

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2022 Regular Session
May 11, 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 Aimee Adatto Freeman
Representative Barbara Reich Freiberg
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:

Representative Julie Emerson
Representative Stephanie Hilferty

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms
Kalan Jenkins, clerk
Hailey Austin, clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Representative Harris 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 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

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.

Representative Amedée offered amendments to apply the prohibition to public schools and public school boards. Representative Amedée 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.

Representative Amedée offered a motion to report House Bill No. 428 with amendments, to which Representative Freiberg objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 428 was reported with amendments by a vote of 5 yeas and 3 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea. Representatives Freeman, Freiberg, and Jefferson voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 10 in support, and 4 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 50 by Senator Hewitt

Senator Hewitt presented Senate Bill No. 50, which provides for public school choice in certain high school programs.

Michael Faulk, executive director, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, no witness card provided, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 50.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 50 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 50 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 190 by Senator Hewitt

Senator Hewitt presented Senate Bill No. 190, which establishes the Computer Science Education Act.

David Zoller, BRAC, 564 Laurel Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 190.

Kevin Ainsworth, Amazon, 2335 Tiger Crossing Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 248-2020, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 190.

Joshua Anderson, 2845 East Lakeshore Drive, no city or state given, (225) 216-5480, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 190.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 190 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 190 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, 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.

Senate Bill No. 317 by Senator Foil

Senator Foil presented Senate Bill No. 317, which provides in-state residency status for public postsecondary tuition fees to certain members and veterans of the military.

Representative Harris offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 317 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 317 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 45 by Senator Foil

Senator Foil presented Senate Bill No. 45, which requires all public school governing authorities to adopt certain policies relative to cameras in certain classrooms by December 31, 2022.

Eileen Jorgensen, 18153 River Birch, no city or state given, (225) 266-2736, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 45.

Sandra Guichard, 308 Foal Court, Covington, LA 70435, (985) 788-9523, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 45.

Jennifer Carignan, Louisiana Save Our Schools, 719 South Taylor Street, Covington, LA 70433, (240) 893-9501, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 45.

Jodi Rollins, 18050 Charolais Drive, Prairieville, LA 70769, (225) 773-3954, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 45.

Ursula Brown, 14655 Rhonda Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 45

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 45 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 45 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 26 in support, 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: 7 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 47 by Senator Fields

Senator Fields presented Senate Bill No. 47, which requires public schools to work to develop a mixed provider delivery model of prekindergarten instruction.

Dr. Libbie Sonnier, Louisiana Policy Institute for Children, no address given, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (985) 687-7494, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 47.

Marcus Thomas, Louisiana Association of Educators, 9322 One Calais Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (337) 380-0927, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 47.

Jillian Pichon, 633 University Drive, Lake Charles, LA 70605, (337) 658-5047, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 47.

Representative Jefferson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 47 favorably, to which Representative Charles Owen objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 47 was reported favorably by a vote of 5 yeas, 2 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Brass, Freiberg, Jefferson, Phelps, and St. Blanc voted yea. Representatives Charles Owen and Tarver voted nay. Representative Harris abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 17 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 126 by Senator Cathey

Senator Cathey presented Senate Bill No. 126, which provides relative to funding for university lab schools.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 126 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 126 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Brass, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6 by Senator Cathey

Senator Cathey presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6, which creates a task force to study and make recommendations relative to tenure policies of public postsecondary education institutions.

Dr. Jim Henderson, University of Louisiana System president, 1201 North Third Street, 7-300, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (318) 426-7104, spoke for information only on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6.

Greg Gonzalez, Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20003, (925) 323-1059, spoke in opposition to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Brass, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, and Tarver voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 250 by Senator Connick

Senator Connick presented Senate Bill No. 250, which provides relative to the compensation of intercollegiate athletes for the use of their name, image, or likeness.

Representative Harris offered amendments to add that certain documents pertaining to athlete's compensation contracts are confidential and not subject to inspection pursuant to the Public Records Law. Representative Harris 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.

Dr. Jim Henderson, University of Louisiana System president, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA, (318) 426-7104, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 250.

Taylor Jacobs, Louisiana State University Athletics, Athletic Administration Building, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, (225) 726-6551, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 250.

Cary Koch, MatchPoint, 504 Lakeland Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 907-5880, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 250.

Jonathan Pixley, MatchPoint Connection, 7434 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 938-0838, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 250.

Representative Tarver offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 250 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 250 was reported with amendments by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freiberg, Charles Owen, Phelps, and Tarver voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 407 by Senator Bouie

Senator Bouie presented Senate Bill No. 407, which requires schools to store epinephrine in the classrooms of certain students.

Ethan Melancon, State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 407.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 407 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 407 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver 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.

Senate Bill No. 76 by Senator Fields

On behalf of Senator Fields, Louis Reine, Louisiana AFL-CIO, 429 Government Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70815, (225) 383-5741, presented Senate Bill No. 76, which provides that certain graduate students shall be exempt from mandatory student fees.

Representative St. Blanc offered amendments to:

1. Add a requirement that payment for, or waivers of, mandatory fees (other than tuition) be included in compensation packages for teaching, research, and curatorial assistants.
2. Remove proposed law relative to various fee exemptions for teaching and research assistants.

Representative St. Blanc 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, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Representative St. Blanc, House District No. 50, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 76.

Dr. Jim Henderson, University of Louisiana System president, 1201 North Third Street, 7-300, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (318) 426-7104, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 76.

Representative Phelps offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 76 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 76 was reported with amendments by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Freiberg, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 176 by Senator Fields

On behalf of Senator Fields, Leslie Hill, Special School District, 2888 Brightside Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70820, (225) 270-4329, presented Senate Bill No. 176, which amends the Blind Persons' Literacy Rights and Education Act.

Robin King, 2888 Brightside Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70820, (225) 757-3477, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 176.

Representative Harris offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 176 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 176 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freiberg, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver 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.

Senate Bill No. 178 by Senator Fields

On behalf of Senator Fields, Robyn Lively, Louisiana Office of Student Financial Aid / Louisiana Board of Regents, 602 North Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-7652, presented Senate Bill No. 178, which provides for TOPS exceptions due to Hurricane Ida.

Representative Harris offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 178 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 178 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freiberg, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver 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.

Senate Bill No. 261 by Senator Fields

On behalf of Senator Fields, Dr. Kim Hunter-Reed, commissioner, Louisiana Board of Regents, Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge, LA, presented Senate Bill No. 261, which provides for public postsecondary education transfer pathways.

Tristan Denley, Louisiana Board of Regents, Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 261.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 261 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 261 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, and St. Blanc 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.

Senate Bill No. 145 by Senator Talbot

Senator Talbot presented Senate Bill No. 145, which authorizes certain charter school proposals to be made directly to BESE.

Representative Harris offered amendments that, relative to authorized partnerships between charter schools and corporate partners, added governmental entities to the meaning of "corporate partner". Representative Harris offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Lauren Gleason, Louisiana Association of Business & Industry, 500 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 215-6650, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 145.

Lee Reid, LAPCS, 701 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70139, (504) 581-3234, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 145.

Ethan Melancon, State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 145.

Caroline Roemer, LAPCS, no address given, Metairie, LA, (225) 229-7100, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 145.

Dr. Kenneth J. Ducote, Greater New Orleans Collaborative of Charter Schools, 2401 Westbend Parkway, #3040, New Orleans, LA 70114, (504) 309-3245, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 145.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 145 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 145 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support, and 2 in opposition. 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 Freiberg offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Chairman Lance Harris
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: