

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
April 16, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Laurie Schlegel, chair 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 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. 340 by Representative Phelps**

Representative Phelps presented House Bill No. 340, which requires public school governing authorities to provide for a tracking system for parental complaints.

Representative Schlegel offered amendments that removed the proposed law requirement that the tracking system include the assignment of unique reference numbers for the purpose of complaint tracking. Representative Schlegel offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Ashley Townsend, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 340.

Dannie Garrett, Louisiana School Boards Association, 635 Main Street, #3, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 340.

Michael Faulk, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, 2713 Indian Mound Boulevard, Monroe, LA 71201, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 340.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 340 with amendments, to which Representative Amedée objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 340 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, Owen, and St. Blanc voted yea. Representatives Amedée and Tarver voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support, and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 917 by Representative Phelps

Representative Phelps presented House Bill No. 917, which provides that Act No. 84 of the 2023 Regular Session of the Legislature shall be known and may be cited as "Mani's Law".

Representative Schlegel offered amendments that changed the proposed name of Act No. 84 of the 2023 Regular Session from "Mani's Law" to "Armani's Law". Representative Schlegel offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Representative Carlson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 917 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 917 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Young voted yea.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 21 by Representative Schlegel

Representative Schlegel presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 21, which provides for legislative approval of the MFP formula for FY 2024-2025.

Vice Chair Amedée in the chair.

Dr. Cade Brumley, Louisiana Department of Education, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 21.

Beth Scioneaux, Louisiana Department of Education, Fifth Floor Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 21.

Larry J. Carter, Jr., Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9623 Brookline Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke in opposition to House Concurrent Resolution No. 21.

Dannie Garrett, Louisiana School Boards Association, 635 Main Street, #3, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 21.

Michael Faulk, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, 2713 Indian Mound Boulevard, Monroe, LA 71201, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 21.

Representative Freiberg in the chair.

Dr. Tia Mills, Louisiana Association of Educators, 8322 One Calais Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 21.

Chair Schlegel in the chair.

Representative Schlegel offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 21 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 21 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas

and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Brass, Carlson, Carpenter, Freiberg, Melerine, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 601 by Representative Carpenter

Representative Carpenter presented House Bill No. 601, which requires parental notification relative to uncertified teachers.

Representative Schlegel offered amendments that:

1. Authorized rather than required principals to notify parents.
2. Included teachers with nonstandard certificates and teachers with authorization to teach without certification in the possible notification.
3. Removed mandated notification time frames.

Representative Schlegel 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, Brass, Carlson, Carpenter, Freiberg, Melerine, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Michael Faulk, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, 2713 Indian Mound Boulevard, Monroe, LA 71201, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 601.

Cynthia Posey, Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9623 Brookline Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in support of House Bill No. 601.

Representative Carpenter offered a motion to report House Bill No. 601 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 601 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Brass, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Freiberg, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

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

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 601 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 363 by Representative Phelps

Representative Phelps presented House Bill No. 363, which requires in-service training for school nurses on caring for students with sickle cell disease, and provided a handout, "Educational Needs of School Nurses Regarding the Evidence-Based Management of Sickle Cell Disease", Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Shay Hardison, Sickle Cell Anemia Resource Foundation, no address provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 363.

Representative Young offered a motion to report House Bill No. 363 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 363 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Brass, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Freiberg, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 46 by Representative Tarver

Representative Tarver presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 46, which requests the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to prioritize mental health instruction and training in suicide prevention in its rulemaking process.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 46 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 46 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Brass, Carlson, Carver, Freiberg, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

The committee stood at ease at 11:14 a.m. The committee reconvened at 11:20 a.m.

Representative Freiberg in the chair.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 44 by Representative Melerine

Representative Melerine presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 44, which directs the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to explore the creation of an appeals process for certain students who do not pass state-administered, end-of-course assessments required for high school graduation.

Representative Young offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 44 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 44 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carlson, Carver, Freiberg, Melerine, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 10 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 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carlson, Carver, Freiberg, Melerine, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Laurie Schlegel
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: