

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2025 Regular Session
April 29, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Laurie Schlegel, chair of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:34 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 Vincent "Vinney" J. St. Blanc, III
Representative Phillip Eric Tarver
Representative Sylvia Elaine Taylor
Representative Rashid Armand Young

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Barbara W. Carpenter
Representative Charles Anthony Owen

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Riley Dwight, committee clerk
Johnae' Conner, sergeant at arms

III. BUSINESS

House Concurrent Resolution No. 24 by Representative Mike Johnson

Representative Mike Johnson presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 24, which creates a special committee of the legislature to study the Louisiana High School Athletic Association (LHSAA).

Representative Schlegel offered amendments to House Concurrent Resolution No. 24 that increased the committee membership from eight to 10 by granting two additional appointees to the chairman of the House Committee on Education. Representative Schlegel 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, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, St. Blanc, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 24 with amendments. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 24 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, St. Blanc, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

House Bill No. 54 by Representative Horton

Representative Horton presented House Bill No. 54, which provides for the designation of a postsecondary education institution as a "Purple Star Campus".

Connor Junkin, Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, 605 North Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 54.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 54 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 54 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, St. Blanc, Tarver, Taylor, and Young 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. 478 by Representative Horton

Representative Horton presented House Bill No. 478, which requires certain information about pregnancy, adoption, and neonatal care to be posted and distributed at school health centers in public high schools and student health centers on public postsecondary education institution campuses.

Representative Amedée offered amendments to House Bill No. 478 that designated the Act as the "Signs of Hope 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, St. Blanc, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Representative Freiberg offered amendments to House Bill No. 478 that removed the requirement that school health clinic and student health center staff offer a booklet with certain information to each pregnant patient. 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 Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, St. Blanc, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Rebecca Bolan, 70274 Eighth Street, Covington, LA 70433, spoke in support of House Bill No. 478.

Nicole Woods, Women's Resource Center, 107 North Third Street, Natchitoches, LA 71457, spoke in support of House Bill No. 478.

Ben Clapper, Louisiana Right to Life, 200 Allen Toussaint, New Orleans, LA 70124, spoke in support of House Bill No. 478.

Elizabeth Adkins, Louisiana Department of Health, 628 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 478.

Michelle Erenberg, 2831 St. Claude Ave, New Orleans, LA 70117, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 478.

Lilli Sims, 4500 Burbank Drive, Apartment #11204, Baton Rouge, LA 70820, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 478.

Representative Amedée offered a motion to report House Bill No. 478 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 478 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, St. Blanc, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, and 7 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 478.

House Bill No. 352 by Representative Larvadain

Representative Larvadain presented House Bill No. 352, which provides relative to background checks for certain early childhood workers.

Representative Schlegel offered amendments to House Bill No. 352 that removed references to an educator credential and teaching authorization. Representative Schlegel 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, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Cindy Bishop, Childcare Association of Louisiana, P.O. Box 80053, Baton Rouge, LA 70898, spoke in support of House Bill No. 352 and provided a handout, "Five-Point Childcare Background Check", Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Jonathan Pearce, Childcare Association of Louisiana, P.O. Box 81656, Lafayette, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 352.

Lynn Mouton Carmouche, The Learning Center, 10689 Perkins Road Suite A, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, spoke in support of House Bill No. 352.

Terricka Fields, Abundantly Blessed Childcare Center Inc., P.O. Box 351, New Roads, LA 70760, spoke in support of House Bill No. 352.

Jennifer Stevenson, The Garden of Knowledge, 2775 South Columbia, Bogalusa, LA 70427, spoke in support of House Bill No. 352.

Latonya Brown, 1305 Autumn Orchard Loop, Alexandria, LA 71303, spoke in support of House Bill No. 352.

Ben Lemoine, State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 352.

Anthony Ligi, Jr., Louisiana Department of Education, Claiborne Building, no address provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 352.

Ashley Townsend, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 352.

Mattilyn Batson, Louisiana Policy Institute for Children, P.O. Box 13552, New Orleans, LA 70185, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 352.

Sonjia Joseph, Clara's Little Lambs, 1871 Farragut Street, New Orleans, LA 70114, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 352.

Representative Amedée offered a motion to report House Bill No. 352 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 352 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, St. Blanc, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support, and 3 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 344 by Representative Berault

Representative Berault presented House Bill No. 344, which provides for the transfer of school disciplinary records and for school personnel's access to certain juvenile court records.

Representative Carlson offered amendments to House Bill No. 344 that removed proposed law pertaining to school personnel's access to juvenile court records. 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, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, St. Blanc, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Mary Hart, St. Tammany Parish School System, 1901 Highway 190, Apartment 1214, Mandeville, LA 70448, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 344.

Lieutenant Markus Smith, Louisiana State Police Association, 7919 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 344.

Ashley Townsend, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 344.

The committee took no action on House Bill No. 344.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support, and 7 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Resolution No. 7 by Representative Young

Representative Young presented House Resolution No. 7, which requests that the legislative fiscal office update the report issued in February 2013 pursuant to SCR No. 137 of the 2012 Regular Session regarding the means and methods used to provide funding for laboratory schools.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 7 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 7 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.

The committee stood at ease at 11:53 a.m.

The committee reconvened at 11:57 a.m.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Amedée offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, St. Blanc, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Chair Laurie Schlegel
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: March 18, 2026