

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2025 Regular Session
May 28, 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 Kendrick "Ken" Brass
Representative Josh Carlson
Representative Kim Carver
Representative Kathy Edmonston
Representative Barbara Reich Freiberg
Representative Terry Landry, Jr.
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:

Representative Barbara W. Carpenter

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mark Mahaffey, division director
Elizabeth L. Borne, legislative analyst
Lisa Lovello, legislative analyst
Alexandra Cravins, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Riley Dwight, committee clerk
Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

III. BUSINESS**Senate Bill No. 234 by Senator Edmonds**

Senator Edmonds presented Senate Bill No. 234, which creates and provides for the St. George Community School Board and school system in East Baton Rouge Parish, and provided a handout, "Supporting Documents for Senate Bill No. 234", Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Freiberg offered amendments to Senate Bill No. 234 that added the House member from District No. 70 to the list of those making nominations for gubernatorial appointments to the interim St. George school board, and allowed students who reside in either school system to attend any charter school in the parish instead of allowing students residing in St. George to enroll in charter schools in the East Baton Rouge Parish school system if the system obtains permission from Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Representative Freiberg 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, Tarver, and Young voted yea.

Representative Freiberg offered amendments to Senate Bill No. 234 to specify that nothing in proposed law prohibits each school board from prioritizing the enrollment of students who reside within its respective boundaries, and provided for agreements between the school boards relative to the distribution of assets and liabilities. 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, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Young voted yea.

Representative Freiberg offered amendments to Senate Bill No. 234 that allowed K-5 students to remain in their schools through the end of 5th grade and 6-8 students to remain through the end of 8th grade, instead of allowing students to remain in their schools for two years after the effective date of proposed law. 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, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Young voted yea.

Ana Nolan, 14642 Jamestown Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 234.

Danielle Altazin, 8935 Gail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 234.

Tania Nyman, 4669 Bennett Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 234.

Dadrius Lanus, Louisiana Democratic Party, no address provided, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 234.

Shashonnie Steward, East Baton Rouge Parish School District, 1050 South Foster Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 234.

Malika Wyche, 10328 Montrachet Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70817, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 234.

Albert Samuels, 11243 Greencrest Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70811, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 234.

Belinda Davis, One Community One School District, 4540 Hyacinth Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 234.

Kaitlyn Joshua, Clark's Ferry Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70817, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 234.

Michael Gaudet, 6545 Millstone Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 234.

Representative Emily Chenevert, District No. 66, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 234.

Vice Chair Amedée in the chair.

Representative Carlson offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 234 with amendments, to which Representative Brass objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 234 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 2 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea. Representatives Brass and Young voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support, and 8 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for Senate Bill No. 234.

Senate Bill No. 246 by Senator Abraham

Senator Abraham presented Senate Bill No. 246, which provides with respect to the Louisiana Competency-Based Education Program, and provided a handout, "Louisiana Standardized Testing Time Standards Table", Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Ashley Townsend, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 246.

Representative Tarver offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 246 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 246 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Edmonston, Freiberg, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, 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 Resolution No. 180 by Representative Freiberg

Representative Freiberg presented House Resolution No. 180, which creates a study group to study truancy, including potentially adjusting the student count methodology used in the public school funding formula in the effort to address truancy.

Representative Freiberg offered amendments to House Resolution No. 180 that increased the study group membership from 15 to 16 by adding a representative of the Louisiana School Boards Association. Representative Freiberg 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, Carlson, Edmonston, Freiberg, Owen, Tarver, and Young voted yea.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Resolution No. 180 with amendments. Without objection, House Resolution No. 180 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Edmonston, Freiberg, Owen, Tarver, 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.

Senate Bill No. 126 by Senator Kleinpeter

Senator Kleinpeter presented Senate Bill No. 126, which provides for school mapping data of public school buildings and facilities.

Lee Culpepper, Critical Response Group, 4003 South Old Wire Road, Rogers, AK 72758, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 126.

Representative Taylor offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 126 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 126 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Edmonston, Freiberg, Owen, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 6 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 47 by Representative Bayham

Representative Bayham presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 47, which encourages school principals to provide for the display of certain founding documents in conjunction with America250, the celebration of the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Representative Young offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 47 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 47 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Edmonston, Freiberg, Terry Landry, Owen, Tarver, Taylor, and Young 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. 207 by Senator Carter

Senator Carter presented Senate Bill No. 207, which requires all public high school students to have access to available vocational and technical courses.

Representative Brass offered amendments to Senate Bill No. 207 that revised language relative to the authority of governing authorities of public high schools to enter into agreements and request waivers, and made technical changes. Representative Brass 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, Edmonston, Freiberg, Terry Landry, Owen, Tarver, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Brian Landry, Louisiana Chemical Association, 301 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 207.

Ken Bradford, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 207.

Representative Taylor offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 207 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 207 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Amedée, Brass, Carlson, Edmonston, Freiberg, Terry Landry, 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.

Senate Bill No. 178 by Senator Jenkins

Senator Jenkins presented Senate Bill No. 178, which establishes the School Employee Bill of Rights.

Representative Brass offered technical amendments to Senate Bill No. 178. 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, Edmonston, Freiberg, Terry Landry, Owen, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

Cynthia Posey, Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9623 Brookline, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 178.

Lauren Jewett, 604 Sadie Avenue, Metairie, LA 70003, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 178.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 178 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 178 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Amedée, Brass, Edmonston, Freiberg, Terry Landry, Owen, Taylor, and Young 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.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Amedée, Brass, Edmonston, Freiberg, Terry Landry, Owen, Taylor, and Young voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Schlegel", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chair Laurie Schlegel
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: March 18, 2026