

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2016 Regular Session
April 27, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Nancy Landry, chairman of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. in Room 1, in the State Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The secretary called the roll.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Nancy Landry, chairman
Representative Beryl A. Amedee
Representative Joseph Bouie, Jr.
Representative Chris Broadwater
Representative Stephen F. Carter
Representative Rick Edmonds
Representative Julie Emerson
Representative Reid Falconer
Representative Jeffrey "Jeff" Hall
Representative Stephanie Hilbert
Representative Walt Leger, III
Representative Edward J. Price, vice chairman
Representative Scott M. Simon
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative H. Eugene Reynolds

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Elizabeth L. Borne, legislative analyst
Nancy Y. Jolly, legislative analyst
Jacqueline Snowden, secretary

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Beverly Vincent, sergeant at arms
Karli Roussel, clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to adopt a modified two-minute rule for testimony of witnesses prior to the committee hearing the first bill. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Falconer, Hall, Leger, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

House Bill No. 830 by Representative Seabaugh

Representative Seabaugh presented House Bill No. 830, which provides relative to criminal background checks for owners, employees, volunteers, and inspectors of early learning centers.

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

Representative Broadwater offered a motion to report House Bill No. 830 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 830 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Falconer, Hall, Leger, Price, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 432 by Senator Peterson

Senator Peterson presented Senate Bill No. 432, which provides for return of certain Recovery School District (RSD) schools to the transferring school board.

Patrick Dobard, superintendent, Louisiana Recovery School District, Claiborne Bldg., 1201 North 3rd St., Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 505-3504, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 432.

Henderson Lewis, Jr., superintendent, Orleans Parish Schools, 3520 General DeGaulle, New Orleans, LA, (504) 304-5678, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 432.

Deirdre Johnson Burel, Orleans Public Education Network, 3321 Tulane, (504) 821-4004, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 432.

Erika McConduit-Diggs, Urban League of Greater New Orleans, 4640 S. Carrollton Ave., New Orleans, LA 70119, (504) 620-2332, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 432.

Dana Henry, Stand for Children Louisiana, 2374 St. Claude Ave., Ste. 230, New Orleans, LA 70117, (504) 261-7687, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 432.

Karran Harper Royal, 1360 Soldiers St., New Orleans, LA 70122, (504) 722-8174, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 432.

Rev. Willie I. Calhoun, Better Education Support, 2125 Delery St., New Orleans, LA, (504) 279-1390, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 432.

Ernest Charles, B.E.S.T., 7900 Hickman St., New Orleans, LA 70127, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 432.

Lois W. Adams, United Teachers of New Orleans retiree, 8801 Lake Forest, Apt. 17511, New Orleans, LA, (504) 417-5447, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 432.

Cynthia Cade, Orleans Parish School Board, P. O. Box 870986, (504) 717-5130, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 432.

Steven Kennedy, Justice and Beyond, no address given, (504) 287-3007, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 432.

Pat Bryant, Justice and Beyond, 2832 Serantine, New Orleans, LA 70119, (504) 905-4137, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 432.

Harold Bailey, 4600 Francis Dr., New Orleans, LA, (504) 994-6407, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 432.

Carl Galmon, National Voting Rights Museum, 7600 Primrose Dr., New Orleans, LA 70126, (504) 241-0775, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 432.

Acquanette M. Barnes, Justice and Beyond, address illegible, (504) 939-6143, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 432.

St. Patrick Williams, FFLIC, 324 Grace St., Lake Charles, LA, (337) 780-7872, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 432.

Corey Dowden, 2501 Canal St., New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 432.

Representative Leger offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 432 favorably, to which Representative Bouie objected. The secretary called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 432 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas, 2 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Amedee, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hilferty, Leger, Price, Simon, and Smith voted yea. Representatives Bouie and Hall voted nay. Representative Nancy Landry abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 21 in support and 14 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Price is in the chair.

House Bill No. 887 by Representative Steve Carter

Representative Steve Carter presented House Bill No. 887, which creates a residential school for certain at-risk students in grades six through twelve.

Representative Steve Carter offered amendments to House Bill No. 887 to:

1. Add that in enrolling students, preference shall be given to students with the greatest need based on the criteria specified in proposed law as determined by the board.
2. Add that certificates and diplomas awarded by the school shall be in addition to a regular high school diploma issued by the state board.
3. Delete provisions specifying that minimum foundation program (MFP) funds shall be based on the school's enrollment and the amount allocated shall be equal to the MFP per pupil amount.
4. Make proposed law effective July 1, 2017, except proposed law relative to the creation and functions of the board of directors which is effective October 1, 2016.

Representative Steve Carter offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Amedee, Bouie, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Hall, Leger, Price, and Smith voted yea.

Sarah Broome, executive director of the residential school specified in House Bill No. 887, no contact information provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 887.

Beth Scioneaux, Louisiana Department of Education, finance office, 5th Floor, Claiborne Bldg., Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 342-3617, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 887.

Shawn Fleming, Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council, 626 Main St., Baton Rouge, LA, 70802, (225) 342-6804, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 887.

Representative Steve Carter offered a motion to report House Bill No. 887 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 887 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Steve Carter, Falconer, Hall, Leger, Price, and Smith voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 14 in support and 2 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Nancy Landry in the chair.

House Bill No. 432 by Representative Foil

On behalf of Representative Foil, Paul Rainwater presented House Bill No. 432, which includes installation of equipment in items which may be purchased through a school district purchasing cooperatives.

Paul Rainwater, Rainwater Consulting, (225) 281-8176, spoke in support of House Bill No. 432.

Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to report House Bill No. 432 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 432 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Falconer, Leger, and Smith voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support and 2 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 991 by Representative Foil

On behalf of Representative Foil, Kelly Serrett, the Arc of Louisiana, 606 Colonial Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 383-1033, presented House Bill No. 991, which provides that the Louisiana Tuition Trust Authority shall administer the ABLE account program, which supports persons with disabilities.

Representative Nancy Landry offered amendments to House Bill No. 991 that would add requirement that Louisiana Tuition Trust Authority (LATTA) monitor federal laws and regulations and revise its program rules as necessary.

Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Falconer, Leger, Price, and Smith voted yea.

Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to report House Bill No. 991 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 991 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Falconer, Leger, Price, and Smith voted yea.

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

House Concurrent Resolution No. 44 by Representative Edmonds

Representative Edmonds presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 44, which encourages public school governing authorities to provide quality remedial education programs to students.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 44 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 44 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Falconer, Hall, Leger, and Smith 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.

The committee recessed at 11:45 a.m. The committee reconvened at 12:04 p.m.

House Bill No. 152 by Representative Edmonds

Representative Edmonds presented House Bill No. 152, constitutional amendment which, relative to management of public postsecondary education, abolishes the Board of Regents and the management boards and transfers their powers, duties, and responsibilities to a newly created Louisiana Postsecondary Education Board of Trustees.

Representative Carmody spoke in support of House Bill No. 152.

Ray Lasseigne, LSU Board of Supervisors, P. O. Box 5625, Bossier City, LA 71171, (318) 426-6721, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 152.

Mark Romero, University of Louisiana System Board, (337) 266-5639, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 152.

Dr. Leon R. Tarver, II, chairman, Southern University System Board, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 939-8787, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 152.

Preston Castille, national president, Southern University Alumni Federation, P. O. Box 2471, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (225) 317-3363, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 152.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to report House Bill No. 152 favorably, to which Representative Price objected. The secretary called the roll, and the motion failed by a vote of 5 yeas, 6 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Amedee, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Falconer, and Hilferty voted yea. Representatives Bouie, Broadwater, Hall, Leger, Price, and Smith voted nay. Representative Nancy Landry abstained.

Representative Price offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 152. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 152 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Leger, Price, and Smith voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support and 10 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 1108 by Representative Bouie

Representative Bouie presented House Bill No. 1108, which provides relative to the return of schools from the Recovery School District (RSD) to the transferring local school system.

Representative Bouie offered amendments to House Bill No. 1108 to provide that the superintendent of the local school system, in collaboration with the superintendent of the recovery district, shall develop a plan for the return of the schools. The plan shall be submitted to the local school board for approval no later than December 31, 2016.

Representative Bouie offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Leger, Price, and Smith voted yea.

Deirdre Lewis, 1313 Mockingbird Lane, New Orleans, LA 70113, (504) 258-9267, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1108.

Harold Bailey, United Parents Standing for Education, 4600 Francis Dr., no city given, (504) 994-6407, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1108.

Corey G. Dowden, 2501 Canal St., New Orleans, LA 70114, (504) 209-5851, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1108.

Antonio Davis, FFLIC, 1307 Oretha Castle Haley, New Orleans, LA, (504) 467-4201, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1108.

Jeremiah James, FFLIC, 1307 Oretha Castle Haley, New Orleans, LA, (504) 689-1988, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1108.

Dr. Raynard Sanders, New Orleans Equity Roundtable, 5719 Arts St., New Orleans, LA 70122, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1108.

Pat Bryant, Justice and Beyond, 2832 Serantine St., New Orleans, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1108.

Rev. Willie L. Calhoun, Jr., B.E.S.T., 2125 Delery St., New Orleans, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1108.

Karran Harper Royal, 1360 Soldiers St., New Orleans, LA 70128, (504) 722-8174, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1108.

Kim Ford, Justice and Beyond, 939 Reynes St., New Orleans, LA 70117, (504) 248-8694, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1108.

Steven Kennedy, 1313 Mockingbird Lane, New Orleans, LA 70113, (504) 287-3007, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1108.

Cynthia Cade, vice president, Orleans Parish School Board, General DeGaulle, New Orleans, LA, (504) 717-5130, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1108.

Henderson Lewis, superintendent, Orleans Parish School Board, 3520 General DeGaulle Dr., Ste. 5055, New Orleans, LA, (504) 304-3520, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1108.

Acquanette M. Barnes, Justice and Beyond, New Orleans, LA, (504) 265-4768, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1108.

Ben Kleban, New Orleans College Prep, 2301 Marengo, New Orleans, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1108.

Caroline Roemer, Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools, New Orleans, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 1108.

Representative Bouie offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1108 with amendments. No vote was taken.

Representative Steve Carter offered a substitute motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 1108, to which Representative Smith objected. The secretary called the roll, and action on House Bill No. 1108 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 9 yeas, 4 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Amedee, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hilferty, Leger, and Simon voted yea. Representatives Bouie, Hall, Price, and Smith voted nay. Representative Nancy Landry abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 35 in support, 6 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 833 by Representative Leger

The chairman announced that House Bill No. 833, which provides relative to student discipline including the creation of the Commission on Safe Supportive Discipline, had been voluntarily deferred.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 13 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 964 by Representative Smith

The chairman announced that House Bill No. 964, which provides relative to the treatment and care of students with diabetes, had been voluntarily deferred.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 1111 by Representative Abramson

The chairman announced that House Bill No. 1111, which provides for the return of certain Recovery School District schools to the transferring school board had been voluntarily deferred.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support and 3 in opposition.

House Bill No. 169 by Representative Carmody

House Bill No. 169, a constitutional amendment which, relative to management of public postsecondary education, abolishes the Board of Regents and the management boards and transfers their powers, duties, and responsibilities to a newly created Louisiana Postsecondary Education Board of Trustees, was on the meeting agenda but did not receive a hearing by the committee.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support and 12 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 372 by Representative Bouie

House Bill No. 372, which provides relative to student discipline, was on the meeting agenda but did not receive a hearing by the committee.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 46 in support and 4 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Scott Richard, executive director, Louisiana School Boards Association, presented a student-produced video from the St. Tammany Parish Public Schools on Excellence in Education.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Nancy Landry
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: