

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2023 Regular Session
April 20, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Lance Harris, chairman of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. in Room 1, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Lance Harris, chairman
Representative Beryl A. Amedée
Representative Kendrick "Ken" Brass
Representative Julie Emerson
Representative Aimee Adatto Freeman
Representative Barbara Reich Freiberg
Representative Brett F. Geymann
Representative Patrick O. Jefferson, vice chairman
Representative Charles Anthony Owen
Representative Tammy T. Phelps
Representative Vincent "Vinney" J. St. Blanc, III
Representative Phillip Eric Tarver

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Elizabeth L. Borne, legislative analyst
Lisa Lovello, legislative analyst
Alexandra Cravins, committee administrative assistant
Sarah Baker, committee assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Rebecca Marshall, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Concurrent Resolution No. 17 by Representative Mincey

Representative Mincey presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 17, which continues the Teacher Recruitment, Recovery, and Retention Task Force.

Kim Hunter Reed, Board of Regents, no address provided, (225) 342-4253, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 17 and provided a handout, "Teacher Recruitment, Recovery, and Retention Task Force", Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Ethan Melancon, Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 17.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 17 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 17 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Emerson, Freiberg, Geymann, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 6 by Representative Hughes

Representative Hughes presented House Bill No. 6, which extends the deadline for the annual January meeting of the Board of Regents.

Representative Harris offered amendments that removed the specific deadline for the January meeting for the University of Louisiana and Southern University boards of supervisors. Representative Harris offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Emerson, Freiberg, Geymann, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Kim Hunter Reed, Board of Regents, no address provided, (225) 342-4253, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 6 and provided a handout, "Regents Board Meetings", Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 6 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 6 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Emerson, Freeman, Freiberg, Geymann, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 72 by Representative Brass

Representative Brass presented House Bill No. 72, which provides relative to the designation of military and veteran friendly campuses.

Kim Hunter Reed, no witness card provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 72 and provided a handout, "Governor's Military and Veteran Friendly Tiers", Exhibit C, which is included in the committee records.

Tristan Denley, Board of Regents, 10234 Knox Hill Court, Baton Rouge, LA, (931) 436-8761, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 72.

Representative Brass offered a motion to report House Bill No. 72 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 72 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Emerson, Freiberg, Geymann, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 316 by Representative Phelps

Representative Phelps presented House Bill No. 316, which provides for Louisiana High School Seniors Voter Registration Day.

Representative Phelps offered amendments to specify that nothing in proposed law shall be construed to create any duty or obligation for the secretary of state or registrars of voters. Representative Phelps offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Emerson, Freeman, Freiberg, Geymann, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Nancy Landry, office of Louisiana Secretary of State, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 922-2880, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 316.

Sherri Hadskey, office of Louisiana Secretary of State, 8585 Archives Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 922-0900, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 316.

Representative Jefferson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 316 with amendments, to which Representative Charles Owen objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 316 was reported with amendments by a vote of 7 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Harris, Brass, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, Phelps, and Tarver voted yea. Representatives Amedée, Emerson, Geymann, Charles Owen, and St. Blanc voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 485 by Representative Brass

Representative Brass presented House Bill No. 485, which creates the Louisiana National Guard Patriot Scholarship Program to cover the cost of mandatory fees for members attending Louisiana public postsecondary education institutions.

Major General Lee Hopkins, Louisiana National Guard, no address provided, (318) 489-8596, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 485.

Representative Amedée offered a motion to report House Bill No. 485 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 485 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freeman, Freiberg, Geymann, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 67 by Representative Fisher

Representative Fisher presented House Bill No. 67, which authorizes the University of Louisiana System to establish tuition and fees for a Doctor of Physical Therapy program at the University of Louisiana at Monroe.

Dr. Jim Henderson, University of Louisiana System, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (318) 426-7104, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 67.

Representative Harris offered a motion to report House Bill No. 67 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 67 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freeman, Freiberg, Geymann, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 69 by Representative Marino

Representative Marino presented House Bill No. 69, which provides for the screening and diagnosis of students with respect to dyslexia.

Representative Harris offered amendments that applied proposed law and present law relative to dyslexia (screening, diagnosis, and reporting) to charter schools. Representative Harris offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Emerson, Freeman, Freiberg, Geymann, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Dr. Laura Cassidy, Dyslexic Resource Center, 3172 Government Street, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 802-9941, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 69.

Cesilee Oliver, 20133 Patterson Road, Welsh, LA, (337) 387-9637, spoke in support of House Bill No. 69.

Amber Harris, Louisiana School Psychological Association, P.O. Box 371, Calhoun, LA 71225, (318) 355-3144, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 69.

Dannie Garrett, Louisiana School Boards Association, 635 Main Street, #3, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 382-0333, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 69.

Cynthia Posey, Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9623 Brookline Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 69.

Representative Kenny Cox, 204 North Hill Drive, Mansfield, LA 71052, (903) 330-0497, spoke in support of House Bill No. 69.

Representative Freeman offered a motion to report House Bill No. 69 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 69 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Emerson, Freeman, Freiberg, Geymann, Jefferson, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 1 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 5 by Representative Echols

Representative Echols presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 5, which requests that the Board of Regents conduct a study relative to the state's articulation and transfer process with respect to career and technical education courses.

Tristan Denley, Board of Regents, 10234 Knox Hill Court, Baton Rouge, LA, (931) 436-8761, spoke for information only on House Concurrent Resolution No. 5.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 5 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 5 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Emerson, Freeman, Freiberg, Geymann, Jefferson, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 561 by Representative Schexnayder

On behalf of Representative Schexnayder, Hampton Grunenald, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, 101 Efferson Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 978-6167, presented House Bill No. 561, which provides relative to the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center and spoke for information only.

Representative St. Blanc offered a motion to report House Bill No. 561 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 561 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Emerson, Freiberg, Geymann, Jefferson, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 167 by Representative Cox

Representative Cox presented House Bill No. 167, which provides for a tuition waiver for certain disabled veterans.

Representative Jefferson offered amendments that applied proposed law to all veterans with a service-related disability rather than only those with a disability classification of 100%. Representative Jefferson offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Emerson, Freiberg, Jefferson, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Francis Dorsey, Operation Continued Resilience, 413 Everette Street, New Iberia, LA 70563, (337) 789-3986, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 167.

Representative Amedée offered a motion to report House Bill No. 167 with amendments, with a recommendation to recommit to the Committee on Appropriations. Without objection, House Bill No. 167 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Emerson, Freiberg, Geymann, Jefferson, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 191 by Representative Jefferson

Representative Jefferson presented House Bill No. 191, which provides relative to teacher certification.

Ethan Melancon, Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 191.

Timberly Deville, Louisiana National Guard Education Programs, 505 F Street, Pineville, LA 71301, (318) 290-5581, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 191.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 191 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 191 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Emerson, Freiberg, Geymann, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 381 by Representative LaFleur

Representative LaFleur presented House Bill No. 381, which creates the Affordable Digital Textbook and Learning Materials Subscription Pilot Program.

Representative Harris offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Harris offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Emerson, Freiberg, Geymann, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Laurie Blandino, Louisiana Board of Regents, 1201 North Third Street, #6, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 228-1403, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 381 provided a handout, "Affordable Digital Textbooks and Learning Materials", Exhibit D, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 381 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 381 was reported by substitute by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Brass, Emerson, Freiberg, Geymann, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 472 by Representative Mincey

Representative Mincey presented House Bill No. 472, which provides for the state's entry into the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact, which provides relative to certification and qualification of teachers.

Representative Harris offered amendments that added provisions relative to criminal history background checks of teachers applying under the compact to teach in Louisiana. Representative Harris offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Amedée objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the amendments were adopted by a vote of 7 yeas, 4 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Brass, Freeman, Freiberg, Geymann, Jefferson, Phelps, and St. Blanc voted yea. Representatives Amedée, Emerson, Charles Owen, and Tarver voted nay. Representative Harris abstained.

Representative Tarver offered amendments that removed biometrics from the list of information required for applicants for teacher licensure relative to criminal background checks. Representative Tarver offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Emerson, Freeman, Freiberg, Geymann, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Ethan Melancon, Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 472.

Christy Bellue, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 342-9224, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 472.

Kim Hunter Reed, Board of Regents, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 472.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 472 with amendments, to which Representative Tarver objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 472 was reported with amendments by a vote of 6 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Harris, Brass, Freiberg, Jefferson, Phelps, and St. Blanc voted yea. Representatives Amedée, Emerson, Geymann, Charles Owen, and Tarver voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 10 in support, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 338 by Representative Freiberg

Representative Freiberg presented House Bill No. 338, which provides relative to the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission.

Representative Freiberg offered amendments that changed proposed law regarding the deadline for the commission to submit its annual report from 60 days to 90 days after the end of the fiscal year. Representative Freiberg offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Emerson, Freiberg, Geymann, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

RuthAnne Oakey-Frost, Louisiana Policy Institute for Children, P.O. Box 13552, New Orleans, LA, (801) 725-4557, spoke in support of House Bill No. 338.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 338 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 338 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Emerson, Freeman, Freiberg, Geymann, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

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

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Adoption of minutes of the House Committee on Education from the 2022 Regular Session dated March 23, March 24, April 6, April 12, April 13, April 19, April 27, May 3, May 4, May 10, May 11, May 17, May 18, and May 24, 2022; and from the 2022-2023 Interim dated January 19, 2023.

Representative Harris offered a motion to adopt. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Emerson, Freeman, Freiberg, Geymann, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Jefferson offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Emerson, Freeman, Freiberg, Geymann, Jefferson, Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Lance Harris
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: