

## **House Committee on Education**

Minutes of Meeting  
2024 Regular Session  
April 17, 2024

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Representative Laurie Schlegel, chair of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:07 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. 252 by Representative Mike Johnson**

Representative Mike Johnson presented House Bill No. 252, which provides relative to the provision of cardiac health information to student athletes and their parents, and provided a handout, "Student Cardiac Arrest and Lindsay's Law Parent/Athlete Signature Form", Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Michelle Temple, Gray's Army Foundation, 8064 Olivia Drive, Denham Springs, LA 70706, spoke in support of House Bill No. 252.

Leanna Lanford, 119 Hidden Path, Pineville, LA 71360, spoke in support of House Bill No. 252.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 252 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 252 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, 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. 862 by Representative Hughes**

Representative Hughes presented House Bill No. 862, which authorizes, with limitations, public postsecondary education management boards to establish and increase student tuition and mandatory fees. Representative Hughes provided a handout, "Higher Education Tuition and Fee Authority", Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Monty Sullivan, Louisiana Community and Technical College System, 265 South Foster Drive, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 862.

Joe Savoie, University of Louisiana System, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 862.

Dr. Kim Hunter Reed, Board of Regents, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 862.

Barry Erwin, Council for A Better Louisiana, P.O. Box 4308, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, spoke in support of House Bill No. 862.

Representative Young offered a motion to report House Bill No. 862 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 862 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Carpenter, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, Taylor, and Young, voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 16 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

### **House Bill No. 940 by Representative Turner**

Representative Turner presented House Bill No. 940, which authorizes the issuance of bonds to finance deferred maintenance projects included in the College and University Deferred Maintenance and Capital Improvement Program. Representative Turner provided a handout, "Higher Education Deferred Maintenance", Exhibit C, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Schlegel offered amendments to House Bill No. 940 that increased the amount of project costs that triggers a requirement for a public hearing prior to beginning construction or management of the project from \$250,000 to \$1 million and increased the amount of project costs that triggers a requirement for the corporation to issue a request for qualifications or request for proposals to select contractors for any project from \$250,000 to \$1 million.

Representative Schlegel offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Brass, Carlson, Carpenter, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Monty Sullivan, Louisiana Community and Technical College System, 365 South Foster Drive, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 940.

Dennis Shields, Southern University System, J.S. Clark Administration Building, Southern University, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 940.

Representative Schlegel offered a motion to report House Bill No. 940 with amendments with a recommendation to recommit to the House Committee on Ways and Means. Without objection, House Bill No. 940 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Carlson, Carpenter, Melerine, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

### **House Bill No. 550 by Representative Amedée**

Representative Amedée presented House Bill No. 550, which terminates approval of home study programs by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), provides for the enrollment of students in home schools, and provides for one-time notification to BESE upon such enrollment.

Representative Amedée offered amendments to House Bill No. 550 that:

1. Revised the definition of "homeschool".
2. Added provisions for students withdrawing from public school to enroll in a homeschool.
3. Added that homeschool diplomas shall be recognized by state and local government agencies and by public postsecondary education institutions if students meet other admissions requirements.
4. Added that homeschool graduates may be eligible for a Taylor Opportunity for Students (TOPS) award if they meet certain academic requirements and other requirements for initial TOPS eligibility.

Representative Amedée offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Ellen Davis, 10371 Dunn Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, spoke in support of House Bill No. 550.

Karen Tantzen, 17486 Lauren Drive, Prairieville, LA 70769, spoke in support of House Bill No. 550.

Jessie Leger, Homeschool Louisiana, 3345 Montgomery Street, Mandeville, LA 70443, spoke in support of House Bill No. 550.

Maritza Antunez, 4124 Bayou Savage Drive, Kenner, LA 70065, spoke in support of House Bill No. 550.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 550 with amendments, to which Representative Freiberg objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill

No. 550 was reported with amendments by a vote of 7 yeas and 6 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Owen, and Tarver voted yea. Representatives Brass, Carpenter, Freiberg, Melerine, Taylor, and Young voted nay.

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

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 550 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

### **House Bill No. 629 by Representative Phelps**

Representative Phelps presented House Bill No. 629, which provides for responsibilities of parents of truant children.

Representative Schlegel offered amendments to House Bill No. 629 that:

1. Added that failure to comply with proposed law may subject parents to present law criminal penalties for improper supervision of a minor.
2. Provided that work can be made up at other remediation opportunities in addition to after-school tutoring sessions and weekend make-up classes.
3. Added a requirement that principals note concerns that school personnel have relative to a student's attendance on any Supplemental Security Income form the school receives relative to that child.

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.

Melissa Francis, Step Up Louisiana, 1419 Frenchmen Street, no city or state provided, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 629.

Representative Taylor offered a motion to report House Bill No. 629 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 629 was reported with amendments 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.

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

**House Bill No. 872 by Representative Miller**

Representative Miller presented House Bill No. 872, which provides relative to behavioral health services for students.

Beverly Haydel, Louisiana Coalition for Access to Autism Services, 2977 Fritchie Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in support of House Bill No. 872.

*Vice Chair Amedée in the chair.*

Lindsey Bush Rhodes, 18044 Bradford Drive, Hammond, LA 70403, spoke in support of House Bill No. 872.

Sherri Houin, Strengthening Outcomes with Autism Resources, 21 Industrial Parkway, Building A, Ponchatoula, LA 70454, spoke in support of House Bill No. 872.

Cody Babalais, 909 Mulberry Road, Opelousas, LA 70570, spoke in support of House Bill No. 872.

Sarah Vandergriff, Louisiana Charter Schools, 4722 Miles Drive, New Orleans, LA 70122, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 872.

Michael Faulk, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, 2713 Indian Mound Boulevard, Monroe, LA 71201, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 872.

*Chair Schlegel in the chair.*

Representative Carver offered a motion to report House Bill No. 872 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 872 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, Tarver, and Young voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 11 in support, 1 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

**IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Brass offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Laurie Schlegel  
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: