

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2023 Regular Session
May 16, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Lance Harris, 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 Lance Harris, chairman
Representative Beryl A. Amedée
Representative Kendrick "Ken" Brass
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:

Representative Julie Emerson

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms
Frank Meyer, IV, clerk

III. BUSINESS

Chairman Harris announced that the committee would observe a three-minute rule for presenters and speakers on ensuing instruments.

Senate Bill No. 197 by Senator Peacock

Senator Peacock presented Senate Bill No. 197, 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 Senate Bill No. 197.

Paula Calderon, Louisiana Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, SLU Box 10671, Hammond, LA 70402, (225) 337-6403, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 197.

Representative Amedée offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 197 favorably, to which Representative Freiberg objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 197 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 1 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freeman, Geymann, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea. Representative Freiberg voted nay.

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

Senate Bill No. 12 by Senator Fields

Senator Fields presented Senate Bill No. 12, which requires an automated external defibrillator on the premises of all educational institutions and at sponsored athletic events.

Noah Martin, Jump Start Your Heart, 16723 Buckner Drive, Central, LA, (225) 369-4224, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 12.

Dr. Steven Kelley, Jump Start Your Heart, 19121 Point O Woods Court, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 413-6503, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 12.

Representative Phelps offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 12 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 12 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, 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 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 150 by Senator Robert Mills

Senator Robert Mills presented Senate Bill No. 150, which creates the Louisiana Literacy Advisory Commission.

Representative Harris offered amendments that increased the commission membership from 13 to 15 members by adding a teacher from Louisiana Key Academy and the leader of Decoding Dyslexia, and that made technical changes. 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, Freiberg, Geymann, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

DeJunné Clark Jackson, he Center for Literacy and Learning, 530 Lakeland Drive, Baton Rouge, LA, (504) 481-9931, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 150.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 150 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 150 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freiberg, Jefferson, Charles Owen, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 11 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 25 by Senator Hewitt

Senator Hewitt presented Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 25, which urges and requests the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to prepare for implementation of an "education savings account" program.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 25 favorably. Without objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 25 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freiberg, 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, and 2 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 191 by Senator Smith

Senator Smith presented Senate Bill No. 191, which prohibits public postsecondary education institutions from entering into promotional agreements with gaming entities.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 191 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 191 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freiberg, 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.

Senate Bill No. 206 by Senator Milligan

Senator Milligan presented Senate Bill No. 206, which provides relative to foreign interest in certain Louisiana research facilities.

Representative Amedée offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 206 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 206 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freiberg, Jefferson, Phelps, St. Blanc, 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.

Statements submitted in accordance with House Rule 14.33 in lieu of appearing before the committee are as follows: 3 in support. Copies of these statements are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 45 by Senator Abraham

On behalf of Senator Abraham, Representative Tarver presented Senate Bill No. 45, which provides for concurrence of a public school system prior to changing certain information assigned to a student in the data collection system.

Ethan Melancon, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 45.

Joan Hunt, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 342-3573, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 45.

Representative Tarver offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 45 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 45 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freeman, Jefferson, Phelps, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 120 by Senator White

On behalf of Senator White, Representative Tarver presented Senate Bill No. 120, which provides relative to the M.J. Foster Promise Program.

Billy L. Clark, Delta College, 7295 Exchange Place, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 928-7770, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 120.

Representative Amedée offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 120 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 120 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freeman, Geymann, Jefferson, Phelps, and St. Blanc 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.

Senate Bill No. 81 by Senator McMath

Senator McMath presented Senate Bill No. 81, which provides for the associate educator program.

Ethan Melancon, Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 81.

Courtney Rogers, Agenda for Children, 8300 Earhart Boulevard, Suite 201, New Orleans, LA 70118, (225) 610-0069, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 81.

Michael Faulk, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, 2713 Indian Mound Boulevard, Monroe, LA 71201, (225) 229-6021, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 81.

Corhonda Corley, Louisiana Families of Individuals with Disabilities, 8815 Wilmore Drive, Zachary, LA 70791, (225) 654-0671, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 81.

Representative Brass offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 81 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 81 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freeman, Geymann, Jefferson, Charles Owen, and St. Blanc voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 4 in support, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 202 by Senator Barrow

Senator Barrow presented Senate Bill No. 202, which provides relative to campus accountability and safety.

Brianna Golden, Board of Regents, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 202.

Representative Freeman offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 202 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 202 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freeman, Geymann, Jefferson, Charles Owen, and St. Blanc voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 30 by Senator Foil

Senator Foil presented Senate Bill No. 30, which provides for the transfer of funds in an ABLE account of a deceased designated beneficiary.

Kelly Monroe, The Arc of Louisiana, 600 Colonial Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, (225) 383-1033, spoke in support of House Bill No. 30.

Representative Amedée offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 30 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 30 was reported favorably by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freeman, Geymann, Charles Owen, and St. Blanc voted yea.

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

Senate Bill No. 205 by Senator Cortez

Senator Cortez presented Senate Bill No. 205, which creates the Louisiana Foundational Integrated Research System for Transformation (LA FIRST).

Representative Harris offered amendments that provided that proposed law shall be implemented only upon an appropriation by the legislature rather than becoming effective only upon such appropriation. 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, Amedée, Brass, Freeman, Geymann, Charles Owen, and St. Blanc voted yea.

Anna Osland, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 404 West Saint Joseph Street, Lafayette, LA, (919) 308-0546, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 205.

Representative Amedée offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 205 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 205 was reported with amendments by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Harris, Amedée, Brass, Freeman, Geymann, Charles Owen, and St. Blanc voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support, and 2 for information only. 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.

Representative Harris offered amendments that:

1. Removed proposed law relative to school absences, Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline membership, willful disobedience, and eating disorder instruction.
2. Authorized rather than required information about suicide and substance abuse to be posted on websites.
3. Expanded the purpose of the pilot program to include mental and behavioral health screening.

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

Alma Stewart Allen, Louisiana Center for Health Equity, 8100 Innovation Parkway, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 772-7029, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 353.

Cade Canepu, Louisiana Center for Health Equity, 8100 Innovation Parkway, Baton Rouge, LA, (225) 715-4906, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 353.

Michael Faulk, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, 2713 Indian Mound Boulevard, Monroe, LA 71201, (225) 229-6021, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 353.

Reverend Alexis Anderson, Presenting Resources Effectively Applying Christlike Humbleness, 804 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, (225) 244-9828, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 353.

Bruce Reilly, Voters Organized To Educate, 4930 Washington Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125, (504) 758-9420, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 353.

Checo Yancy, Voters Organized To Educate, 251 Florida Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, (225) 270-5245, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 353.

Representative Brass offered a motion to report House Bill No. 353 with amendments, to which Representative Amedée objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 353 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas, 1 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Brass, Freeman, 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: 17 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Harris offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed 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.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Lance Harris
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: