

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Minutes of Meeting
Regular Session, 2012
May 16, 2012

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Stephen F. Carter, chairman of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:07 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 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 John M. Schroder
Representative Robert E. Shadoin
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith
Representative Jeff R. Thompson
Representative Alfred Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Wesley T. Bishop

III. STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Paul Jones, Legislative Analyst
Nancy Y. Jolly, Legislative Analyst
Jackie Snowden, Secretary
Angelika Washington, Clerk
Beverly Vincent, Danny Leming, and Suzy Broussard, Sergeants at Arms

IV. DISCUSSION**Senate Bill No. 247 by Senator Long**

Senate Bill No. 247 creates the Central Louisiana Technical Community College.

Senator Long presented the bill to the committee. He was accompanied by Dr. Joe May, president, Louisiana Community and Technical College System, 265 South Foster Dr., Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 922-1643, who answered questions from committee members.

Also supporting the bill but not wishing to speak was Mr. Lee Faucette, representing the Louisiana Association of School Executives, 12615 Stoneway Place, Baton Rouge, LA 70818, (225) 261-5560.

Senator Long asked that proposed amendments be adopted. The amendments would provide as follows:

- (1) Adds proposed law provision specifying that the creation is effective July 1, 2012, or at the appropriate time thereafter as determined by formal action taken by the Louisiana Community and Technical College board.
- (2) Adds proposed law provision relative to appropriations for the Central Louisiana Technical Community Colleges.

Representative Jefferson offered the amendments and moved that they be adopted. There was no objection, and the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Hollis, Jefferson, Price, Richard, Shadoin, Patricia Smith, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

Senator Long closed on the bill.

Representative Thompson moved that Senate Bill No. 247 be reported with amendments. There was no objection, and Senate Bill No. 247 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Hollis, Jefferson, Price, Richard, Shadoin, Patricia Smith, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 685 by Senator Long

Senate Bill No. 685 requires the parents or guardians of public school children to attend at least one parent-teacher conference per year.

Senator Long presented the bill to the committee.

Also supporting the bill but not wishing to speak were persons whose names are included in Attachment A.

Representative Richard moved that Senate Bill No. 685 be reported favorably. There was no objection, and Senate Bill No. 685 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Hollis, Jefferson, Price, Richard, Shadoin, Patricia Smith, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 103 by Senator Nevers

Senate Bill No. 103 limits the number of hours required to earn a baccalaureate degree.

Senator Nevers presented the bill to the committee. He was accompanied by Dr. Kim Hunter-Reed, representing the Board of Regents, Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 342-4253, who answered questions from committee members.

Supporting the bill but not wishing to speak were persons whose names are included in Attachment B.

Representative Thompson moved that Senate Bill No. 103 be reported favorably. There was no objection, and Senate Bill No. 103 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Hollis, Jefferson, Price, Richard, Shadoin, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 104 by Senator Nevers

Senate Bill No. 104 provides relative to postsecondary education articulation and transfer requirements.

Senator Nevers presented the bill to the committee. He was accompanied by Dr. Kim Hunter-Reed, representing the Board of Regents, Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 342-4253, who provided information and answered questions from committee members.

Also available to provide information, if necessary, were Dr. Joe May, president, Louisiana Community and Technical College System, 265 South Foster Dr., Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 922-1643, and Mr. Brad O'Hara, representing the University of Louisiana System/Statewide Articulation Council, Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 342-6950.

Supporting the bill but not wishing to speak were persons whose names are included in Attachment C.

Representative Carmody moved that Senate Bill No. 104 be reported favorably. There was no objection, and Senate Bill No. 104 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Hollis, Jefferson, Landry, Price, Richard, Shadoin, Patricia Smith, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 745 by Senator Nevers

Senate Bill No. 745 provides for consolidation of two or more school systems.

Senator Nevers presented the bill to the committee.

Speaking in support of the legislation was Mr. Gary Reed, representing the Louisiana School Board Association, 7912 Summa Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809.

Also supporting the bill but not wishing to speak was Mr. Lee Faucette, representing the Louisiana Association of School Executives, 12615 Stoneway Place, Baton Rouge, LA 70818, (225) 261-5560.

Senator Nevers closed on the bill.

Representative Price moved that Senate Bill No. 745 be reported favorably. There was no objection, and Senate Bill No. 745 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Edwards, Hollis, Jefferson, Landry, Price, Richard, Shadoin, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 759 by Senator Nevers

Senate Bill No. 759 provides relative to the care of students with diabetes.

Senator Nevers presented the bill to the committee. He was accompanied by Ms. Lisa Martin, representing the American Diabetes Association, 3100 Linder Rd., Denham Springs, LA 70726, (225) 405-2532, and Ms. Kristi Smith Tollett, representing herself and her daughter, Anna Katherine, 106 Creekside Dr., Ruston, LA 71270, (318) 232-5351, who spoke in support of the legislation.

Presenting information was Ms. Barbara L. Morvant, representing the State Board of Nursing, 17373 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70002, (225) 755-7576.

Representative Carter announced that amendments were pending for Senator Nevers' bill. Senator Nevers commented that the amendments were being proposed to address concerns of persons interested in the issue. The amendments would provide as follows:

- (1) Deletes provision that when a school does not have a school nurse, unlicensed diabetes care assistants may be provided access to individuals with expertise in diabetes care and school principals may be provided access to the students' physicians.
- (2) Adds the Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics to the list of entities that BESE shall include in the rulemaking process.
- (3) Requires school governing authorities to include the same entities as are required for BESE in the policymaking process.
- (4) Deletes prohibition on a school restricting the assignment of a student with diabetes because the school does not have an unlicensed diabetes care assistant.

Answering a question from Representative Patricia Smith regarding the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education's (BESE) handling of rules was Ms. Erin Bendily, representing BESE and the state Department of Education, Claiborne Bldg., 1201 North 3rd St., Baton Rouge, LA.

Representative Carmody offered the amendments and moved that they be adopted. There was no objection, and the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Jefferson, Landry, Price, Richard, Schroder, Shadoin, Patricia Smith, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

Supporting the bill but not wishing to speak were persons whose names are included in Attachment D.

Speaking in opposition to Senate Bill No. 759 were Ms. Lisa Deaton, representing the Louisiana State Nurses Association, 17023 South Bristle Cove Ct., Greenwell Springs, LA 70739, (225) 261-4318, and Ms. Alida Wyler, director of Health Services, representing Jefferson Parish Public Schools, 4900 River Rd., Marrero, LA 70072, (504) 349-7770.

Opposing the bill but not wishing to speak were persons whose names are included in Attachment E.

Senator Nevers closed on the legislation.

Representative Champagne moved that Senate Bill No. 759 be reported with amendments. There was no objection, and Senate Bill No. 759 was reported with amendments by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Landry, Richard, Schroder, Shadoin, Patricia Smith, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 507 by Senator Morrell

Senate Bill No. 507 permits student athletes to participate in certain camps or showcase opportunities and provides for eligibility of student athletes who transfer from one nonpublic school to another nonpublic school.

Presenting the bill on behalf of Senator Morrell was Mr. Bertel DeJoie, representing F. C. New Orleans and himself, 5107 Venus St., New Orleans, LA, (504) 342-4929.

Representative Carmody, on behalf of the author, proposed amendments that would place the bill in its proper posture.

The amendment would make proposed law applicable to soccer camps and soccer showcase opportunities instead of any camp or showcase opportunity.

Representative Edwards moved that the amendment be adopted. There was no objection, and the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Landry, Richard, Schroder, Patricia Smith, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

Presenting information and answering questions from committee members were Mr. Tom Spradley, representing the Louisiana High School Athletic Association, 528 Hidden Lake Ct., Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 769-9015, and Mr. Matthew Spradley, representing the Louisiana High School Athletic Association, P. O. Box 85125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 766-1359.

Supporting the bill and available to speak was Mr. Louie Smothermon, representing Louisiana Fire Soccer, Gretna, LA 70056, (504) 957-3180.

Senator Morrell presented more information about the provisions of the bill and answered questions from committee members.

Representative Edwards announced that he wanted to propose an amendment to delete provisions relative to eligibility of student athletes who transfer from one nonpublic school to another nonpublic school.

Representative Carmody moved that the amendment be adopted. There was no objection, and the amendment was adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Richard, Schroder, Shadoin, Patricia Smith, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

Senator Morrell closed on the legislation.

Representative Carmody moved that Senate Bill No. 507 be reported with amendments.

There was no objection, and Senate Bill No. 507 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Richard, Schroder, Shadoin, Patricia Smith, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 284 by Senator Cortez

Senate Bill No. 284 merges certain Louisiana Technical College campuses with South Louisiana Community College.

Senator Cortez presented the bill to the committee. He was accompanied by Dr. Joe May, president, the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, 265 South Foster Dr., Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 922-1643, who presented information on the bill.

Representative Carter announced that Senator Cortez had an amendment pending. The amendment would change the date at which the merger of institutions and transfer of funds, obligations, property, programs, facilities, and functions is effective from July 1, 2012 to July 1, 2012, or at the appropriate time thereafter as determined by formal action taken by the Louisiana Community and Technical College System board.

Representative Carter offered the amendment and moved that it be adopted. There was no objection, and the amendment was adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Hollis, Jefferson, Richard, Shadoin, Patricia Smith, and Thompson voted yea.

Also supporting the bill but not wishing to speak was Ms. Mandi Mitchell, representing the Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, 804 E. A. Mary Blvd., Lafayette, LA 70503.

Available to provide information if requested was Ms. Natalie Harder, chancellor, South Louisiana Community College-Acadiana Technical College, 320 Devalcourt, Lafayette, LA, (716) 553-7632.

Senator Cortez closed on the legislation.

Representative Champagne moved that Senate Bill No. 284 be reported with amendments. There was no objection, and Senate Bill No. 284 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Hollis, Jefferson, Richard, Shadoin, Patricia Smith, and Thompson voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 764 by Senator Ward

Senate Bill No. 764 prohibits bullying at schools or school-sponsored events.

Senator Ward presented the bill to the committee. He was accompanied by Professor Michelle Ghetti, 18531 Lake Tulip Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70817, (225) 933-9029, and Mr. Gene Mills, representing Louisiana Family Forum, 655 St. Ferdinand St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 344-8533. Professor Ghetti presented additional information on the bill and answered questions from committee members.

Representative Schroder offered amendments on behalf of the author to provide as follows:

- (1) Relative to reporting, requires a verbal report to be submitted by the school employee or the parent on the same day he witnessed or otherwise learned of the bullying incident and a written report to be filed within two days.
- (2) Relative to investigation, adds the following:
 - (a) Requires the investigation to be completed not later than 10 school days after the submission of the written report of the incident.
 - (b) Requires, if additional information is received after the end of the 10-day period, the school principal or his designee to amend all documents and reports required by proposed law to reflect such information.

Representative Schroder offered a motion to adopt the amendments. There was no objection, and the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Hollis, Richard, Schroder, Patricia Smith, and Thompson voted yea.

Also presenting information was Ms. Erin Bendily, representing the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the state Department of Education, Claiborne Building, 1201 North 3rd St., Baton Rouge, LA.

Representative Smith announced that she had amendments pending. Representative Smith explained that, overall, the amendments would incorporate the provisions contained in her bullying bill into Senator Ward's bill.

Representative Smith offered the amendments and moved that they be adopted. Representative Broadwater objected, and the secretary called the roll. The motion to adopt the amendments failed by a vote of 2 yeas and 12 nays. Representatives Jefferson and Patricia Smith voted yea, and Representatives Broadwater, Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Landry, Price, Schroder, Shadoin, and Thompson voted nay.

Representative Edwards asked to present a set of amendments for adoption. The amendments, relative to the provision that a parent may have the student attend another school, specify that the required four or more reports of bullying must relate to separate instances.

Representative Edwards offered the amendments and moved that they be adopted. There was no objection, and the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Jefferson, Landry, Price, Schroder, Shadoin, Patricia Smith, and Thompson voted yea.

Supporting the bill and available to present information, but not wishing to speak were persons whose names are included in Attachment F.

Speaking in opposition to Senate Bill No. 764 were Mr. Matthew Patterson, representing Stop Bullying Louisiana, 4735 Government St., Apt. 109, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 907-3987, and Ms. Sarah Jane Brady, representing the Forum for Equality, 336 Lafayette St., Ste. 200, New Orleans, LA 70130, (504) 301-6006.

Also opposing the bill but not wishing to speak were persons whose names are included in Attachment G.

Senator Ward closed on the bill.

Representative Thompson moved that Senate Bill No. 764 be reported with amendments. There was no objection, and Senate Bill No. 764 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Henry, Jefferson, Landry, Schroder, Patricia Smith, and Thompson voted yea.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 17 by Senator Dorsey-Colomb

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 17 requests the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Community and Technical College System to study the feasibility of merging Capital Area Technical College and Baton Rouge Community College.

Representative Patricia Smith presented the resolution on behalf of Senator Dorsey-Colomb. She was accompanied by Dr. Joe May, president, the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, 265 South Foster Dr., Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 922-1643, who presented information on the resolution.

Representative Henry Burns moved that Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 17 be reported favorably. There was no objection, and Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 17 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Henry, Jefferson, Landry, Schroder, Patricia Smith, and Thompson voted yea.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 60 by Senator Perry

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 60 requests the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the State Department of Education to develop a comprehensive curriculum for a high school communications/speech course to prepare students to communicate effectively.

Representative Champagne presented the resolution on behalf of Senator Perry. Ms Erin Bendily, representing the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the state Department of Education, Claiborne Building, 1201 North 3rd St., Baton Rouge, LA., presented information to the committee.

Representative Thompson moved that Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 60 be reported favorably. There was no objection, and Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 60 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Carter, Henry, Jefferson, Landry, Richard, Schroder, Shadoin, Patricia Smith, and Thompson voted yea.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business for discussion.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen F. Carter, Chairman
House Committee on Education