

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
May 8, 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 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:

Representative Kendricks "Ken" Brass

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. 465 by Senator Talbot

Senator Talbot presented Senate Bill No. 465, which provides relative to intercollegiate athletes at a postsecondary education institution.

Winston DeCuir, Jr., Louisiana State University, 3810 West Lakeshore, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 465.

Representative Carver offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 465 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 465 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Freiberg, Melerine, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 350 by Senator Edmonds

Senator Edmonds presented Senate Bill No. 350, which provides relative to charter schools.

Caroline Roemer, Louisiana Charter Schools in Action, no address provided, Metairie, LA, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 350.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 350 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 350 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Freiberg, Melerine, Owen, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 11 in support, and 3 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Resolution No. 101 by Representative Turner

On behalf of Representative Turner, Representative Owen presented House Resolution No. 101, which requests the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study the role of ACT and WorkKeys scores in the school and district accountability system.

Representative Schlegel offered amendments to House Resolution No. 101 that required the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to provide a report to the House Committee on Education not later than 30 days prior to the 2025 Regular Session. 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, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Freiberg, Melerine, Owen, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Representative Owen offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 101 with amendments. Without objection, House Resolution No. 101 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Freiberg, Melerine, Owen, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 363 by Senator Coussan

Senator Coussan presented Senate Bill No. 363, which provides relative to occupational experience of instructors in a technical or occupational course at proprietary schools.

Noah Brandon, Unitech, 309 Settlers Trace, Lafayette, LA 70508, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 363.

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

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Resolution No. 173 by Representative Melerine

Representative Melerine presented House Resolution No. 173, which requests that the state Department of Education study and make recommendations relative to automated graduation progress monitoring initiatives to enhance timely high school graduation.

Ken Bradford, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only on House Resolution No. 173.

Representative Young offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 173 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 173 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 22 by Senator Wheat

Senator Wheat presented Senate Bill No. 22, which creates scholarships for spouses of police officers killed or disabled in performance of duty and police officers injured in performance of duty.

Representative Schlegel offered technical amendments to Senate Bill No. 22. 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, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Sergeant Joshua Nations, Louisiana State Police, 7919 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 22.

Representative Taylor offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 22 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 22 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Owen, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 47 by Senator Talbot

On behalf of Senator Talbot, Representative Carver presented Senate Bill No. 47, which provides relative to charter schools, the chartering process by types and corporate partnerships.

Caroline Roemer, Louisiana Charter Schools in Action, no address provided, Metairie, LA, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 47.

Representative Carver offered technical amendments to Senate Bill No. 47. Representative Carver 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, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Dr. Erin Bendily, Pelican Institute, 400 Poydras, New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 47.

Corhonda Corley, Louisiana Families of Children with Disabilities, 8815 Wilmore Drive, Zachary, LA 70791, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 47.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 47 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 47 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

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

House Concurrent Resolution No. 89 by Representative Marcelle

On behalf of Representative Marcelle, Representative Carpenter presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 89, which requests that the state Department of Education review school districts' use of corporal punishment, willful disobedience, and zero tolerance policies and identify best practices for child welfare and attendance personnel.

Corhonda Corley, Louisiana Families of Children with Disabilities, 8815 Wilmore Drive, Zachary, LA 70791, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 89.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 89 favorably, to which Representative Owen objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 6 yeas and 6 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Carpenter, Edmonston, Freiberg, Taylor, and Young voted yea. Representatives Amedée, Carlson, Carver, Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted nay.

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

Senate Bill No. 26 by Senator Fields

On behalf of Senator Fields, Representative Carpenter presented Senate Bill No. 26, which requires heating and air conditioning on school buses.

Michael Faulk, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, 2713 Indian Mound Boulevard, Monroe, LA 71201, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 26.

Representative Freiberg offered amendments to Senate Bill No. 26 that extended the proposed law deadline for the requirement that all buses be equipped with heating and air conditioning systems from August 1, 2027, to August 1, 2029, and limited the application of this requirement to buses owned by a public school governing authority. Representative Freiberg 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, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Representative Melerine offered amendments to Senate Bill No. 26 that removed the application of proposed law to nonpublic schools. Representative Melerine 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, St. Blanc, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Representative Young offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 26 with amendments, to which Representative Tarver objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 26 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 1 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, St. Blanc, Taylor, and Young voted yea. Representative Tarver voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 26 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Resolution No. 168 by Representative St. Blanc

Representative St. Blanc presented House Resolution No. 168, which requests that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education consider the adoption of a policy allowing online public schools to administer state assessments remotely and in a virtual setting.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 168 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 168 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Schlegel announced that Senate Bill No. 253 by Senator Foil, which provides relative to parental consent for changes to an individualized education program, would not be heard.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Carver offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Laurie Schlegel
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: