

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
March 26, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Laurie Schlegel, chair of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. in Room 1, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Laurie Schlegel, chair
Representative Beryl A. Amedée, vice chair
Representative Kendrick "Ken" Brass
Representative Josh Carlson
Representative Barbara W. Carpenter
Representative Kim Carver
Representative Kathy Edmonston
Representative Barbara Reich Freiberg
Representative Michael Melerine
Representative Charles Anthony Owen
Representative Vincent "Vinney" J. St. Blanc, III
Representative Phillip Eric Tarver
Representative Sylvia Elaine Taylor
Representative Rashid Armand Young

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

III. BUSINESS

House Bill No. 143 by Representative Bacala

Representative Bacala presented House Bill No. 143, which authorizes the state superintendent to hire a chief operating officer to make recommendations relative to the financial practices of local school systems failing to comply with the MFP's minimum instructional expenditure requirement.

Dr. Cade Brumley, Louisiana Department of Education, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 143.

Dannie Garrett, Louisiana School Boards Association, 635 Main Street, #3, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 143.

Michael Faulk, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, 2713 Indian Mound Boulevard, Monroe, LA 71201, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 143.

Representative Tarver offered a motion to report House Bill No. 143 favorably, to which Representative Carpenter objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 143 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 3 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea. Representatives Brass, Carpenter, and Young voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support, and 3 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 143 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 153 by Representative Bacala

Representative Bacala presented House Bill No. 153, which provides relative to special education.

Dr. Cade Brumley, Louisiana Department of Education, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 153.

Dannie Garrett, Louisiana School Boards Association, 635 Main Street, #3, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 153.

Representative Carpenter offered a motion to report House Bill No. 153 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 153 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, St. Blanc, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support, and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 551 by Representative Brass

Representative Brass presented House Bill No. 551, which revises the membership and duties of the Dual Enrollment Framework Task Force. Representative Brass provided a handout, "Career and Technical Education in Dual Enrollment Task Force Report", Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Brass offered amendments that authorized the task force to identify a process to expand virtual instruction to increase participation of dual enrollment course offerings. Representative Brass offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, St. Blanc, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Representative Brass offered a motion to report House Bill No. 551 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 551 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 9 in support, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 745 by Representative Emerson

Representative Emerson presented House Bill No. 745, which creates and provides for the LA GATOR Scholarship Program, a universal school choice program.

Representative Schlegel offered amendments to House Bill No. 745 that:

1. Added that students with exceptionalities shall not be required to take assessments from which they would be exempt if enrolled in public school.
2. Added a letter of credit as an alternative to surety bond for schools and service providers receiving more than \$100,000 in a school year and limited application to those in operation fewer than three years.
3. Relative to qualified education expenses, added tuition and fees for students participating in dual enrollment and elaborated on the meaning of parent navigation services.

4. Added that proposed law relative to the LA Gator program would become effective when an Act of the legislature containing a specific appropriation of monies for program implementation becomes effective.

Representative Schlegel offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Representative Melerine offered technical amendments to House Bill No. 745. Representative Melerine offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Melerine, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Kelli Bottger, Louisiana Kids Matter, 37397 Cypress Alley Avenue, Gonzales, LA 70737 spoke for information only on House Bill No. 745.

Andrée Miller, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke as the designee of Governor Jeff Landry in support of House Bill No. 745.

Kaleb Moore, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 745.

Ben Lemoine, 1201 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke as the designee of Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education President Ronnie Morris in support of House Bill No. 745.

Nathan Danders, Ed. Choice, 111 Monument Circle, Indianapolis, IN, spoke in support of House Bill No. 745.

Daniel Erspamer, Pelican Institute, 400 Poydras Street, 9th floor, New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke in support of House Bill No. 745.

Gene Mills, Louisiana Family Forum, 655 St. Ferdinand, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 745.

Scott Simon, Americans for Prosperity, 4400 Trenton Street, Metairie, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 745.

Mary Beth Hughes, Louisiana Association of Business & Industry, 500 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70807, spoke in support of House Bill No. 745.

Braive Heno, Good Shepherd School, 1732 Industry Street, New Orleans LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 745.

Sydni Johnson, Good Shepherd School. 2447 Janquil Street, New Orleans, LA 70122, spoke in support of House Bill No. 745.

Brielle Heno, Good Shepherd School, 1732 Industry Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in support of House Bill No. 745.

Khylia Washington, Good Shepherd School. 3911 Hessmer Avenue, New Orleans, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 745.

Jasmine Meriedy, 3417 Capitola Street, Jacksonville, FL 32209, spoke in support of House Bill No. 745.

Clarice Jackson, 8110 Girard Plaza, Omaha, NE 68122, spoke in support of House Bill No. 745.

Jamie Pope, 17022 Weyanoke Drive, Zachary, LA 70791, spoke in support of House Bill No. 745.

Melissa Flournoy, 10,000 Women, 650 North Sixth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 745.

Samantha Singletary, 434 Sandpiper Place, Sunset, LA 70584, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 745 and provided a handout, "Legislators, Please Listen", Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Corhonda Corley, 8815 Wilmore Drive, Zachary, LA 70791, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 745.

Dannie Garrett, Louisiana School Boards Association, 635 Main Street, #3, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 745.

Michael Faulk, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, 2713 Indian Mound Boulevard, Monroe, LA 71201, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 745.

Lenny Kopowski, St. Charles Parish School Board, 10577 Airline Highway, no city or state provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 745.

Jan Moller, Invest in Louisiana, 619 Jefferson Highway, 1-D, Baton Rouge, LA 70506, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 745.

Steven Procopio, Public Affairs Research Council, 455 Laurel Street, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 745.

Dr. Cade Brumley, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 745.

Representative Schlegel offered a motion to report House Bill No. 745 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 745 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 42 in support, and 9 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 745 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 190 by Representative Freiberg

Representative Freiberg presented House Bill No. 190, which provides relative to the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 190 with amendments, to which Representative Tarver objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 190 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Carlson, Carpenter, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, St. Blanc, and Young voted yea. Representatives Amedée, Owen, Tarver, and Taylor voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 14 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Tarver offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Carlson, Carpenter, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Laurie Schlegel
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: