

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2022 Regular Session
May 18, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Lance Harris, chairman of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:06 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 Julie Emerson
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 Kendricks "Ken" Brass
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:

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 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Emerson, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 203 by Senator Hewitt

Senator Hewitt presented Senate Bill No. 203, which creates an education savings account for certain students reading below grade level and presented a handout from the Louisiana Department of Education, "Overview of Literacy Initiatives", which is labeled Exhibit A and included in the records of the committee meeting.

Dr. Erin Bendily, Pelican Institute, 400 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 203.

Ethan Melancon, State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 203.

Michael Faulk, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, 2713 Indian Mound Boulevard, Monroe, LA 71201, (225) 229-6021, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 203.

Jaleesa Alexander, 4407 Scarborough Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70814, (337) 290-1467, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 203.

Marcus Thomas, Louisiana Association of Educators, 5322 One Calais Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (337) 380-0927, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 203.

Corhonda Corley, 8815 Wilmore Drive, Zachary, LA 70791, (225) 654-0671, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 203.

Representative Harris offered amendments to remove as an initial eligibility requirement that a student be tested for a learning disability and that the results be shared with his parent and school. 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, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 203 with amendments, to which Representative Phelps objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 203 was reported with amendments by a vote of 6 yeas, 2 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives

Amedée, Emerson, Freiberg, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea. Representatives Jefferson and Phelps voted nay. Representative Harris abstained.

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. 256 by Senator Barrow

Senator Barrow presented Senate Bill No. 256, which requires certain assessments of a student prior to suspension from school.

Representative Harris offered amendments to:

1. Require the assessment used be approved by the Louisiana Department of Health instead of developed by the Centers for Disease Control.
2. Modify the timing of assessments for students who have engaged in certain behaviors requiring immediate suspension.

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, Emerson, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, and St. Blanc voted yea.

Dannie Garrett, Louisiana School Boards Association, 635 Main Street, #3, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 382-0333, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 256.

Sarah Vandergriff, Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools, 320 Metairie-Hammond Highway, Metairie, LA 70005, (504) 430-6749, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 256.

Corhonda Corley, 8815 Wilmore Drive, Zachary, LA 70791, (225) 654-0671, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 256.

Michael Faulk, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, 2713 Indian Mound Boulevard, Monroe, LA 71201, (225) 229-6021, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 256.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 256 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 256 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Emerson, 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.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 1 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 297 by Senator Barrow

Senator Barrow presented Senate Bill No. 297, which provides relative to power-based violence at public postsecondary institutions.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 297 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 297 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Emerson, 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 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 113 by Representative Mincey

Representative Mincey presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 113, which requests the state Department of Education to study and submit a report relative to the cost of standardized testing associated with state assessments.

Ethan Melancon, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 113.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 113 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 113 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Emerson, 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. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 430 by Senator Womack

Senator Womack presented Senate Bill No. 430, which authorizes the Concordia Parish School Board to name the new gymnasium at Monterey High School in honor of Jack Bairnsfather.

Representative Harris offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 430 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 430 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Emerson, Freiberg, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 192 by Senator Boudreaux

Senator Boudreaux presented Senate Bill No. 192, which provides for the Postsecondary Inclusive Education Fund for funding programs for students with intellectual disabilities.

Dr. Gerlinde Beckers, LAPIE, 55231 Pine Grove Church Road, Independence, LA 70443, (985) 549-3030, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 192.

Sarah Vandergriff, LAPCS, 320 Metairie-Hammond Highway, Metairie, LA 70005, (509) 930-6749, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 192.

Corhonda Corley, 8815 Wilmore Drive, Zachary, LA 70791, (225) 654-0671, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 192.

James Zimlich, 22495 Balmoral Drive, Denham Springs, LA 70726, (225) 214-7922, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 192.

Representative Jefferson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 192 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 192 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Emerson, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 17 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: 9 in support, and 1 for information only. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 33 by Senator Milligan

Senator Milligan presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 33, which requests the state superintendent of education to create the Teachers' Advisory Council.

Ethan Melancon, State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 33.

Representative Amedée offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 33 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 33 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Emerson, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 40 by Senator Milligan

Senator Milligan presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 40, which requests each public school system to create a Teachers' Advisory Council.

Representative Jefferson offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 40 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 40 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Emerson, Freeman, 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. 81 by Senator White

On behalf of Senator White, Dr. James Caillier, Taylor Foundation executive director, 946 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70533, (504) 589-0471, presented Senate Bill No. 81, which provides relative to the requirement for certain student demographic information to be included from the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students Information System.

Richard Davis, Jr., Louisiana Budget Project, 619 Jefferson Highway, Baton Rouge, LA, (985) 290-1931, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 81.

Edgar Cage, Together Louisiana, 2019 Government Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70805, (225) 274-5808, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 81.

Dr. Sujuan W. Boutte, Louisiana Office of Student Financial Aid, 602 North Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-7294, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 81.

Representative Amedée offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 81 favorably, to which Representative Phelps objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 81 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 1 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea. Representative Phelps voted nay.

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

Senate Bill No. 177 by Senator Fields

On behalf of Senator Fields, Dannie Garrett, Louisiana School Boards Association, 635 Main Street, #3, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 382-0333, presented Senate Bill No. 177, which changes the school year for certain requirements relative to entering first grade.

Representative Harris offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 177 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 177 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Emerson, Freeman, Freiberg, Charles Owen, 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.

Vice Chairman Jefferson in the chair.

House Resolution No. 145 by Representative Harris

Representative Harris presented House Resolution No. 145, which requests that the state Department of Education study and submit a report relative to transparency in education with respect to parental access to instructional materials.

Representative Harris offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 145 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 145 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Emerson, Freeman, Freiberg, Charles Owen, 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.

House Bill No. 920 by Representative Hughes

Representative Hughes presented House Bill No. 920, which provides relative to student discipline.

Chairman Harris in the chair.

Representative Harris offered amendments to House Bill No. 920 that would have revised the definition of "willful disobedience"; reinstated present law relative to making up missed school work rather than requiring a personalized education plan; and required provision of an alternative method of completing school work without the internet rather than requiring textbooks to be sent home. 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, Emerson, Freeman, Freiberg, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Vice Chairman Jefferson in the chair.

Sander McComiskey, Legislative Youth Advisory Council, 52 Oaklawn Drive, Covington, LA 70433, (985) 373-9232, spoke in support of House Bill No. 920.

Jaren St. Clair, Louisiana Youth Advisory Council, 1333 Highway 749, Opelousas, LA 70870, (387) 308-9599, spoke in support of House Bill No. 920.

Alexis Ellis, Louisiana Youth Advisory Council, no address given, (504) 470-5857, spoke in support of House Bill No. 920.

Davante Lewis, 1004 South 18th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (337) 377-5110, spoke in support of House Bill No. 920.

Corhonda Corley, 8815 Wilmer Drive, Zachary, LA 70791, (225) 654-0671, spoke in support of House Bill No. 920.

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. 920.

Chairman Harris in the chair.

Representative Freeman offered a motion to report House Bill No. 920 with amendments, to which Rep. Tarver objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Phelps, and St. Blanc voted yea. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Emerson, Charles Owen, and Tarver voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support.

House Bill No. 892 by Representative Green

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

Representative Freiberg offered amendments that would have deleted the requirement relative to master plans for improving behavior and discipline and instead would have prohibited the use of corporal punishment in public schools. Representative Freiberg offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Owen objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 4 yeas, 5 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, and Phelps voted yea. Representatives Amedée, Emerson, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted nay. Representative Harris abstained.

Representative Freiberg 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 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Emerson, Freeman, 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.

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 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Emerson, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Chairman Lance Harris
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: