule for presenters, witnesses, and members to speak. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 1 by Representative Ivey

Representative Ivey presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 1, which suspends provisions of law authorizing the exclusion of unimmunized persons from in-person attendance at schools and day care centers under certain circumstances.

Representative Harris offered amendments that modified the "whereas" provisions of House Concurrent Resolution No. 1. Representative Harris offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Jennifer Herricks, Ph.D., Louisiana Families for Vaccines, P.O. Box 15021, Baton Rouge, LA, (713) 898-2051, spoke in opposition to House Concurrent Resolution No. 1.

Stephen Wright, Louisiana BIO, 695 Kiskatom Lane, Mandeville, LA 70471, (318) 663-3810, spoke in opposition to House Concurrent Resolution No. 1.

Representative Charles Owen offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 1 with amendments, to which Representative Freeman objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Concurrent Resolution No. 1 was reported with amendments by a vote of 7 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, and St. Blanc voted yea. Representatives Freeman and Tarver voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 18 in support, 12 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: 4 in support, and 8 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 531 by Representative Amedée

Representative Amedée presented House Bill No. 531, which provides for civil remedies for a student who is denied entry into school because of immunization requirements.

Dr. Kathleen Willis, 42380 Forest View Place, Ponchatoula, LA 70454, (985) 705-0026, spoke in support of House Bill No. 531.

Fiorella Trapani, Health Freedom Louisiana, 4412 Lefkoe Street, Metairie, LA 70006, (504) 957-7523, spoke in support of House Bill No. 531.

Deborah Nolan, 1344 Saint Ann Place, Slidell, LA 70460, (985) 201-2090, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 531.

Joan E. Hunt, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-3572, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 531.

Representative Amedée offered a motion to report House Bill No. 531 favorably, to which Representative Freeman objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 531 was reported favorably by a vote of 6 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Emerson, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea. Representatives Brass, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, and Phelps voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 22 in support, and 9 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: 343 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 428 by Representative Amedée

Representative Amedée presented House Bill No. 428, which prohibits the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the state Department of Education from recommending any vaccine or medical procedure.

Kathleen Willis, 42386 Forest View Place, Ponchatoula, LA, (985) 705-0026, spoke in support of House Bill No. 428.

Fiorella Trapani, Health Freedom Louisiana, 4412 Lefkoe Street, Metairie, LA 70006, (504) 957-7523, spoke in support of House Bill No. 428.

Bridgett Bennett, no address provided, (985) 768-9991, spoke in support of House Bill No. 428.

Rhonda Lamendole, 12079 Griffith Road, Gonzales, LA 70737, (225) 921-2132, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 428.

Crystal Rommen, Louisiana Families for Vaccines, 2252 Tower Drive, Suite 108, Monroe, LA 71201, (253) 682-9442, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 428.

Kaitlyn Joshua, Louisiana Power Coalition, 12296 Oak Colony Drive, Geismar, LA 70734, (225) 454-8321, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 428.

Stephen Wright, American Academy of Pediatrics, PO Box 64629, Baton Rouge, LA 70471, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 428.

Jennifer Herricks, Louisiana Families for Vaccines, PO Box 15021, Baton Rouge, LA, (713) 898-2051, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 428.

Joan Hunt, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 428.

Representative Amedée voluntarily deferred House Bill No. 428.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 26 in support, and 14 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: 348 in support, and 8 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 427 by Representative Amedée

Representative Amedée presented House Bill No. 427, which prohibits the administration of vaccines to minors on school property and at school-sponsored events.

Representative Hilferty offered amendments to allow vaccine administration if parental consent has been obtained and verified multiple ways and there is a healthcare professional present. Representative Hilferty offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Brass objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the amendments were adopted by a vote of 6 yeas, 4 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Amedée, Emerson, Hilferty, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea. Representatives Brass, Freeman, Freiberg, and Phelps voted nay. Representative Harris abstained.

Dr. Kathleen Willis, 42386 Forest View Place, Ponchatoula, LA, (985) 705-0026, spoke in support of House Bill No. 427.

Fiorella Trapani, Health Freedom Louisiana, 4412 Lefkoe Street, Metairie, LA 70006, (504) 957-7523, spoke in support of House Bill No. 427.

Katie Alexander, 1380 Steele Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 408-9498, spoke in support of House Bill No. 427.

Jennifer Herricks, Louisiana Families for Vaccines, P.O. Box 15021, Baton Rouge, LA 70895, (713) 898-2051, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 427.

Crystal Rommen, Louisiana Families for Vaccines, 2252 Tower Drive, Suite 108, Monroe, LA 71201, (253) 682-9442, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 427.

Kaitlyn Joshua, Louisiana Power Coalition, 12296 Oak Colony Drive, Geismar, LA 70734, (225) 454-8321, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 427.

Liberty Duke, Health Heroes, 326 Prairie Street, Union Springs, AL 36089, (331) 220-2482, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 427 and provided a provided a handout, "Letters and Information in support of School-Located Vaccination in Louisiana", Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Gerald Dial, Health Heroes, P.O. Box 248, city illegible, AL, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 427.

Representative Amedée offered a motion to report House Bill No. 427 with amendments, to which Representative Freeman objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 427 was reported with amendments by a vote of 7 yeas, 4 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Amedée, Emerson, Freiberg, Hilferty, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea. Representatives Brass, Freeman, Jefferson, and Phelps voted nay. Representative Harris abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 17 in support, and 17 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: 348 in support, and 8 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 380 by Representative Muscarello

Representative Muscarello presented House Bill No. 380, which provides relative to school buses.

Representative Jefferson offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Jefferson offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the substitute bill was adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Emerson, Freiberg, Hilferty, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Vice Chairman Jefferson in the chair.

Ethan Melancon, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 380.

Joan E. Hunt, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-3572, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 380.

Representative Tarver offered a motion to report House Bill No. 380 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 380 was reported by substitute by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Emerson, Freiberg, Hilferty, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, and Tarver voted yea.

House Bill No. 792 by Representative Phelps

Representative Phelps presented House Bill No. 792, which provides relative to literacy instruction and reading support services for certain students in grades six through 12.

Representative Phelps offered amendments that:

1. Removed the eligibility requirement that students are above the average age for their grade.
2. Specified that students in alternative schools and alternative educational placements may be eligible students.

Representative Phelps offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, and Tarver voted yea.

DeJunné Jackson, The Center for Literacy and Learning, 530 Lakeland Drive, Suite 1A, Baton Rouge, LA, 70802, (833) 792-1874, spoke in support of House Bill No. 792.

Maria Harmon, Step Up Louisiana, 1116 South 14th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (337) 244-1517, spoke in support of House Bill No. 792.

Ethan Melancon, Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 792.

Jenna Chiasson, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 427-2056, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 792.

Representative Phelps offered a motion to report House Bill No. 792 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 792 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, and St. Blanc voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 183 by Representative Hughes

Representative Hughes presented House Bill No. 183, which provides relative to withholding of student transcripts for financial reasons.

Davante Lewis, Louisiana Budget Project, 619 Jefferson Highway Suite 1-D, spoke in support of House Bill No. 183.

Jim Henderson, 1201 North Third Street 7-300, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (318) 412-7104, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 183.

Louis Gremillion, no address provided, (225) 205-5284, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 183.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 183 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 183 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Emerson, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver 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. 440 by Representative Phelps

Representative Phelps presented House Bill No. 440, which provides relative to eating disorder instruction in schools.

Brand Melissa, P.O. Box 1171, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 715-1379, spoke in support of House Bill No. 440.

Ethan Melancon, State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 440.

Representative Phelps offered a motion to report House Bill No. 440 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 440 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Emerson, Freiberg, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals 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. 782 by Representative Phelps

Representative Phelps presented House Bill No. 782, which provides relative to the appointment of school principals.

Dr. Erin Bendily, Pelican Institute, 400 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 782.

Lauren Gleason, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, 500 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 215-6650, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 782.

Representative Phelps offered a motion to report House Bill No. 782 favorably, to which Representative Freiberg objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 1 yeas and 8 nays. Representative Phelps voted yea. Representatives Amedée, Emerson, Freiberg, Hilferty, Jefferson, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted nay.

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

House Bill No. 536 by Representative Cox

On behalf of Representative Cox, Representative Jefferson presented House Bill No. 536, which lowers the minimum ACT score required for initial qualification for a TOPS-Tech Award from 17 to 15.

Representative Jefferson provided a handout, "What are the ACT College Readiness Benchmarks?", Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Jefferson offered amendments that:

1. Revised present law to lower the minimum age for initial qualification for an M.J. Foster Promise award from 21 to 18 beginning with the 2023-2024 academic year.
2. Removed proposed law that would have lowered the minimum ACT score needed for qualification for a TOPS-Tech Award.

Representative Jefferson offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Emerson, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Dr. Erin Bendily, Pelican Institute, 400 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 536.

James Caillier, Taylor Foundation, 944 Saint Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA, (504) 589-0470, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 536.

Representative Jefferson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 536 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 536 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Brass, Emerson, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Jefferson, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 819 by Representative Cox

On behalf of Representative Cox, Representative Jefferson presented House Bill No. 819, which provides relative to extended sick leave for school bus operators and public school employees.

Larry J. Carter, Jr., Louisiana Federation of Teachers and School Employees, 9623 Brookline Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 270-5436, spoke in support of House Bill No. 819.

Representative Tarver offered a motion to report House Bill No. 819 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 819 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Brass, Emerson, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Jefferson, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support, 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: 44 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 808 by Representative Hodges

Chairman Harris in the chair.

Representative Hodges presented House Bill No. 808, which expands the Parents' Bill of Rights for Public Schools.

Representative Hodges voluntarily deferred House Bill No. 808.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 25 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 983 by Representative Bishop

On behalf of Representative Bishop, Representative St. Blanc presented House Bill No. 983, which authorizes the transfer of funds from a START account to a START K12 account.

Representative Tarver offered a motion to report House Bill No. 983 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 983 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Brass, Emerson, Freeman, Freiberg, Hilferty, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver 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

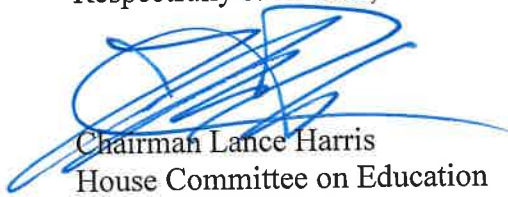
There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 1:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Chairman Lance Harris
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: