

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2025 Regular Session
May 14, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Laurie Schlegel, chair of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:32 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 Barbara W. Carpenter
Representative Kim Carver
Representative Kathy Edmonston
Representative Barbara Reich Freiberg
Representative Charles Anthony Owen
Representative Vincent "Vinney" J. St. Blanc, III
Representative Phillip Eric Tarver
Representative Sylvia Elaine Taylor
Representative Rashid Armand Young

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Hayden McGlothin, committee clerk
Rebecca Marshall, sergeant at arms

III. BUSINESS

House Concurrent Resolution No. 37 by Representative Hughes

Representative Hughes presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 37, which establishes the Hazing Prevention Task Force.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 37 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 37 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, St. Blanc, Tarver, 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.

House Resolution No. 3 by Representative Echols

Representative Echols presented House Resolution No. 3, which requests the state Department of Education to study the feasibility of and potential costs associated with prohibiting certain foods and beverages in public schools.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 3 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 3 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor 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.

House Resolution No. 4 by Representative Echols

Representative Echols presented House Resolution No. 4, which memorializes the United States Congress to support funding for the ability to focus on purchasing American agricultural products and the removal of ultra-processed food and beverages from K-12 public schools.

Representative Amedée offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 4 favorably. Without objection, House Resolution No. 4 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

House Bill No. 279 by Representative Boyd

Representative Boyd presented House Bill No. 279, which requires certain postsecondary education students to complete an anti-hazing course.

Representative Schlegel offered amendments to House Bill No. 279 that removed the requirement that a member of an organization as defined by present law (R.S. 17:1801) complete a one-credit hour anti-hazing course within the first two semesters of his membership. Representative Schlegel offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Brass, Carlson, Edmonston, Freiberg, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

Representative Brass offered amendments to House Bill No. 279 that increased the minimum amount of time that certain organizations are required to provide annual hazing prevention education to its members from one hour to two hours, and required an institution to (1) terminate an organization's operation on campus if it fails to comply with the hazing prevention education requirement, and (2) submit a report to the House and Senate committees on education upon such termination. Representative Brass 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, Carpenter, Carver, Freiberg, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

Kathryn Erwin, 107 Timber Ridge Drive, Monroe, LA 71203, spoke in support of House Bill No. 279.

Dakota Espinosa, 3000 July Street, Apartment 2315, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in support of House Bill No. 279.

Margaret Montgomery Richard, 4402 St. Roch Avenue, New Orleans, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 279.

Carmen Walters, Pontchartrain Chapter of Links, 2111 Mesa Via, Harvey, LA 70058, spoke in support of House Bill No. 279.

Toya Barnes-Teamer, New Orleans Chapter of Links, Inc., 1420 Prentiss Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70122, spoke in support of House Bill No. 279.

Representative Brass offered a motion to report House Bill No. 279 with amendments, with a recommendation to recommit the bill to the House Committee on Appropriations. Without objection, House Bill No. 279 was reported with amendments with a recommendation to recommit to the House Committee on Appropriations by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Freiberg, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 16 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

The committee stood at ease at 10:50 a.m.

The committee reconvened at 11:00 a.m.

House Bill No. 243 by Representative Mandie Landry

Representative Mandie Landry presented House Bill No. 243, which provides relative to student assessment and school accountability with respect to the Louisiana Giving All True Opportunity to Rise (LA GATOR) Scholarship Program.

Representative Mandie Landry provided a handout on the Louisiana Scholarship Program, labeled Exhibit A in the committee records.

Lauren Jewett, 604 Sadie Avenue, Metairie, LA 70003, spoke in support of House Bill No. 243.

Dr. Erin Bendily, Pelican Institute, 400 Poydras, New Orleans, LA 70130, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 243.

Kelli Bottger, Louisiana Kids Matter, 37397 Cypress Alley Avenue, Gonzales, LA 70737 spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 243.

Tom Costanza, Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2431 South Acadian Thruway, Suite 250, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 243.

Jared Cavalier, St. Michael High School / Diocese of Baton Rouge, 37070 Kathleen Avenue, Prairieville, LA 70769, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 243.

Dr. Cade Brumley, Louisiana Department of Education, North Third Street, Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 243.

Representative Taylor offered a motion to report House Bill No. 243 favorably, to which Representative Carver objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 4 yeas and 9 nays. Representatives Brass, Carpenter, Taylor, and Young voted yea. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted nay.

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.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 243.

Senate Bill No. 160 by Senator Cathey

Senator Cathey presented Senate Bill No. 160, which allows transportation network companies to transport students to and from school and school related functions.

Michael Faulk, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, 2713 Indian Mound Boulevard, Monroe, LA 71201, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 160.

Representative Young offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 160 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 160 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, Taylor, and Young 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.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 160.

Senate Bill No. 117 by Senator Miguez

Senator Miguez presented Senate Bill No. 117, which prohibits the serving and selling of ultra-processed foods in public schools.

Representative Schlegel offered amendments to Senate Bill No. 117 that required schools to purchase foods produced in Louisiana, to the extent practicable and subject to appropriations, instead of requiring them to ensure that at least 20% of food they purchase is produced in Louisiana. 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, St. Blanc, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Representative Carver offered amendments to Senate Bill No. 117 that removed three oils from the list of ingredients in the proposed law definition of ultra-processed food. Representative Carver offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Owen objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the amendments were adopted by a vote of 5 yeas and 4 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Brass, Carver, Edmonston, St. Blanc, and Young voted yea. Representatives Amedée, Freiberg, Owen, and Tarver voted nay. Representative Schlegel abstained.

Representative Young offered amendments to Senate Bill No. 117 that specified that third parties subject to the proposed law prohibition against selling or serving ultra-processed foods are

third-party food management companies. Representative Young offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Owen, St. Blanc, and Young voted yea.

Brian Sikma, Foundation for Government Accountability Action, 1181 Lowell Drive, Oconomowoc, Wisconsin 53066, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 117.

Stephanie Loup, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 117.

Jacqueline Richard, School Nutrition Association of Louisiana, no address provided, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 117.

Representative Amedée offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 117 with amendments, to which Representative Freiberg objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 117 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 1 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Owen, St. Blanc, and Young voted yea. Representative Freiberg voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 15 in support, 2 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 117.

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, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Owen, St. Blanc, and Young voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Schlegel", written in a cursive style.

Chair Laurie Schlegel
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: March 18, 2026