

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2023 Regular Session
April 26, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Lance Harris, chairman of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:09 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:

Wylene White, sergeant at arms
Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 367 by Representative Phelps

Representative Phelps presented House Bill No. 367, which provides relative to pupil appraisal and services for children transitioning from EarlySteps to services provided by the local public school system upon their third birthday.

Representative Phelps offered a motion to report House Bill No. 367 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 367 was reported favorably 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: 8 in support, and 2 in opposition. 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 Bill No. 78 by Representative Hughes

Representative Hughes presented House Bill No. 78, which provides relative to school facilities preservation and systemwide needs programs in certain school districts.

Representative Harris offered amendments regarding education programs that are included in the definition of school. 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, Freiberg, Geymann, Jefferson, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Tiffany Delcour, NOLA Public School, 2401 Westbend Parkway, no city or state given, (504) 941-1852, spoke in support of House Bill No. 78.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 78 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 78 was reported with amendments 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: 4 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 242 by Representative Hilferty

On behalf of Representative Hilferty, Representative Freiberg presented House Bill No. 242, which provides relative to corporal punishment in elementary and secondary schools.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 242 favorably, to which Representative Amedée objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 242 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas, 1 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Brass, Emerson, Freiberg, Geymann, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea. Representative Amedée voted nay. Representative Harris abstained.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 7 in support. 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 Bill No. 8 by Representative Horton

Representative Horton presented House Bill No. 8, which requires display of the national motto, "In God We Trust", in every public elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education classroom.

Representative Amedée offered amendments that specified physical requirements of the display of the national motto in classrooms. Representative Amedée 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.

Darlene Jackson, 4867 Cadillac Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70811, (225) 371-2090, spoke in support of House Bill No. 8.

Tori Hymel, 8345 Jolee Drive, Denham Springs, LA 70706, (225) 485-3428, spoke in support of House Bill No. 8.

Brandy Pou, Unmask Our Kids LA, 10987 Cattail Point, Shreveport, LA 71106, (318) 401-0713, spoke in support of House Bill No. 8.

Ashleigh Parmelee, 9185 Oak Plaza, Denham Springs, LA 70726, (225) 362-9868, spoke in support of House Bill No. 8.

Pearl Ricks, Reproductive Justice Action Collective, 2030 Oretha Castle Haley, New Orleans, LA 70113, (504) 909-6472, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 8.

Representative Amedée offered a motion to report House Bill No. 8 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 8 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: 15 in support, and 31 in opposition. 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: 15 in support, and 3 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 466 by Representative Horton

Representative Horton presented House Bill No. 466, which provides relative to discussion of sexual orientation and gender identity in public schools.

Dr. Randy F. Harper, 4330 Panther Drive, Bossier City, LA, (318) 347-1434, spoke in support of House Bill No. 466.

Dr. Mike Holloway, Louisiana Baptists, 435 Crowell Road, Eros, LA 71238, spoke in support of House Bill No. 466.

Brandy Pou, Unmask Our Kids Louisiana, 10987 Cattail Point, Shreveport, LA 71106, (318) 401-0713, spoke in support of House Bill No. 466.

Ashleigh Parmelee, Louisiana Children, 9185 Oak Plaza Drive, Denham Springs, LA 70726, (225) 362-9868, spoke in support of House Bill No. 466.

Chris Alexander, lacag.org, 1380 Steele Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 333-6434, spoke in support of House Bill No. 466.

Tori Hymel, 8345 Jolee Drive, Denham Springs, LA 70706, (225) 485-3428, spoke in support of House Bill No. 466.

Stephen Horn, Louisiana Baptist Convention, 6002 Osage Drive, Alexandria, LA 71303, (337) 789-7841, spoke in support of House Bill No. 466.

J.C. Harmon, Convention of States, 426 Sena Drive, Metairie, LA, (504) 579-4052, spoke in support of House Bill No. 466.

Melissa Flournoy, 10,000 Women, 2228 Cherokee Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 936-7200, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 466.

Merrilee Montgomery, Louisiana Progress Action, 650 North Sixth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (229) 603-2706, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 466.

Maxwell Cohen, 3302 Castiglione Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, (973) 907-3126, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 466.

Alex Davenport, 888 South Kenilworth Parkway, Baton Rouge, LA 70820, (225) 235-4599, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 466.

Ashley McGee, 341 South Ninth Street, Eunice, LA, (337) 580-1011, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 466.

Josie Beekman, 430 East State Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (806) 367-1152, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 466.

Representative Mandie Landry spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 466 and read a statement in opposition to House Bill No. 466 on behalf of Louisiana Public Service Commissioner Davante Lewis, 602 North 5th Street, (225) 342-4999, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Cole Quinby, 262 West State Street, Apartment #2201, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (845) 505-9485, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 466.

Logan Wolf, Forum for Equality, 373 Waverly Road, no city or state given, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 466.

Janina Mayeux, 2214 Quail Run Drive, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 425-7631, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 466.

Jane Mitchell, 950 Camelia Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 361-3458, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 466.

Esther DeJong, 950 Picheloup Place, no city or state given, (504) 473-6311, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 466.

Leyla Hekmatdoost, 233 Philly Court, Covington, LA 70435, (985) 773-8601, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 466.

Cathleen Hyde, no address provided, Denham Springs, LA, (601) 917-9122, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 466.

Sarah Jane Guidry, Forum for Equality, 4915 South Claiborne Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70122, (504) 301-6006, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 466.

Mel Manuel, 508 Loden Way, Madisonville, LA 70447, (504) 388-6765, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 466.

Megan Sheehan Dean, 615 Camelia Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (904) 233-8705, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 466.

Nicky Cao, 6207 Waldo Drive, New Orleans, LA, (504) 343-2890, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 466.

DeAnna Campbell, 482 Key Largo Drive, Port Allen, LA 70767, (225) 229-0573, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 466.

Manny Ocasio, 418 Eliza Street, New Orleans, LA 70114, (305) 494-4974, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 466.

Pearl Ricks, Reproductive Justice Action Collective, 2030 Oretha Castle Haley, New Orleans, LA 70113, (504) 909-6472, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 466.

Peyton Rose Michelle, Louisiana Trans Advocates, 1099 Ruth Drive, 70582, (337) 356-9312, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 466.

Tucker Barker, 720 Lamanche Street, New Orleans, LA 70117, (504) 444-4859, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 466.

Olivia Gowen, 4235 Saint Ann Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 466.

Kacie Scott, 106 Maurice Street, Lafayette, LA 70506, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 466.

T. Duncan, 622 Saint Maurice Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70117, (285) 246-6499, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 466.

Caroline Tweedie, 908 Taft Place, New Orleans, LA, (401) 433-8143, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 466.

Carmen Lofano, 2814 Coliseum Street, New Orleans, LA, (425) 647-3850, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 466.

Monique Blossom, Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center, 1340 Poydras Street, Suite 710, New Orleans, LA 70112, (504) 410-1476, spoke in support of House Bill No. 466.

MaryAnne Mushatt, 10,000 Women, 6030 South Robertson Street, New Orleans, LA 70118, (504) 861-8293, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 466.

David Abraham, 2144 Esplanade Avenue, New Orleans, LA (504) 261-4694, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 466.

Blu DiMarco, 6114 Shetland Drive, no city or state given, (504) 376-6511, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 466.

Presley Simmens, Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast, 27545 Tall Oaks Drive, Walker, LA 70785, (318) 791-1665, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 466.

Belinda Davis, 4540 Hyacinth Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 202-2698, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 466.

Morgan-Me'Lyn Grant, Youth Legislative Advisory Council, 1632 Fourth Street, New Orleans, LA, (504) 418-5423, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 466.

Representative Tarver offered a motion to report House Bill No. 466 favorably, to which Representative Freeman objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 466 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Emerson, Geymann, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea. Representatives Brass, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, and Phelps voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 16 in support, and 83 in opposition. 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: 26 in support, and 322 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 81 by Representative Crews

Representative Crews presented House Bill No. 81, which provides relative to the use of certain names and pronouns for students.

Representative Harris offered amendments that allowed using a derivative of the name listed on a student's birth certificate. Representative Harris offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Brass, Freeman, Jefferson, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Chris Alexander, lacag.org, 1380 Steele Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 333-6434, spoke in support of House Bill No. 81.

Vice Chairman Jefferson in the chair.

Stephen Horn, Louisiana Baptist Convention, 6002 Osage Drive, Alexandria, LA 71303, (337) 789-7841, spoke in support of House Bill No. 81.

Dr. Will Hall, Louisiana Baptist Office of Public Policy, 1250 MacArthur Drive, Alexandria, LA 71303, (318) 443-4348, spoke in support of House Bill No. 81.

Chairman Harris in the chair.

Dr. Mike Holloway, Louisiana Baptists, 435 Crowell Road, Eros, LA 71238, (318) 278-2712, spoke in support of House Bill No. 81.

Tucker Barker, 720 Lamanche Street, New Orleans, LA 70117, (504) 444-4859, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 81.

Olivia Gowen, 4235 Saint Ann Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 81.

Kacie Scott, 106 Maurice Street, Lafayette, LA 70506, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 81.

A'Niya Robinson, ACLU of Louisiana, 1390 Poydras Street, Suite 2160, New Orleans, LA 70126, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 81.

Ashley McGee, 341 South Ninth Street, Eunice, LA, (337) 586-1411, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 81.

Ayxa Roberts, 5130 Monarch Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70811, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 81.

Taylor Chustz, 7522 Mondart Way, Greenwell Springs, LA 70739, (225) 718-2354, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 81.

MaryAnne Mushatt, 10,000 Women, 6030 South Robertson Street, New Orleans, LA 70118, (504) 861-8293, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 81.

Melissa Flournoy, 10,000 Women, 2228 Cherokee Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 936-7200, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 81.

Manny Ocasio, 418 Eliza Street, no city or state given, (315) 494-4974, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 81.

Cole Quinby, 262 West State Street, Apartment #2201, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (845) 505-9485, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 81.

Josie Beekman, 430 East State Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (806) 367-1152, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 81.

Mac Siravo, 1443 Brightside Drive, no city or state given, (267) 980-6313, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 81.

Jasmine Fournier, 522 Montegut, Apartment 403, New Orleans, LA 70117, (314) 623-4065, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 81.

Logan Wolf, Forum for Equality, 373 Waverly Road, Thibodeaux, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 81.

Jane Mitchell, 950 Camelia Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 361-3458, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 81.

Sarah Jane Guidry, Forum for Equality, 4816 South Claiborne Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70122, (504) 301-6006, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 81.

Pearl Ricks, Reproductive Justice Action Collective, 2030 Oretha Castle Haley, New Orleans, LA 70113, (504) 909-6472, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 81.

Carmen Lofano, 2814 Coliseum Street, New Orleans, LA, (425) 647-3850, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 81.

Augustina Johnson, 3109 General Taylor Street, New Orleans, LA 70125, (504) 621-0347, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 81.

Blu DiMarco, 6114 Shetland Drive, no city or state given, (504) 376-6511, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 81.

Peyton Rose Michelle, Louisiana Trans Advocates, 1099 Ruth Drive, 70582, (337) 356-9312, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 81.

Merrilee Montgomery, Louisiana Progress Action, 650 North Sixth Street, Baton Rouge, LA, (229) 603-2706, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 81.

David Abraham, 2144 Esplanade Avenue, New Orleans, LA, (504) 261-4694, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 81.

Morgan-Me'Lyn Grant, Youth Legislative Advisory Council, 1632 Fourth Street, New Orleans, LA, (504) 418-5423, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 81.

Sydney Truxillo, 5435 Wimbledon Court, no city or state given, (504) 397-2712, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 81.

Vackentaschre Bell, 5130 Monarch Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70811, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 81.

Caroline Tweedie, 908 Taft Place, New Orleans, LA, (401) 433-8143, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 81.

Rebecca Bohm, 411 Westwood Drive, Mandeville, LA, (985) 502-7695, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 81.

Shannon Kenny, 2901 North Boulevard, no city or state given, (914) 924-4126, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 81.

Hannah Guillory, Reproductive Freedom Acadiana, 213 Treasure Cove, Lafayette, LA 70508, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 81.

Belinda Davis, 4540 Hyacinth Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 202-2698, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 81.

Elliot Wade, Louisiana Trans Advocates, 211 Theo Street, Carencro, LA 70520, (337) 258-9214, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 81.

Emily Krupp, 127 Kraemer Bayou Road, Thibodeaux, LA 70301, (248) 895-5540, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 81.

Bren Wells, LSU School of Social Work, no city or state given, (318) 532-1845, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 81.

Representative Amedée offered a motion to report House Bill No. 81 with amendments, to which Representative Jefferson objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 81 was reported with amendments by a vote of 7 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Emerson, Geymann, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea. Representatives Brass, Freeman, Freiberg, Jefferson, and Phelps voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 19 in support, and 79 in opposition. 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: 16 in support, and 319 in opposition. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Phelps 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, Jefferson, Geymann, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Lance Harris
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: