

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2024 Regular Session
May 21, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Laurie Schlegel, chair of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:05 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 Vincent "Vinney" J. St. Blanc, III
Representative Phillip Eric Tarver
Representative Sylvia Elaine Taylor
Representative Rashid Armand Young

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Charles Anthony Owen

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Elizabeth L. Borne, legislative analyst
Lisa Lovello, legislative analyst
Alexandra Cravins, committee administrative assistant
Frank Meyer, IV, clerk

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

III. BUSINESS

Senate Bill No. 253 by Senator Foil

Senator Foil presented Senate Bill No. 253, which provides relative to parental consent for changes to an individualized education program.

Representative Schlegel offered amendments to Senate Bill No. 253 that required a local education agency to provide notice to the parent or legal guardian of a student with an individualized education program relative to a reduction or removal of a special education course or related service rather than requiring that the local education agency obtain consent from the parent or legal guardian; and authorized the parent or legal guardian of a student with an individualized education program to have a meeting with the student's IEP team postponed after receiving such notice.

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, Freiberg, Melerine, St. Blanc, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Dannie Garrett, Louisiana School Boards Association, 635 Main Street, #3, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 253.

Mary-Patricia Wray, 2360 Tulip Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 253.

Kathryne Hart, 1030 Woodhaven Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70815, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 253.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 253 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 253 was reported with amendments 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.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, 1 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 508 by Senator McMath

Senator McMath presented Senate Bill No. 508, which provides relative to required high-dosage tutoring for certain students.

Representative Schlegel offered technical amendments to Senate Bill No. 508. 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, St. Blanc, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Representative Melerine offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 508 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 508 was reported with amendments 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.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 475 by Senator Owen

Senator Owen presented Senate Bill No. 475, which allows the Health Education course to be offered virtually under certain circumstances.

Ken Bradford, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 475.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 475 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 475 was reported favorably 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.

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

Senate Bill No. 313 by Senator Edmonds

Senator Edmonds presented Senate Bill No. 313, which creates the Louisiana Giving All True Opportunity to Rise (LA GATOR) Scholarship Program to provide educational savings accounts for parental choice in K-12 education.

Representative Schlegel offered amendments to Senate Bill No. 313 that:

1. Removed the requirement that the assessment standards that the department adopts for the LA GATOR program become the state's official accountability system.
2. Added that the Department of Education may enter into a contract for program administration and management subject to State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education approval and in accordance with State Board of Elementary and Secondary

Education policy and exempted the contract from present law relative to procurement.

3. Specified that the amount of funds allocated to Education Savings Accounts (from funds appropriated) shall be determined by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

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, St. Blanc, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Dr. Cade Brumley, Louisiana Department of Education, no address provided, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 313.

Andrée Miller, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke as the designee of Governor Jeff Landry in support of Senate Bill No. 313.

Michael Faulk, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, 2713 Indian Mound Boulevard, Monroe, LA 71201, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 313.

Dr. Janet Pope, Louisiana School Boards Association, 620 Florida Street, Suite 100, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 313.

Larry J. Carter, Jr., Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9623 Brookline Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 313.

Marcus Thomas, Louisiana Association of Educators, 8322 One Calais Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 313.

Representative Carlson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 313 with amendments, to which Representative Taylor objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 313 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Carlson, Carver, Freiberg, Melerine, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea. Representatives Brass, Carpenter, Taylor, and Young voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 10 in support, 3 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 313 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

House Resolution No. 239 by Representative Wyble

On behalf of Representative Wyble, Representative Carver presented House Resolution No. 239, which requests that the state Department of Education create a task force to research family and parent engagement in education and to submit a written report to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the House Education Committee by December 31, 2025.

Representative Schlegel offered amendments to House Resolution No. 239 that increased the task force membership from 17 to 19. 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, Freiberg, Melerine, St. Blanc, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Representative Carver offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 239 with amendments. Without objection, House Resolution No. 239 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Freiberg, Melerine, 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.

The committee stood at ease at 10:35 a.m. The committee reconvened at 10:36 a.m.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 123 by Representative Bayham

Representative Bayham presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 123, which condemns antisemitic violence on college campuses and expresses support for Louisiana's Jewish students, faculty, staff, and communities.

Representative Amedée offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 123 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 123 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Melerine, St. Blanc, 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.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Concurrent Resolution No. 123 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Laurie Schlegel
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: