

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
April 10, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Laurie Schlegel, chair of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 12:38 p.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 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:

Representative Barbara W. Carpenter

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Elizabeth L. Borne, legislative analyst
Lisa Lovello, legislative analyst
Alexandra Cravins, committee administrative assistant
Natayveon Howard-Williams, committee assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

III. BUSINESS

House Concurrent Resolution No. 14 by Representative Melerine

Representative Melerine presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 14, which requests that the state Department of Education study the potential effects of alternative school calendar options on student academic achievement.

Representative Owen offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 14 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 14 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

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. 121 by Representative Crews

Representative Crews presented House Bill No. 121, which provides relative to the use of certain names and pronouns for students.

Representative Amedée offered amendments to House Bill No. 121 that:

1. Added definitions of "female" and "male".
2. Removed volunteers from the definition of "employee".
3. Expanded the types of relief that individuals aggrieved by an intentional violation of proposed law may seek.
4. Added a two-year prescription on civil actions.
5. Changed proposed law regarding an employee's use of pronouns from a requirement to use the pronoun that aligns with the student's sex to an exemption from adverse employment action for refusing to address a student with a pronoun that is inconsistent with his sex.

Representative Amedée 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, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

Melissa Flournoy, 10,000 Women, 650 North Sixth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 121.

Britain Forsyth, Step Up for Action, 2819 Pine Street, New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 121.

Jamie Segura, 16309 East Brewster Road, #B-109, Covington, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 121.

Rebecca Bohm, 411 Westwood Avenue, Mandeville, LA 70471, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 121.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 121 with amendments, to which Representative Taylor objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 121 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 3 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea. Representatives Brass, Taylor, and Young voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support, and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 121 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 122 by Representative Horton

Representative Horton presented House Bill No. 122, which provides relative to discussion of sexual orientation and gender identity in public schools.

Representative Brass offered amendments to House Bill No. 122 that applied the provisions of the bill to both charter schools and nonpublic schools that receive public funds. After discussion, Representative Brass withdrew the amendments.

Melissa Flournoy, 10,000 Women, 650 North Sixth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 122.

Britain Forsyth, Step Up for Action, 2819 Pine Street, New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 122.

Jamie Segura, 16309 East Brewster Road, #B-109, Covington, LA 70433, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 122.

Rebecca Bohm, 411 Westwood Avenue, Mandeville, LA 70471, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 122.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 122 favorably, to which Representative Taylor objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 122 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 3 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Melerine, Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea. Representatives Brass, Freiberg, and Taylor voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support, and 3 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 122 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Laurie Schlegel
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: