

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Minutes of Meeting
Regular Session, 2012
May 22, 2012

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Stephen F. Carter, chairman of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:05 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 John M. Schroder
Representative Robert E. Shadoin
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith
Representative Jeff R. Thompson
Representative Alfred C. Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT:

III. STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

IV. DISCUSSION

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 99 by Senator Appel

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 99 provides legislative approval of the minimum foundation program (MFP) formula for FY 2012-13 as adopted by the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) on February 27, 2012.

Ms. Penny Dastugue, president, state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), 10 Serenity Dr., Mandeville, LA, presented the resolution to the committee.

Ms. Beth Scioneaux, deputy superintendent for finance, representing the State Department of Education and BESE, 1201 North 3rd St., Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 342-3617, accompanied Ms. Dastugue and provided information and answered questions from committee members.

Supporting the resolution but not wishing to speak was Mr. Russell Armstrong, representing the Governor's Office, 4th Floor, State Capitol, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 342-7015.

Speaking in opposition to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 99 were Ms. Mary-Patricia Wray, representing the Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9623 Brookline Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70808; Mr. Dwayne Lemoine, representing the Avoyelles Parish School Board, (318) 240-0201 or (318) 201-9388 (cell), dlemoine@avoyellespsb.org; Mr. Charles Riddle, representing the Avoyelles Parish School Board, (318) 253-6557; Ms. Mary Bonnette, representing the Avoyelles Parish School Board (no address given); Mr. Steve Monaghan, representing the Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9623 Brookline Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 923-1037 or (225) 270-9184, stevemonaghanlft@aol.com; Mr. Donald Songy, representing the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, 37617 Seven Oaks Ave., Prairieville, LA 70769, (225) 323-3921; and Mr. Gary Reed, representing the Louisiana School Boards Association, 7912 Summa Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809.

Also opposed to the resolution but not wishing to speak were Mr. Shane Riddle, representing the Louisiana Association of Educators, 8322 One Calais Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 343-9243, shane.riddle@lae.org; Mr. Dannie P. Garrett III, representing the St. Charles Parish School Board, 445 North Blvd., Ste. 810, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 325-8709 or (225) 978-9234 (cell); Ms. Meladie Munch, representing the Jefferson Federation of Teachers, 2540 Severn Ave., #301, Metairie, LA 70006, (504) 454-5047 or (504) 884-6664 (cell), mel@lft.org; Ms. Carolyn Wooten, representing the Louisiana School Boards Assn., 7912 Summa Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 769-3191, cwooten@lsba.com; and Mr. Lee Faucette, representing the Louisiana Association of School Executives, Box 40217, Baton

Rouge, LA 70835-0217, (225) 261-5560 or (225) 791-0365.

Ms. Dastugue and Ms. Scioneaux closed on the resolution.

Representative Carmody moved that Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 99 be reported favorably. There was no objection, and Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 99 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Champagne, Edwards, Hollis, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Price, Richard, Schroder, Shadoin, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 494 by Senator Appel

Senate Bill No. 494 provides relative to teacher selection and the granting of extended sick leave and sabbatical leave for teachers and other school employees.

Senator Appel presented the bill to the committee.

Speaking in support of the bill were Dr. James Meza, Jr., superintendent, Jefferson Parish Schools, 1900 Manhattan, Harvey, LA (no address given); Mr. Mark Jacobs, president, Jefferson Parish School Board, 1901 Manhattan Blvd., Harvey, LA 70058, (504) 349-7803 or (504) 723-4525 (cell), mjacobs310@aol.com; Mr. Michael R. Delesdernier, presenting the Jefferson Parish School Board, 2728 Athania Place, Metairie, LA 70002, (504) 281-1106; Ms. Penny Dastugue, president, state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, penny.dastugue@la.gov; Ms. Brigitte Nieland, representing the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, 3113 Valley Creek Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 928-5388 or (225) 603-5668 (cell), brigitte@labi.org; Mr. Gary Reed, representing the Louisiana School Boards Association, 7912 Summa Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809; and Ms. Jennifer Ansardi, representing the Jefferson Parish School Board, P. O. Box 55815, Metairie, LA 70055, (504) 606-7700.

Also supporting the bill but not wishing to speak were Mr. Jesse McCormick, representing Local Schools for Local Children, 714 North 5th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 361-0924 or (225) 202-1875 (cell); Ms. Carolyn Wooten, representing the Louisiana School Boards Association, 7912 Summa Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 769-3191, cwooten@lsba.com; Mr. Larry Dale, representing the Jefferson Parish School Board, 504 Mayflower Dr., Metairie, LA 70001, (504) 236-7117, larry@lsba.org; Mr. Dannie P. Garrett, III, representing the St. Charles Parish School Board, 445 North Blvd., Ste. 810, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 325-8709 or (225) 978-9234 (cell); Ms. Rayne Martin, representing Stand for Children, 643 Magazine St., New Orleans, LA, (504) 247-6225, r.martin@stand.org; and Mr. Louis Voiron, personnel supervisor, representing the Lafourche Parish School Board, 805 East 7th St., Thibodaux, LA 70301, (985) 446-5631 or (985) 438-6661 (cell), lvoiron@lafourche.k12.la.us.

Speaking in opposition to Senate Bill No. 494 were Ms. Mary-Patricia Wray, representing the Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9623 Brookline Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70808; Mr. Steve Monaghan, representing the Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9623 Brookline Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 923-1037 or (225) 270-9184, steve_monaghan@lft.com; Mr. Shane Riddle, representing the Louisiana Association of Educators, 8322 One Calais Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 343-9243, shane.riddle@lae.org; and Ms. Meladie Munch, representing the Jefferson Federation of Teachers, 2540 Severn Ave., #301, Metairie, LA 70006, (504) 454-5047 or (504) 884-6664 (cell), mel@lft.org.

Senator Appel closed on the legislation.

Representative Carmody moved that Senate Bill No. 494 be reported favorably.

Representative Edwards offered a substitute motion that action on Senate Bill No. 494 be involuntarily deferred. The secretary called the roll on the substitute motion. The motion that action on Senate Bill No. 494 be involuntarily deferred failed by a vote of 5 yeas and 11 nays. Representatives Wesley Bishop, Edwards, Jefferson, Patricia Smith, and Alfred Williams voted yea, and Representatives Carter, Henry Burns, Carmody, Champagne, Henry, Hollis, Nancy Landry, Price, Richard, Schroder, and Shadoin voted nay.

The vote then occurred on the original motion by Representative Carmody to report Senate Bill No. 494 favorably. There was no objection, and Senate Bill No. 494 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Wesley Bishop, Henry Burns, Carmody, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Price, Richard, Schroder, Shadoin, Patricia Smith, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 461 by Senator Walsworth

Senate Bill No. 461 provides relative to limitations on class size.

Senator Walsworth presented the bill to the committee.

Ms. Erin Bendily, representing the State Department of Education and the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, presented information.

Senator Walsworth closed on the bill.

Representative Henry moved that Senate Bill No. 461 be reported favorably. There was no objection, and Senate Bill No. 461 was reported favorably by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Wesley Bishop, Henry Burns, Carmody, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Price, Schroder,

Shadoin, Patricia Smith, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

Representative Carmody moved that Senate Bill No. 461 be placed on the Local and Consent calendar. There was no objection, and Senate Bill No. 461 was placed on the Local and Consent calendar by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Wesley Bishop, Henry Burns, Carmody, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Price, Schroder, Shadoin, Patricia Smith, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

House Resolution No. 93 by Representative Harrison

House Resolution No. 93 requests the Board of Regents to study and report on the reorganization of the governance of Louisiana public colleges and universities that offer academic degrees at the baccalaureate level and higher as proposed by House Bill No. 927 of the 2012 Regular Session.

Representative Harrison presented the bill to the committee.

Presenting information was Dr. James Purcell, commissioner of higher education, (225) 247-2674.

Representative Schroder moved that House Resolution No. 93 be reported favorably. There was no objection, and House Resolution No. 93 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 6 nays. Representatives Carter, Henry Burns, Carmody, Champagne, Henry, Hollis, Nancy Landry, Schroder, Patricia Smith, and Thompson voted yea, and Representatives Wesley Bishop, Edwards, Jefferson, Price, Shadoin, and Alfred Williams voted nay.

Senate Bill No. 635 by Senator LaFleur

Senate Bill No. 635 allows the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to expend Louisiana Quality Education Support Fund monies to utilize peer-review consultants for program review.

Senator LaFleur presented the bill to the committee.

Speaking in support of the bill was Ms. Penny Dastugue, president, BESE, penny.dastugue@la.gov.

Presenting information was Mr. Pete LaFleur, representing BESE, pete.lafleur@la.gov.

Representative Carmody moved that Senate Bill No. 635 be reported favorably. There was no objection, and Senate Bill No. 635 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas

and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Carmody, Champagne, Edwards, Hollis, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Price, Shadoin, Patricia Smith, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 155 by Senator LaFleur

Senate Bill No. 155 authorizes the State Department of Education to grant waivers for certain LA4 requirements.

Senator LaFleur presented the bill to the committee.

Presenting information was Ms. Mary Louise Jones, representing the State Department of Education, P.O. Box 94064, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 342-0576, marylouise.jones@la.gov.

Also supporting the bill but not wishing to speak was Mr. Joe R. Salter, representing BESE and the State Department of Education, (225) 342-3745.

Representative Price moved that Senate Bill No. 155 be reported favorably. There was no objection, and Senate Bill No. 155 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Carmody, Champagne, Edwards, Hollis, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Price, Shadoin, Patricia Smith, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 458 by Senator LaFleur

Senate Bill No. 458 provides relative to START education savings accounts and for definitions with respect thereto.

Senator LaFleur presented the bill to the committee.

Presenting information and answering questions from committee members was Ms. Melanie Amrhein, executive director, Office of Student Financial Assistance, Baton Rouge, LA.

Representative Champagne moved that Senate Bill No. 458 be reported favorably. There was no objection, and Senate Bill No. 458 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Wesley Bishop, Carmody, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Price, Schroder, Shadoin, Patricia Smith, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 712 by Senator LaFleur

Senate Bill No. 712 establishes an exploratory committee to develop a plan regarding the establishment of an international language immersion school at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Senator LaFleur presented the bill to the committee.

Senator LaFleur announced that there were amendments he wanted adopted. Representative Nancy Landry offered the amendments that provided as follows: adds the president of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and the president of the Lafayette Economic Development Authority or their designees as members of the exploratory committee.

Representative Landry 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 Carter, Wesley Bishop, Carmody, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Price, Shadoin, Patricia Smith, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

Supporting the bill but not wishing to speak was Mr. Josh Borill, representing the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 1200 Camellia Blvd., Lafayette, LA 70503, (337) 581-1326.

Representative Price moved that Senate Bill No. 712 be reported with amendments. There was no objection, and Senate Bill No. 712 was reported with amendments by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Carmody, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Price, Shadoin, Patricia Smith, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 309 by Senator Donahue

Senate Bill No. 309 deletes outdated school improvement plan requirements.

Ms. Erin Bendily, representing BESE and the State Department of Education, presented the bill to the committee on behalf of Senator Donahue.

Supporting the bill but not wishing to speak was Mr. John Walters, representing the Associated Builders and Contractors, 19251 Highland Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 752-1415.

Representative Carmody moved that Senate Bill No. 309 be reported favorably. There was no objection, and Senate Bill No. 309 was reported favorably by a vote of 15 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Carmody, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Jefferson, Nancy Landry, Price, Shadoin, Patricia Smith, Thompson, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 168 by Representative Carmody

House Concurrent Resolution No. 168, relative to the Louisiana State University Shreveport Commitment Plan as unanimously endorsed by the Louisiana State University Board of Supervisors on April 27, 2012, provides legislative findings and for certain reports to the legislature, the legislative education committees, and the Board of Regents for the next three academic years.

Representative Carmody presented the resolution to the committee.

Supporting the resolution but not wishing to speak were Mr. Randy Haynie and Mr. Ryan Haynie, representing the Shreveport Bossier Imperative for Higher Education, P.O. Box 44032, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 336-4143; and Ms. Markey Pierre, representing the Shreveport Bossier Imperative for Higher Education, P.O. Box 44032, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 336-4143.

Representative Henry Burns moved that House Concurrent Resolution No. 168 be reported favorably. There was no objection, and House Concurrent Resolution No. 168 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Price, Patricia Smith, and Alfred Williams voted yea.

House Resolution No. 112 by Representative Carmody

House Resolution No. 112, relative to the Louisiana State University Shreveport Commitment Plan as unanimously endorsed by the Louisiana State University Board of Supervisors on April 27, 2012, provides legislative findings and for certain reports to the legislature, the legislative education committees, and the Board of Regents for the next three academic years.

Representative Carmody presented the resolution to the committee.

Supporting the resolution but not wishing to speak were Mr. Randy Haynie and Mr. Ryan Haynie, representing the Shreveport Bossier Imperative for Higher Education, P.O. Box 44032, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 336-4143; and Ms. Markey Pierre, representing the Shreveport Bossier Imperative for Higher Education, P.O. Box 44032, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 336-4143.

Representative Henry Burns moved that House Resolution No. 112 be reported favorably. There was no objection, and House Resolution No. 112 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Carter, Wesley Bishop, Broadwater, Henry Burns, Carmody, Champagne, Edwards, Henry, Hollis, Price, Patricia Smith, and Alfred Williams 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 11:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen F. Carter, Chairman
House Committee on Education