

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
April 9, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Laurie Schlegel, chair of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:03 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
Lauren Breen, committee clerk

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

III. BUSINESS**House Bill No. 452 by Representative St. Blanc**

Representative St. Blanc presented House Bill No. 452, which provides for the termination of the TOPS-Tech Award beginning with the 2029-2030 award year.

Dr. Monty Sullivan, Louisiana Community and Technical College System, 265 South Foster Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 452.

Catherine Smith, Jennings High School, 3311 Kirkpatrick Drive, Jennings, LA 70548, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 452.

Michael Faulk, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, 2713 Indian Mound Boulevard, Monroe, LA 71201, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 452.

Representative Brass offered a motion to report House Bill No. 452 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 452 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, 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: 2 in support, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 68 by Representative Glorioso

Representative Glorioso presented House Bill No. 68, which lowers the ACT score required for initial qualification for a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students award for students who complete approved home study programs, and provided two handouts, "Who is LOSFA?", Exhibit A, and "TOPS Mid-Year Update: March 2024", Exhibit B, which are included in the committee records.

Dr. Sujuan Boutte, Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance, 602 North Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 68.

Ken Bradford Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 68.

Representative Tarver offered a motion to report House Bill No. 68 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 68 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Freiberg, Melerine, Owen, Tarver, Taylor, and Young and voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 606 by Representative Jordan

Representative Jordan presented House Bill No. 606, which requires the Southern University Board of Supervisors to establish a program for midwives and a program for doulas within the Southern University School of Nursing, subject to Board of Regents approval.

Representative Brass offered a motion to report House Bill No. 606 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 606 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Freiberg, Melerine, Owen, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

House Bill No. 5 by Representative Owen

Representative Owen presented House Bill No. 5, which provides relative to types of payment accepted at public events at public postsecondary education institutions.

Lenny Kopowski, University of New Orleans, 10577 Airline Highway, New Orleans, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 5.

Representative Tarver offered a motion to report House Bill No. 5 favorably, to which Representative Freiberg objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 5 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Carpenter, Edmonston, Melerine, Owen, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea. Representatives Carver and Freiberg voted nay.

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

House Bill No. 174 by Representative McMakin

Representative McMakin presented House Bill No. 174, which provides relative to disciplinary proceedings for students and student organizations at public postsecondary education institutions.

Representative Schlegel offered amendments that removed proposed law broadening the application of disciplinary procedures to any violation regardless of the degree of potential punishment and changed the evidentiary requirement from "beyond a reasonable doubt" to "by clear and convincing evidence". 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, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, Owen, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 174 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 174 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, Owen, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

House Bill No. 266 by Representative Amedée

Representative Amedée presented House Bill No. 266, which provides relative to core curriculum requirements for initial eligibility for a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students award.

Representative Carlson provided a handout, "Coding is a Language", Exhibit C, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Amedée offered a motion to report House Bill No. 266 favorably, to which Representative Carlson objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 266 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 6 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Edmonston, Freiberg, Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea. Representatives Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Melerine, Taylor, and Young voted nay.

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. 548 by Representative Amedée

Representative Amedée presented House Bill No. 548, which subjects students who complete approved home study programs and satisfy certain academic requirements to the same ACT requirements as graduates of public and approved nonpublic high schools for qualification for a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students award.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 548 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 548 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, Owen, St. Blanc, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 931 by Representative Chassion

Representative Chassion presented House Bill No. 931, which provides for awarding high school diplomas in certain circumstances.

Ken Bradford, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 931.

Vice Chair Amedée in the chair.

Dr. Cade Brumley, Louisiana Department of Education, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 931.

Chair Schlegel in the chair.

Michael Faulk, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, 2713 Indian Mound Boulevard, Monroe, LA 71201, spoke in support of House Bill No. 931.

Dannie Garrett, Louisiana School Boards Association, 635 Main Street, #3, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of House Bill No. 931.

Louis Reine, Louisiana American Federation of Labor & Congress of Industrial Organizations, 429 Government Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 931.

Catherine Smith, Jennings High School, 3311 Kirkpatrick Drive, Jennings, LA 70546, spoke in support of House Bill No. 931.

April Dronet, Jeff Davis Parish School Board, 665 Smokey Sarant Road, Kinder, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 931.

Susan East Nelson, Louisiana Partnership for Children & Families, 7515 Jefferson Highway, #52, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in support of House Bill No. 931.

Ronnie Morris, Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Region 6, no address provided, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 931.

Stacey Melerine, Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Region 4, no address provided, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 931.

Conrad Appel, 531 Topaz Street, New Orleans, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 931.

Kelli Bottger, Louisiana Kids Matter, 37397 Cypress Alley Avenue, Gonzales, LA 70137, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 931.

Dr. Erin Bendily, Pelican Institute, 400 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 931.

Brigiette Nieland, Stand for Children, 601 Laurel Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 931.

Mary Beth Hughes, Louisiana Association of Business & Industry, 500 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 931.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 931 favorably, to which Representative Carlson objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas and 9 nays. Representatives Brass, Carpenter, Edmonston, Taylor, and Young voted yea. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Carlson, Carver, Freiberg, Melerine, Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted nay.

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

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 931 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Carlson offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Laurie Schlegel
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: