

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2017 Regular Session
May 10, 2017

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Nancy Landry, chairman of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:06 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 Scott M. Simon
Representative Patricia Haynes Smith
Representative Polly Thomas

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Beverly Vincent, sergeant at arms
Mrytis Jarrell, sergeant at arms
Abigail Provost, clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**Senate Bill No. 71 by Senator Donahue**

Senator Donahue presented Senate Bill No. 71, which provides relative to TOPS award amounts.

Representative Leger offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 71 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 71 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Steve Carter, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Leger, Simon, and Smith 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.

Representative Broadwater in the chair.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 7 by Representative Nancy Landry

Representative Nancy Landry presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 7, which provides for legislative approval of the MFP formula for FY 2017-2018.

Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to return the MFP resolution to the State Board of Secondary and Elementary Education (BESE) to address issues contained in the resolution. Without objection, the motion to return the MFP Resolution to BESE to address issues passed by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Leger, Simon, 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.

Representative Landry in the chair.

House Bill No. 239 by Representative Bouie

Representative Bouie presented House Bill No. 239, which requires certain charter school information to be submitted by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and ceases authorization of charter schools pending certification of such information.

Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to adopt a two-minute rule on witness testimony for House Bill No. 239. Without objection, the motion to adopt a two-minute rule on witness testimony for House Bill No. 239 passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Leger, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

Sarah Vandergriff, Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools, 1555 Poydras, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 430-6749, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 239.

Erich Hein, JCFA, 475 Manhattan Blvd., Harvey, LA 70058, (504) 410-3121, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 239.

Millie Harris, JCFA, 475 Manhattan Blvd., Harvey, LA 70058, (504) 296-0987, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 239.

Carol McCall, Citizens for One Greater New Orleans, no address given, (504) 891-5532, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 239.

Michael Smithers, New Schools for New Orleans, 1535 Poydras St., Ste. 781, New Orleans, LA 70115, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 239.

Representative Hall offered a motion to report House Bill No. 239 favorably, to which Representative Steve Carter objected. The secretary called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 3 yeas and 9 nays. Representatives Bouie, Hall, and Smith voted yea. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Emerson, Falconer, Hilferty, Leger, and Simon voted nay.

Representative Leger offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 239. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 239 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Leger, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support, 19 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 342 by Representative Broadwater

Representative Broadwater presented House Bill No. 342, a constitutional amendment that abolishes the Board of Regents and transfers certain board powers, duties, and responsibilities to a newly created board.

Dr. Joseph Rallo, commissioner of higher education, Louisiana Board of Regents, Claiborne Bldg., 1201 North 3rd St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (504) 342-4253, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 342.

Richard Lipsey, chairman, Louisiana Board of Regents, Claiborne Bldg., 1201 North 3rd St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-4253, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 342.

Representative Leger offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 342. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 342 was involuntarily deferred by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Amedee, Bouie, Broadwater, Emerson, Hall, Hilferty, Leger, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 528 by Representative Broadwater

Representative Broadwater presented House Bill No. 528, which creates and provides for the Louisiana Postsecondary Education board of Trustees as the successor of the Board of Regents.

Dr. Joseph Rallo, commissioner of higher education, Louisiana Board of Regents, Claiborne Bldg., 1201 North 3rd St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (504) 342-4253, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 528.

Richard Lipsey, chairman, Louisiana Board of Regents, Claiborne Bldg., 1201 North 3rd St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 342-4253, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 528.

Representative Price offered a motion to report House Bill No. 528 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 528 was reported favorably by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Leger, Price, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 113 by Representative Broadwater

Representative Broadwater presented House Bill No. 113, which removes termination of the authority of public postsecondary education management boards to establish and increase student fees.

Representative Broadwater offered amendments to House Bill No. 113 which, instead of granting the fee authority to the management boards without limitation, limit this authority to the 2017-2018, 2018-2019, and 2019-2020 academic years. Representative Broadwater 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, Bouie, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Leger, Price, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

Dr. Joseph Rallo, commissioner of higher education, Louisiana Board of Regents, Claiborne Bldg., 1201 North 3rd St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (504) 342-4253, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 113.

Representative Broadwater offered a motion to report House Bill No. 113 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 113 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, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 16 in support and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 390 by Representative Gary Carter

Representative Gary Carter presented House Bill No. 390, which provides relative to Tuition Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) award amounts and for procedures for reducing award amounts in the event of insufficient funding.

Representative Nancy Landry offered amendments to House Bill No. 390 that would: eliminate coupling tuition with TOPS to indicate who will receive a cut and who will not; apply only to sophomores; and, if TOPS is not fully funded, allow students who made higher than a 30 on the ACT and whose family income is less than \$60,000 to be exempt from cuts to their awards. Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Leger, Price, Simon, and Thomas voted yea.

Eva Kemp, Democrats for Education Reform, no address given, spoke in support of House Bill No. 390.

Nick Albares, Louisiana Budget Project, 144 Maximilian St., Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (504) 330-1245, spoke in support of House Bill No. 390.

Sujuan W. Boutte, Ed.D., executive director, Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) Program, Louisiana Board of Regents, 602 North 5th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-7294, spoke for information only on House Bill No.390.

Michael Smithers, New Schools for New Orleans, 1555 Poydras St., Ste. 781, New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke in support of House Bill No. 390.

Vincent Rossmeier, Cowen Institute at Tulane, no address given, spoke in support of House Bill No. 390.

Octavia Bolds, P.R.I.D.E., 3530 Rue Delphine, New Orleans, LA, (504) 410-7623, spoke in support of House Bill No. 390.

Lauren Katz, Collegiate Academies, 7301 Dwyer Rd., New Orleans, LA 70116, (504) 228-9717, spoke in support of House Bill No. 390.

Ethan Ashley, Urban League of Louisiana, 4640 S. Carrollton Ave., New Orleans, LA 70122, (504) 602-2332, spoke in support of House Bill No. 390.

Ben Kleban, Orleans Parish School Board, 3520 General deGaulle, New Orleans, LA, (504) 343-1158, spoke in support of House Bill No. 390.

Jonathan Bertsch, KIPP New Orleans Schools, 1307 OC Haley Blvd., #302, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 905-7311, spoke in support of House Bill No. 390.

Erielle Jackson, KIPP New Orleans Schools, no address given, (504) 363-9869, spoke in support of House Bill No. 390.

Juan Cooper, KIPP New Orleans Schools, 4425 Mendez, New Orleans, LA, (504) 250-7845, spoke in support of House Bill No. 390.

Kenneth Bailey, 4414 Perrault Walk, no city given, (504) 236-7992, spoke in support of House Bill No. 390.

Paris Woods, College Beyond, 3520 Dryades St., New Orleans, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 390.

Jawan Gulley, KIPP Renaissance High School, 11031 Roger Dr., New Orleans, LA, (504) 266-5343, spoke in support of House Bill No. 390.

Edward Graf, Idimore Newman School, 1903 Jefferson Ave., New Orleans, LA 70115, (504) 896-6333, spoke in support of House Bill No. 390.

Juwan Sylve, KIPP Renaissance High School, 3534 Paris, New Orleans, LA, (504) 255-2182, spoke in support of House Bill No. 390.

James A. Caillier, Taylor Foundation, One Lee Circle, New Orleans, LA 70130, (504) 589-0470, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 390.

Representative Leger offered a motion to report House Bill No. 390 with amendments, to which Representative Simon objected. The secretary called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 6 yeas, 7 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Bouie, Broadwater, Hall, Leger, Price, and Smith voted yea. Representatives Amedee, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hilferty, and Simon voted nay. Representative Nancy Landry abstained.

Representative Simon offered a motion to involuntarily defer action on House Bill No. 390, to which Representative Price objected. The secretary called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 4 yeas, 9 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Amedee, Emerson, Falconer, and Simon voted yea. Representatives Bouie, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Hall, Hilferty, Leger, Price, and Smith voted nay. Representative Nancy Landry abstained.

Representative Nancy Landry offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 390. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 390 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Leger, Price, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 16 in support and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 242 by Representative Emerson

Representative Emerson presented House Bill No. 242, which requires the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and local public school boards to post certain information on their respective websites relative to independent evaluations of charter proposals.

Erin Bendily, state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, Claiborne Bldg., 1201 North 3rd St., Baton Rouge, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 242.

Representative Emerson offered amendments to House Bill No. 242 that require BESE and local school boards to send the third-party evaluations and recommendations to the charter applicant by electronic means or hand delivery instead of posting such information on their respective websites. Representative Emerson offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Bouie, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Leger, Price, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to report House Bill No. 242 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 242 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, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 15 in support and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 117 by Representative Foil

Representative Foil presented House Bill No. 117, which raises the minimum grade point average required for initial eligibility for a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) Opportunity Award.

Representative Steve Carter offered amendments to House Bill No. 117 to change the proposed law minimum grade point average required for initial eligibility for a TOPS Opportunity Award from 3.00 to 2.75. 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, Amedee, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Price, Simon, and Smith voted yea.

Sujuan W. Boutte, Ed.D., executive director, Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) Program, Louisiana Board of Regents, 602 North 5th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 219-7294, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 117.

Willis Brewer, Louisiana House of Representatives legislative fiscal office, 12th Floor, State Capitol, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 117. (No witness card submitted.)

Barry Erwin, Council for a Better Louisiana, no address given, (225) 344-2225, spoke in support of House Bill No. 117.

James A. Caillier, Taylor Foundation, One Lee Circle, New Orleans, LA 70501, (504) 589-0471, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 117.

Representative Steve Carter offered a motion to report House Bill No. 117 with amendments, to which Representative Price objected. The secretary called the roll, and House Bill No. 117 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas, 3 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Amedee, Broadwater, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hilferty, Smith, and Thomas voted yea. Representatives Hall, Price, and Simon voted nay. Representative Nancy Landry abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, 1 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 133 by Representative Edmonds

Representative Edmonds presented House Bill No. 133, which requires each public postsecondary education management board to develop a centralization plan and a cooperative unification plan and submit them to the legislature.

Representative Edmonds offered a motion to report House Bill No. 133 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 133 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Edmonds, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Simon, 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. 122 by Representative Pierre

Representative James, on behalf of Representative Pierre, presented House Bill No. 122, which prohibits questions regarding criminal history on an initial application for admission to a public postsecondary education institution.

Representative Hall offered a motion to adopt a substitute bill for House Bill No. 122. Without objection, the motion to adopt the substitute bill passed by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Edmonds, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Simon, and Thomas voted yea.

Representative Pierre arrived to answer questions.

Annie Freitas, Tulane University, 1234 Marigny St., New Orleans, LA 70117, (510) 395-4524, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 122.

Syrita Steib-Martin, Operation Restoration and The Council, 800 Wilshire Blvd., Metairie, LA 70005, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 122.

Jason Droddy, LSU, no address given, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 122.

Representative Price offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 122. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 122 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Nancy Landry, Amedee, Steve Carter, Edmonds, Emerson, Falconer, Hall, Hilferty, Price, Simon, Smith, and Thomas voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 68 in support and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Nancy Landry
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: