

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2023 Regular Session
May 10, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Lance Harris, 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.

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 Vincent "Vinney" J. St. Blanc, III
Representative Phillip Eric Tarver

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Tammy T. Phelps

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Elizabeth L. Borne, legislative analyst
Lisa Lovello, legislative analyst
Sarah Baker, committee administrative assistant
Jennifer Watson, committee assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

III. BUSINESS

House Resolution No. 17 by Representative Firmont

Representative Firmont presented House Resolution No. 17, which requests that the state Department of Education conduct a study and submit a report to the legislature relative to school lunches.

Andrew O'neal, 204 Hughart Road, Pollock, LA 71467, (318) 481-6678, spoke in support of House Resolution No. 17.

Representative Amedée offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 17 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 17 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Geymann, Jefferson, Charles Owen, 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. 325 by Representative Harris

On behalf of Representative Harris, Michael Faulk, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, 2713 Indian Mound Boulevard, Monroe, LA 71201, (225) 229-6021, presented House Bill No. 325, which provides relative to the administration of certain tests with respect to the school and district accountability system.

Ethan Melancon, Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 325.

Brigitte Nieland, Stand for Children, 601 Laurel Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 603-5668, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 325.

No action was taken on House Bill No. 325.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support, and 6 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 353 by Representative Marcelle

Representative Marcelle presented House Bill No. 353, which provides relative to student behavior, discipline, and behavioral and mental health.

Further action was taken by the committee on House Bill No. 353 at a later point in the meeting. Please check for the subsequent action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 325.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 43 by Representative Brass

Representative Brass presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 43, which requests the Louisiana Department of Education to update its early childhood care and education data management systems.

RuthAnne Oakey-Frost, Louisiana Policy Institute for Children, P.O. Box 13552, New Orleans, LA 70185, (801) 725-4557, spoke in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 43.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 43 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 43 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Emerson, Freiberg, Geymann, Jefferson, and Tarver voted yea.

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

House Bill No. 121 by Representative Amedée

Representative Amedée presented House Bill No. 121, which requires public schools to provide at least one recess period per school day in schools with any grade kindergarten through fifth grade.

Representative Amedée offered amendments that removed proposed law for inclusion of recess in the minimum number of instructional minutes for the school day for grades one through 12 in public schools. Representative Amedée 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, Charles Owen, and Tarver voted yea.

Dr. Cade Brumley, Louisiana Department of Education, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 121.

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. 121.

Cynthia Posey, Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9623 Brookline Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 923-1037, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 121.

Corhonda Corley, Louisiana Families of Individuals with Disabilities, 8815 Wilmore Drive, Zachary, LA 70791, (225) 654-0671, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 121.

Caroline Roemer, Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools, Metairie, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 121.

Representative Brass offered a motion to report House Bill No. 121 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 121 was reported with amendments 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: 22 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. 353 by Representative Marcelle

This is a continuation of the discussion on House Bill No. 353 from earlier in the meeting. Please check for the prior action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 353.

Cade Canepa, Louisiana Center for Health Equity, 8100 Innovation Parkway, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 715-9906, spoke in support of House Bill No. 353.

Vaishnavi Klombala, Legislative Youth Advisory Council, 453 Hesper Avenue, Metairie, LA 70005, (848) 248-1293, spoke in support of House Bill No. 353.

Chairman Harris announced that House Bill No. 353 would be taken up at a subsequent meeting of the House Committee on Education. No action was taken on House Bill No. 353.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 25 in support, 2 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 169 by Representative Robert Owen

Representative Robert Owen presented House Bill No. 169, which provides for safety protocols for elementary school students when being dropped off at and picked up from school.

Andrew Pizza, Safe Path to School Task Force, 338 Cypress Lakes Drive, Slidell, LA 70458, (504) 296-6081, spoke in support of House Bill No. 169.

Brent Savoie, 346 Cypress Lakes Drive, Slidell, LA 70458, (985) 774-9426, spoke in support of House Bill No. 169.

Amy Savoie, Safe Path to School Task Force, 346 Cypress Lakes Drive, Slidell, LA 70458, (225) 202-2332, spoke in support of House Bill No. 169.

Representative Tarver offered a motion to report House Bill No. 169 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 169 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Emerson, Freiberg, Geymann, Jefferson, Charles Owen, 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.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 2 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 206 by Representative Robert Owen

Representative Robert Owen presented House Bill No. 206, which removes the Health Education course high school graduation requirement for certain student athletes.

Samantha Cohen, 108 Turkey Trot Drive, no city or state given, (985) 649-0951, spoke in support of House Bill No. 206.

Catherine Owen, 207 Provosty Drive, Slidell, LA, (985) 707-6803, spoke in support of House Bill No. 206.

MollieAnn Anti, 106 Hoover Drive, Slidell, LA, (985) 214-6563, spoke in support of House Bill No. 206.

Louis Cohn, 108 Turkey Trot Drive, Slidell, LA 70461, (985) 649-0951, spoke in support of House Bill No. 206.

Michael Faulk, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, 2713 Indian Mound Boulevard, Monroe, LA 71201, (225) 229-6021, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 206.

Ethan Melancon, Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 206.

Corhonda Corley, Louisiana Families of Individuals with Disabilities, 8815 Wilmore Drive, Zachary, LA 70791, (225) 654-0671, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 206.

Representative Tarver offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 206. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 206 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Emerson, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

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

House Resolution No. 101 by Representative Echols

Representative Echols presented House Resolution No. 101, which requests that the Board of Regents conduct a study relative to the state's articulation and transfer process with respect to high school students who complete career and technical education courses and earn industry-based credentials.

Representative Harris offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 101 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 101 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Emerson, Freiberg, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 9 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 400 by Representative Glover

Representative Glover presented House Bill No. 400, a constitutional amendment which provides relative to the membership of the Louisiana State University and Southern University boards of supervisors. Representative Glover submitted a letter from Steve D. Thomas, no address provided, to committee members in support of House Bill No. 400, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Tarver offered a motion to report House Bill No. 400 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 400 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Emerson, Jefferson, Charles Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

House Bill No. 315 by Representative Charles Owen

Representative Charles Owen presented House Bill No. 315, which provides relative to administration of public schools.

Representative Charles Owen offered amendments that:

1. Removed the proposed law removal of the requirement that the Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education prescribe suitable teaching materials for instruction in free enterprise, an elective course for public high school students.
2. Removed the proposed law removal of authorization for sex education instruction to be offered in public elementary schools.
3. Removed the proposed law removal of authorization for sex education instruction to be offered at times other than the regular school day.
4. Removed the proposed law requirement that the legislative education committees review the implementation of the activities of the Quality Science and Mathematics Council.
5. Removed the proposed law abolition of the Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline.
6. Removed the proposed law authorization for superintendents to waive instruction in adoption awareness, litter prevention and awareness, shaken baby syndrome, and parenthood education.

Representative Charles Owen 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, Amedée, Brass, Emerson, Jefferson, Charles Owen, and Tarver voted yea.

Ethan Melancon, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 315.

Michael Faulk, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, 2713 Indian Mound Boulevard, Monroe, LA 71201, (225) 229-6021, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 315.

Corhonda Corley, Louisiana Families of Individuals with Disabilities, 8815 Wilmore Drive, Zachary, LA 70791, (225) 654-0671, spoke in support of House Bill No. 315.

Representative Tarver offered a motion to report House Bill No. 315 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 315 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Emerson, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, and Tarver voted yea.

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

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Jefferson offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Emerson, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, and Tarver voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Lance Harris
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: