

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2017 Regular Session
May 2, 2017

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Nancy Landry, chairman of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. in Room 1, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Nancy Landry, chairman
Representative Beryl A. Amedée
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 Hilferty
Representative Walt Leger, III
Representative Edward J. "Ed" Price, vice chairman
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith
Representative Polly Thomas

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Scott M. Simon

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Beverly Vincent, sergeant at arms

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**House Bill No. 130 by Representative DeVillier**

Representative DeVillier presented House Bill No. 130, which provides that economically disadvantaged students shall be included as a factor for purposes of teacher evaluations and requirements for enrollment of at-risk students in charter schools.

Representative Nancy Landry offered amendments to House Bill No. 130 that would:

1. Define "economically disadvantaged" for purposes of present law and proposed law relative to charter school enrollment.
2. Remove requirement that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) determine the students who are economically disadvantaged for purposes of charter school enrollment.
3. Change applicability of charter school enrollment requirements to charter schools created as conversions before, during, or after the 2011-2012 school year instead of to the types of charter schools specified in present law.
4. Remove present law definition of "at-risk" student relative to charter schools.

Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Price, Smith, and Thomas voted yea.

Erin Bendily, BESE and State Department of Education, no address given, spoke in support of House Bill No. 130.

Scott Richard, Louisiana School Boards Association, 7912 Summa Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (337) 278-5398, spoke in support of House Bill No. 130.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to report House Bill No. 130 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 130 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Price, Smith, and Thomas voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 517 by Representative Gary Carter

Representative Gary Carter presented House Bill No. 517, which requires the state superintendent of education to report specified information annually pertaining to each public school, including charter schools.

Representative Nancy Landry offered amendments to House Bill No. 517 that would:

1. Add that the report shall provide information that will assist policymakers and the public in assessing the extent to which students have equal access to quality public education.
2. Add International Baccalaureate courses to the list of completed course types included in report data.

Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Price, and Thomas voted yea.

Erin Bendily, state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), no address given, spoke in support of House Bill No. 517.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to report House Bill No. 517 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 517 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Price, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 660 by Representative Gary Carter

Representative Gary Carter presented House Bill No. 660, which requires identification lettering on all school buses used to transport students to public schools in Orleans Parish.

Representative Price offered a motion to adopt the two-minute rule for discussion on House Bill No. 660. Without objection, a two-minute rule was adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Price, and Thomas voted yea.

Jason Wynne Hughes, Orleans Parish School Board, 3520 General deGaulle, New Orleans, LA, (504) 715-8525, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 660.

Caroline Roemer, Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools, New Orleans, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 660.

Senator Price offered a motion to report House Bill No. 660 favorably, to which Representative Thomas objected. The secretary called the roll, and House Bill No. 660 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas, 1 nay, and 1 abstention. Representatives Amedee, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, and Price voted yea. Representative Thomas voted nay. Representative Nancy Landry abstained.

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

House Bill No. 556 by Representative Pearson

Representative Pearson presented House Bill No. 556, which provides relative to sick leave granted to school bus operators, teachers, and other public school employees in certain instances.

Dannie Garrett, Louisiana School Boards Association and St. Tammany Parish School Board, 635 Main St., #3, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 332-0333, spoke in support of House Bill No. 556.

Brian F. Blackwell, Louisiana Association of Educators, P. O. Box 84464, Baton Rouge, LA 70884, (225) 769-2462, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 556.

Larry Samuel, Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9623 Brookline Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 923-0128, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 556.

Representative Price offered a motion to report House Bill No. 556 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 556 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Leger, Price, Smith, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support and 5 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 541 by Representative Steve Carter

Representative Steve Carter presented House Bill No. 541, which provides relative to early graduation from high school including incentives for students and savings redirected for certain other educational purposes.

Representative Steve Carter offered amendments to House Bill No. 541 that would:

1. Add requirement that the state superintendent of education annually report certain information relative to the number of early high school graduates and minimum foundation program (MFP) funding for such students, the value and cost of the Early College Scholarships for such students, and the number of children who could be served through the Child Care Assistance Program if the legislature appropriates funds.
2. Add that a student may use an Early College Scholarship to enroll in any regionally accredited independent college and university that is a member of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.
3. Change references to "base per pupil amount" to "state Level I base per pupil amount."

Representative Steve Carter offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Bouie, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Leger, Smith, and Thomas voted yea.

Melanie Bronfin, Louisiana Policy Institute for Children, 426 Atherton Dr., Metairie, LA 70001, (504) 228-0988, spoke in support of House Bill No. 541.

Erin Bendily, state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and State Department of Education, no address given, spoke in support of House Bill No. 541.

Jodi Mauroner, legislative fiscal office, no address given, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 541.

Representative Steve Carter offered a motion to report House Bill No. 541 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 541 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Price, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 13 in support and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 208 by Representative Steve Carter

Representative Steve Carter presented House Bill No. 208, which provides relative to foods and beverages sold to students in public schools.

Representative Steve Carter offered amendments to House Bill No. 208 that would:

1. Provide information on school menus or school websites about items that are available for sale.
2. Clarify that students are only allowed to purchase these items during the last 10 minutes of the school lunch period, and limit the time that students can purchase these items independent of the school meal.
3. Add technical amendments.

Representative Steve Carter 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, Price, Smith, and Thomas voted yea.

Ashley Bridges, American Heart Association, 2644 S. Sherwood Forest, Ste. 108, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, (337) 298-1778, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 208.

Coach Chris Robinson, Monroe City Schools, 352 Hwy. 134, Monroe, LA 71203, (318) 381-9801, spoke in support of House Bill No. 208 and provided a handout, "America's Healthiest Schools", Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Kristin Gradney, MHA, RON, LDN, Capital Area AHA Board/Registered Dietician, 41026 Lakeway Cove Ave., Gonzales, LA 70737, (337) 945-5568, spoke in support of House Bill No. 208.

Catherine M. Champagne, Pennington Biomedical Research Center, 6400 Perkins Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 763-2553, spoke in support of House Bill No. 208.

Michelle D. Bethea, School Nutrition Association of Louisiana, P. O. Box 306, Clayton, LA 71326, (318) 336-4226, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 208.

Teresa Brown, School Nutrition Association of Louisiana, 1205 Cumberland, Metairie, LA 70003, (504) 300-4366, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 208.

Scott Richard, Louisiana School Boards Association, 7912 Summa Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (337) 278-5398, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 130.

Representative Steve Carter offered a motion to report House Bill No. 208 with amendments, to which Representative Price objected. The secretary called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 2 yeas, 10 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Steve Carter and Leger voted yea. Representatives Amedee, Bouie, Broadwater, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Price, Smith, and Thomas voted nay. Representative Nancy Landry abstained.

Representative Price offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 208. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 208 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Leger, Price, Smith, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support and 13 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 505 by Representative Jackson

Representative Jackson presented House Bill No. 505, which names a building at Lincoln Elementary School in Monroe in honor of a living person, Roy Neal Shelling, Sr.

Representative Price offered amendments to House Bill No. 505 that would delete the phrase providing that the naming of the building is being done in honor of a living person. Representative Price 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, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Leger, Price, Smith, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Price offered a motion to report House Bill No. 505 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 505 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Leger, Price, Smith, and Thomas voted yea.

House Bill No. 269 by Representative Lance Harris

Representative Lance Harris presented House Bill No. 269, which provides for free expression on college campuses.

Representative Nancy Landry offered technical amendments to House Bill No. 269. Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to adopt the proposed technical amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Steve Carter, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Leger, and Thomas voted yea.

Jason Droddy, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 578-5745, spoke for information only for House Bill No. 269.

Representative Amedee offered a motion to report House Bill No. 269 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 269 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Leger, and Thomas 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.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Consideration of proposed rules submitted by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to revise Bulletin 139 - Louisiana Child Care and Development Fund Programs relative to the School Readiness Tax Credits.

Jenna Conway, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North 3rd St., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 342-3736, spoke for information only on the School Readiness Tax Credits and provided a handout, "Early Childhood, Improving School Readiness", Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Darnester Nora, Spring Ridge Academy, 500 Jackson St., (504) 912-1761, spoke in support of the School Readiness Tax Credits.

Martha Weatherford, 613 4th St., Westwego, LA 70094, (504) 343-4644, spoke in support of the School Readiness Tax Credits.

Shelia Green, Shelia's Kiddie Cottage 1&2, 4349 Gen. Meyer Ave., New Orleans, LA, (504) 393-2712, spoke in support of the School Readiness Tax Credits.

Anita Kennedy, Kennedy's Child Care Academy, 715 Franklin St., Gretna, LA 70053, (504) 508-5657, spoke in support of the School Readiness Tax Credits.

Representative Smith offered a motion to approve rules to revise Bulletin 139-La. Child Care and Development Fund Programs. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Steve Carter, Emerson, Falconer, Leger, Smith, and Thomas voted yea.

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

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Nancy Landry
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: