

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
April 24, 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, clerk

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

III. BUSINESS**Senate Bill No. 316 by Senator Miguez**

Senator Miguez presented Senate Bill No. 316, which provides relative to charter schools.

Representative Schlegel offered amendments to Senate Bill No. 316 that removed the exception for "turnaround schools" relative to a charter authorizer's proposed law authority to extend contract terms under certain circumstances, and revised terminology. 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, Amedée, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

Sarah Vandergriff, Charterschools.org, 4722 Miles Drive, New Orleans, LA 70122, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 316.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 316 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 316 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 9 in support, and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 38 by Senator Edmonds

Senator Edmonds presented Senate Bill No. 38, which provides with respect to the Course Choice Program.

Dr. Erin Bendily, Pelican Institute, 400 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 38.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 38 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 38 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 11 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 85 by Senator Edmonds

Senator Edmonds presented Senate Bill No. 85, which changes the makeup of the board of the Jimmy D. Long School for Math, Science, and the Arts.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 85 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 85 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, Tarver, Taylor and Young voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 272 by Senator Edmonds

Senator Edmonds presented Senate Bill No. 272, which provides relative to the M.J. Foster Promise Award Program.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 272 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 272 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 11 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 72 by Representative LaFleur

Representative LaFleur presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 72, which requests that the state Department of Education study and report relative to school start times.

Representative Schlegel offered amendments to House Concurrent Resolution No. 72 that created a task force to study school start times and submit a written report to the House and Senate education committees. 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, Brass, Carpenter, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Brace Godfrey, Baton Rouge Area Chamber, 864 Laurel Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 72.

Representative Carpenter offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 72 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 72 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 10 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 54 by Senator Wheat

Senator Wheat presented Senate Bill No. 54, which requires CPR/AED training for coaches in Louisiana.

Erica Williams, American Heart Association, 90 Chamale Cove, Slidell, LA 70460, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 54.

Representative Young offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 54 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 54 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Melerine, Owen, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 10 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 56 by Senator Wheat

Senator Wheat presented Senate Bill No. 56, which provides for the administration of medication to students by certain practitioners.

Representative Schlegel offered amendments to Senate Bill No. 56 to apply the expansion of a physician's license location to prescriptions written for the performance of noncomplex health procedures at school. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carver, Edmonston, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Jennifer Ricard, no address provided, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 56.

Representative Taylor offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 56 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 56 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carver, Edmonston, Melerine, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 123 by Senator Abraham

On behalf of Senator Abraham, Representative Amedée presented Senate Bill No. 123, which provides relative to the employment or acceptance of volunteer chaplains in public schools.

Representative Amedée offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 123 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 123 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carver, Edmonston, Melerine, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support, and 2 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 123 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Bill No. 908 by Representative Amedée

Representative Amedée presented House Bill No. 908, which prohibits discrimination against students on the basis of vaccination status.

Pete Coughan, Louisiana Department of Health, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 908.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 908 favorably, to which Representative Taylor objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 908 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 3 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Carver, Edmonston, Melerine, Owen, and Tarver voted yea. Representatives Brass, Taylor, and Young voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 9 in support, and 12 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 908 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 68 by Representative Owen

Representative Owen presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 68, which requests that the Board of Regents and public postsecondary education management boards scrutinize the practice of hiring faculty from certain foreign adversaries.

Chris Alexander, Louisiana Citizen Advocacy Group, P.O. Box 64952, Baton Rouge, LA 70896, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 68.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 68 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 68 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Edmonston, Owen, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 168 by Representative Carlson

Representative Carlson presented House Bill No. 168, which provides relative to qualifications for certified librarians.

Representative Carlson offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Carlson offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Edmonston, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

David Pitre, 111 Beverly Drive, Lafayette, LA 70503, spoke in support of House Bill No. 168.

Erin Sandefur, 24411 Oma Harris Lane, Denham Springs, LA 70726, spoke in support of House Bill No. 168.

Kathy Wascom, 1255 Aberdeen, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 168.

Lisa Rustemeyer, no address provided, Mandeville, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 168.

Celise Reech-Harper, no address provided, Alexandria, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 168.

Garrett Deschamp, 8312 Thurman Drive, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 168.

Mary Stein, 12903 Goodwood Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 168.

Lynette Mejia, Louisiana Citizens Against Censorship, 151 Schoeffler Rd, Carencro, LA 70520, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 168.

Mary Guercio, 207 Grand Pointe Boulevard, Lafayette, LA 70508, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 168.

Mike Holt, 1236 Rochport Street, Zachary, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 168.

Melissa Flournoy, 10,000 Women, 650 North Sixth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 168.

Allan Moore, 309 Briann Lane, Broussard, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 168.

Representative Carlson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 168 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 168 was reported by substitute by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Edmonston, Melerine, Owen, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 10 in support, and 26 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 168 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Schlegel offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Edmonston, Melerine, Owen, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Laurie Schlegel
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: