

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2025 Regular Session
April 23, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Laurie Schlegel, chair of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. in Room 1, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Laurie Schlegel, chair
Representative Beryl A. Amedée, vice chair
Representative Kendricks "Ken" Brass
Representative Josh Carlson
Representative Kim Carver
Representative Kathy Edmonston
Representative Barbara Reich Freiberg
Representative Charles Anthony Owen
Representative Vincent "Vinney" J. St. Blanc, III
Representative Sylvia Elaine Taylor
Representative Rashid Armand Young

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Barbara W. Carpenter
Representative Phillip Eric Tarver

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Elizabeth L. Borné, legislative analyst
Lisa Lovello, legislative analyst
Alexandra Cravins, committee administrative assistant
Frank Meyer, IV, committee clerk

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Cheryl Domino, sergeant at arms

III. BUSINESS

House Bill No. 589 by Representative Owen

Representative Owen presented House Bill No. 589, which provides relative to the effectiveness of laws requiring reports to be submitted annually to the legislature by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the state Department of Education and provides relative to certain commissions and advisory councils.

Representative Owen offered amendments to House Bill No. 589 that reinstated present law providing for the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission except for the following changes: the reduction of its required number of annual meetings from four to two, and the abolition of its task force.

Dr. Cade Brumley, Louisiana Department of Education, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 589.

Vice Chair Amedée in the chair.

Ashley Townsend, no witness card provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 589.

Barry Erwin, Leaders for a Better Louisiana, 450 Laurel Street, Suite 1900, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of House Bill No. 589.

Mary Beth Derrickson, Louisiana Association of Business & Industry, 500 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70807, spoke in support of House Bill No. 589.

Dr. Libbie Sonnier, Louisiana Policy Institute for Children, P.O. Box 13552, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 589.

Representative Owen offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Owen, St. Blanc, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Representative Brass offered a motion to report House Bill No. 589 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 589 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Owen, St. Blanc, Taylor, and Young 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. 378 by Representative Wilder

Representative Wilder presented House Bill No. 378, which lowers the ACT score required for initial qualification for a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students award for students who complete approved home study programs.

Isabella Hebert, 11124 Maxwell Drive, no city or state provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 378.

Representative Taylor offered a motion to report House Bill No. 378 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 378 was reported favorably by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Amedée, Brass, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, St. Blanc, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 13 in support, and 1 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 395 by Representative Brass

Representative Brass presented House Bill No. 395, which expands eligible programs for M.J. Foster Promise Program funding to include those associated with LED projects.

Representative Brass offered amendments to House Bill No. 395 that:

1. Authorized the Board of Regents to enter into data sharing agreements with LED and the LWC to assist the M.J. Foster advisory council in its selection of qualified postsecondary education programs for the M.J. Foster Promise Program, and the review process for the creation of new associate degree programs pursuant to proposed law.
2. Required, as part of its process for selecting qualified programs, the council to conduct a review of the public postsecondary education and proprietary school programs, at the associate degree level and below, that offer credentials and degrees that are related to LED projects, instead of associate degree level or below.
3. Required the secretary of LED to maintain a list of priority programs, at the associate degree level and below, that support workforce needs for LED projects, instead of associate degree level or below.

Representative Brass offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Amedée, Brass, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, St. Blanc, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Quintin Taylor, River Parishes Community College, 925 West Edenborne Highway, Gonzales, LA 70769, spoke in support of House Bill No. 395.

Susan Bourgeois, Louisiana Economic Development, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 395.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 395 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 395 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, St. Blanc, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 13 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 52 by Representative Willard

Representative Willard presented House Bill No. 52, which provides relative to required instruction in financial literacy for high school students.

Ashley Townsend, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 52.

Representative Taylor offered a motion to report House Bill No. 52 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 52 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, St. Blanc, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 12 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 52.

House Bill No. 321 by Representative Wyble

Chair Schlegel in the chair.

Representative Wyble presented House Bill No. 321, which provides for teacher certification and professional development with respect to numeracy.

Representative Amedée offered amendments to House Bill No. 321 that provide that proposed law shall be known and may be cited as "The Louisiana Numeracy and Excellence (LANE) Act". Representative Amedée offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Owen, St. Blanc, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Representative Carver offered a motion to report House Bill No. 321 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 321 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Owen, St. Blanc, Taylor, and Young 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.

House Bill No. 558 by Representative Davis

Representative Davis presented House Bill No. 558, which provides relative to initial eligibility requirements for the M.J. Foster Promise Program.

Representative Schlegel offered amendments to House Bill No. 558 that restored present law relative to adding back the following crimes to the list that deem a person who was convicted of such crimes ineligible for the M.J. Foster Promise Program:

- (a) Disarming of a peace officer.
- (b) False imprisonment; offender armed with dangerous weapon.
- (c) Aggravated arson.
- (d) Home invasion.

Representative Schlegel offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Owen, St. Blanc, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Mary Beth Derrickson, Louisiana Association of Business & Industry, 500 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70807, spoke in support of House Bill No. 558.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 558 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 558 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Owen, St. Blanc, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 12 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 109 by Representative Thompson

Representative Thompson presented House Bill No. 109, which provides relative to scholarships awarded through the Geaux Teach Program.

Dr. Susannah Craig, Board of Regents, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 109, and provided a materials in a folder entitled "Regents", labeled Exhibit A, which are included in the committee records.

Representative Brass offered a motion to report House Bill No. 109 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 109 was reported favorably by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Owen, St. Blanc, Taylor, and Young voted yeas.

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. 142 by Representative Mena

Representative Mena presented House Bill No. 142, which provides relative to the Advisory Council on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Representative Brass offered a motion to report House Bill No. 142 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 142 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Edmonston, Freiberg, Owen, St. Blanc, Taylor, and Young voted yeas.

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. 466 by Representative Carlson

Representative Carlson presented House Bill No. 466, which requires school systems to provide a salary increase for teachers and other school employees using savings attributable to the state's payment of certain unfunded accrued liability of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana.

Representative Carlson offered technical amendments to House Bill No. 466. Representative Carlson offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments

were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Edmonston, Freiberg, Owen, St. Blanc, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Katherine Whitney, Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana, 8401 United Plaza, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 466.

Dannie Garrett, Louisiana School Board Association, 635 Main Street, #3, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 466.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 466 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 466 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Edmonston, Freiberg, St. Blanc, Taylor, and Young 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. 51 by Representative Young

Representative Young presented House Bill No. 51, which provides relative to the assets of certain charter schools, and provided a handout, "Types of charter schools", Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Young offered amendments to House Bill No. 51 that:

1. Provided that when a charter school is converted to a Type 2 charter school due to revocation of a charter agreement or ceasing of operation, the immovable property that is owned by the local school board remains the property of such board.
2. Provided that if the charter agreement of any Type 1, 2, 3, 3B, or 5 charter school is revoked or the school otherwise ceases to operate, all assets purchased by the school with any public funds become the property of the chartering authority.

Representative Young offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Edmonston, Freiberg, Owen, St. Blanc, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Representative Young offered a motion to report House Bill No. 51 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 51 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Edmonston, Freiberg, Owen, St. Blanc, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 9 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 201 by Representative St. Blanc

Representative St. Blanc presented House Bill No. 201, which expands student eligibility for participation in the R.E.A.D. (Reading Enrichment and Academic Deliverables) program.

Larry Holland, Scholastic Publishing, 17 New Bethel Road, Tylertown, MS 39667, spoke in support of House Bill No. 201.

Representative St. Blanc offered a motion to report House Bill No. 201 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 201 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Edmonston, Freiberg, Owen, St. Blanc, Taylor, and Young 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. 213 by Representative St. Blanc

Representative St. Blanc presented House Bill No. 213, which authorizes a public school to sell and trade certain technology equipment.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Bill No. 213 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 213 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Edmonston, Freiberg, Owen, St. Blanc, and Taylor 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. 246 by Representative Amedée

Representative Amedée presented House Bill No. 246, which provides relative to the salary schedule for employees of the Jimmy D. Long, Sr. School for Math, Science, and the Arts (LSMSA) and for the funding of these salaries.

Dr. Steve Horton, Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts, 715 University Parkway, Natchitoches, LA 71457, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 246.

Dr. Bill Ebarb, Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts, 715 University Parkway, Natchitoches, LA 71457, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 246.

Representative Taylor offered a motion to report House Bill No. 246 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 246 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Edmonston, Freiberg, Owen, St. Blanc, and Taylor 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.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

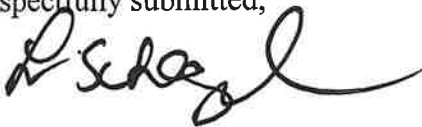
There were no announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Carlson offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Edmonston, Freiberg, Owen, St. Blanc, and Taylor voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Chair Laurie Schlegel
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: March 18, 2026