

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
April 30, 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, clerk

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

III. BUSINESS**House Concurrent Resolution No. 37 by Representative Jordan**

Representative Jordan presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 37, which requests that the Southern University Board of Supervisors establish a mayor's institute at the Nelson Mandela College of Government and Social Sciences.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 37 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 37 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Carver, Freiberg, Melerine, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

House Resolution No. 51 by Representative Jordan

Representative Jordan presented House Resolution No. 51, which requests that the Southern University Board of Supervisors take steps necessary to establish a medical school on the campus of Southern University at Baton Rouge.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 51 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 51 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

House Resolution No. 52 by Representative Jordan

Representative Jordan presented House Resolution No. 52, which requests that the Southern University Board of Supervisors take steps necessary to establish a school of pharmacy on the campus of Southern University at Baton Rouge.

Representative Carpenter offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 52 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 52 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

House Bill No. 762 by Representative Bamburg

Representative Bamburg presented House Bill No. 762, which repeals the requirement that students pursuing a career diploma take the ACT or WorkKeys test and prohibits requiring any student to take any ACT assessment.

Representative Schlegel offered amendments to House Bill No. 762 that granted local school boards the authority to administer alternate assessments and required the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to adopt rules relative to such administration. 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, Brass, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, Taylor voted yea.

Representative Schlegel offered a motion to withdraw the previously adopted amendments. Without objection, the amendment was withdrawn by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Freiberg, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

Representative Schlegel offered amendments to House Bill No. 762 to:

1. Add that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education may administer a nationally recognized assessment statewide in lieu of end-of-course assessments.
2. Remove the proposed law prohibition against requiring students to take the ACT.
3. Reinstate the present law requirement that career diploma students take the ACT.

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, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Freiberg, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

Dr. Cade Brumley, Louisiana Department of Education, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 762.

Ken Bradford, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70820, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 762.

Michael Faulk, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, 2713 Indian Mound Boulevard, Monroe, LA 71201, spoke in support of House Bill No. 762.

Dannie Garrett, Louisiana School Boards Association, 635 Main Street, #3, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of House Bill No. 762.

Erin Bendily, Pelican Institute, 400 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 762.

Representative Carver offered a motion to report House Bill No. 762 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 762 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Freiberg, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor 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. 424 by Representative Phelps

Representative Phelps presented House Bill No. 424, which requires each public school governing authority to use a uniform 10-point grading scale.

Steve Umling, Caddo Schools, 1961 Midway, Shreveport, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 424 and provided a handout, Disadvantages of a seven-point grading scale, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Victor Mainiero, Caddo Schools, 1961 Midway, Shreveport, LA 71108, spoke in support of House Bill No. 424.

Ken Bradford, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 424.

Michael Faulk, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, 2713 Indian Mound Boulevard, Monroe, LA 71201, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 424.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 424 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 424 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 78 by Representative Owen

Representative Owen presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 78, which requests that the state Board of Regents and public postsecondary education management boards report to the House and

Senate education committees and the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget on actions related to environmental, social, and governance criteria.

Kim Hunter Reed, no witness card provided, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 78.

Representative Owen offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 78 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 78 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor 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.

The committee stood at ease at 11:13 a.m. The committee reconvened at 11:23 a.m.

House Bill No. 904 by Representative Chenevert

Representative Chenevert presented House Bill No. 904, which requires school-level reporting by public schools and postsecondary education institutions on programs related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging and requires the state Department of Education and the Board of Regents to submit summary reports to certain legislative committees.

Dr. Cade Brumley, Louisiana Department of Education, no witness card provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 904.

Chris Alexander, Louisiana Citizen Advocacy Group, P.O. Box 64952, Baton Rouge, LA 70896, spoke in support of House Bill No. 904.

Michele Seymour, 2023 St. Philip Street, New Orleans, LA 70716, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 904.

Representative Carlson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 904 favorably, to which Representative Carpenter objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 904 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas, 5 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Amedée, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Melerine, Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea. Representatives Brass, Carpenter, Freiberg, Taylor, and Young voted nay. Representative Schlegel abstained.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 13 in support, and 4 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 57 by Representative Ventrella

Representative Ventrella presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 57, which directs the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to implement "Aliye's Law" and provide instruction to students on organ donation.

Leah Veck, Aliye's Law, 12432 Stoneway Place, Baton Rouge, LA 70818, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 57.

Representative Owen offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 57 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 57 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: 1 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Resolution No. 156 by Representative Larvadain

Representative Larvadain presented House Resolution No. 156, which requests the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study the advisability and feasibility of requiring metal detection devices in public schools.

Representative Carpenter offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 156 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 156 was reported favorably 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.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support. 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 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 12:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Laurie Schlegel
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: