

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Minutes of Meeting
Regular Session, 2012
March 28, 2012

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Stephen F. Carter, Chairman of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:29 a.m., in Committee Room 1, in the State Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The secretary called the roll.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Stephen F. Carter, Chairman
Representative Patrick O. Jefferson, Vice Chairman
Representative Wesley T. Bishop
Representative Christopher Broadwater
Representative Henry L. Burns
Representative Thomas Carmody
Representative Simone Champagne
Representative John Bel Edwards
Representative Cameron Henry
Representative Paul B. Hollis
Representative Nancy Landry
Representative Edward J. Price
Representative Jerome Richard
Representative Robert E. Shadoin
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith
Representative Jeff R. Thompson
Representative Alfred C. Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative John M. Schroder

III. STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Paul Jones, Legislative Analyst
Nancy Y. Jolly, Legislative Analyst
Jackie Snowden, Secretary
Beverly Vincent, Sergeant at Arms
Angelika Washington, Clerk

IV. DISCUSSION

House Bill No. 945 by Representative Henry Burns

House Bill No. 945 extends Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) eligibility for certain students who reenlist in the U.S. Armed Forces and maintain continuous active duty.

Representative Burns presented the bill to the committee. He was accompanied by Ms. Stafford Palmieri, policy director, Office of Governor Bobby Jindal, 4th Floor, State Capitol, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 342-7015, who presented highlights of the bill.

Also making a statement in support of the legislation was Representative Nick Lorusso, District No. 94, 3535 Canal St., Suite 103, New Orleans, LA 70119, (504) 483-4711.

These persons signed cards in support of House Bill No. 945 and were available to present information, if requested, but did not wish to speak (See Exhibit A).

Representative Burns closed on the bill.

Representative Henry moved that House Bill No. 945 be reported favorably. There was no objection, and House Bill No. 945 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Price, Richard, Shadoin, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

House Bill No. 435 by Representative Lorusso

House Bill No. 435 provides scholarship opportunities to certain military veterans.

Representative Lorusso presented the bill to the committee.

Representative Lorusso announced that he had an amendment he wanted to have adopted. Representative Carmody offered the amendments that would provide as follows:

- (1) Changes proposed law to make it applicable to a student who is enrolled in or is applying to enroll in a La. public college or university, who has served in the U.S. Armed Forces as defined by a specified federal law, and who also meets other proposed law requirements rather than to make it applicable to a student who is enrolled in a La. public college or university, who is a veteran, and who meets other proposed law conditions.
- (2) Deletes proposed law provision defining the word "veteran" to mean a person

who meets at least one of the specified conditions in proposed law and provides instead that the student must meet at least one of the specified conditions to qualify for resident classification for tuition amount purposes.

- (3) Relative to the proposed law condition that the student is currently serving in a Reserve Component of the U.S. Armed Forces, adds provision that such service be verified by the student's commanding officer.
- (4) Makes technical corrections.

Representative Carmody moved that the amendments be adopted. There was no objection, and the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Price, Richard, and Shadoin voted yea.

Supporting the bill but not wishing to speak was Mr. Lee Faucette, representing the Louisiana Association of School Executives, Box 40217, Baton Rouge, LA 70835-0217, (225) 261-5560.

Representative Henry moved that House Bill No. 435 be reported with amendments. There was no objection, and House Bill No. 435 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Price, Richard, Shadoin, and Thompson voted yea.

House Bill No. 137 by Representative Broadwater

House Bill No. 137 provides that veterans shall be entitled to resident classification for tuition amount purposes at Louisiana public colleges and universities.

Representative Broadwater presented the bill to the committee.

Representative Broadwater presented amendments and explained that they addressed concerns expressed by the Department of Veterans Affairs and state Board of Regents relative to funding and the residency status of veterans. Representative Price moved that the amendments be adopted. There was no objection, and the amendments were adopted by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Landry, Price, Richard, Shadoin, and Thompson voted yea.

Representative Carmody suggested that because the amendments had been adopted, the bill might require a revision of the fiscal note. Representative Broadwater agreed and stated that he will look into the matter and work with Representative Lorusso to move one instrument through the process.

Representative Broadwater moved that action on House Bill No. 137 be voluntarily deferred. There was no objection, and the motion that action on House Bill No. 137 be voluntarily deferred passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Landry, Price, Richard, Shadoin, and Thompson voted yea.

House Bill No. 140 by Representative Terry Brown

House Bill No. 140 provides that a veteran having a service-connected disability shall be entitled to resident classification for tuition amount purposes at Louisiana public colleges and universities.

Representative Brown presented the bill to the committee.

Giving the similarities between Representative Brown's bill and Representative Lorusso's bill, Representative Brown stated that he would voluntarily defer his bill and work with Representative Lorusso to have one bill pass through the process.

Representative Carter moved that action on House Bill No. 140 be voluntarily deferred. There was no objection, and the motion that action on House Bill No. 140 be voluntarily deferred passed by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Landry, Price, Richard, Shadoin, and Thompson voted yea.

House Bill No. 294 by Representative Harrison

House Bill No. 294 establishes for a specified period of time a maximum dollar amount for a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) award.

Representative Harrison presented the bill to the committee.

Also available to provide information, if requested, was Mr. George Eldredge, representing the Office of Student Financial Assistance, 1885 Wooddale Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 922-0597.

Speaking in opposition to House Bill No. 294 were Mr. Cody Wells, student body president, Louisiana State University, 15949 Highland Rd., Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 505-5687; and Mr. Robert Baumann, representing Taylor Energy Company, 616 Spanish Town Road, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 328-0330.

Presenting information in opposition to the legislation was Ms. Stafford Palmieri, policy director, Office of Governor Bobby Jindal, 4th Floor, State Capitol, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 342-7015.

Presenting information on the legislation was Mr. James A. Caillier, representing Taylor Energy Company, One Lee Circle, New Orleans, LA 70130, (504) 589-0471.

These persons signed cards in opposition to House Bill No. 294 and were available to present information, if requested, but did not wish to speak (See Exhibit B).

Representative Harrison closed on the bill.

Representative Patricia Smith moved that House Bill No. 294 be reported favorably. Representative Champagne objected, and the secretary called the roll. The motion to report House Bill No. 294 favorably failed by a vote of 4 yeas and 12 nays. Representatives Carmody, Edwards, Patricia Smith, and Alfred Williams voted yea, and Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carter, Champagne, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Landry, Price, Richard, Shadoin, and Thompson voted nay.

Representative Henry moved that action on House Bill No. 294 be involuntarily deferred. There was no objection, and the motion passed by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Landry, Price, Richard, Shadoin, Patricia Smith, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

House Bill No. 926 by Representative Simon

House Bill No. 926, relative to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS), specifies circumstances under which an award applicant's ACT/SAT test score can be submitted to and considered by the program's administering agency after statutorily established submission deadlines.

Representative Simon presented the bill to the committee.

Presenting information was Mr. George Eldredge, general counsel, representing the Office of Student Financial Assistance, 1885 Wooddale Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 922-0597.

Representative Henry moved that House Bill No. 926 be reported favorably. There was no objection, and House Bill No. 926 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Price, Richard, Shadoin, Patricia Smith, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

To receive the annual "State of Public Education in Louisiana" report from representatives of the Scott S. Cowen Institute for Public Education Initiatives, Tulane University.

Highlighting the PowerPoint presentation and representing the Cowen Institute were Mr. Nolan Marshall, director of policy and advocacy, and Mr. Matt Segraves, policy manager representing the Cowen Institute for Public Education Initiatives. The presentation was based upon the document, "The State of Public Education in Louisiana" (See Exhibit C).

V. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business for discussion.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen F. Carter, Chairman
House Committee on Education