

House Committee on Education

Minutes of Meeting
2026 Regular Session
March 25, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Laurie Schlegel, chair of the House Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 9:05 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 Reese "Skip" Broussard
Representative Josh Carlson
Representative Barbara W. Carpenter
Representative Kim Carver
Representative Kathy Edmonston
Representative Barbara Reich Freiberg
Representative Terry Landry, Jr.
Representative Chasity Martinez
Representative Charles Anthony Owen
Representative Vincent "Vinney" J. St. Blanc, III
Representative Phillip Eric Tarver
Representative Sylvia Elaine Taylor

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Rashid Armand Young

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Chance Simpson, committee clerk
Myrtis Jarrell, sergeant at arms

III. BUSINESS**House Bill No. 636 by Representative LaFleur**

Representative LaFleur presented House Bill No. 636, which provides relative to hazing at public postsecondary education institutions.

Representative Schlegel offered amendments to House Bill No. 636 that:

1. Changed responsibility for the development of standardized forms for organizations and institutions to report hazing incidents from the Board of Regents, in consultation with each public postsecondary education management board, to each postsecondary education management board, in consultation with the Board of Regents.
2. Authorized, instead of required, organizations and institutions to use such standardized forms.
3. Authorized institutions to use third party reporting software instead of such standardized forms.
4. Removed a 25-year-suspension of an organization's operational privileges as a possible sanction for a hazing incident that results in a death connected to the organization.

Representative Schlegel offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, Carpenter, Edmonston, Freiberg, Terry Landry, Martinez, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

Urania Wilson, 15 Dauterive Court, Kenner, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 636.

Jason Hughes, P.O. Box 872461, New Orleans, LA 70107, spoke in support of House Bill No. 636, and provided a handout, "Caleb Wilson Hazing Prevention Act", Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Corey Wilson, 15 Dauterive Court, Kenner, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 636.

Representative Delisha Boyd, District 102, spoke in support of House Bill No. 636.

Misti Cordell, Board of Regents, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 636.

Representative Carpenter offered a motion to report House Bill No. 636 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 636 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedee, Broussard, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Terry Landry, Martinez, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, 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. 218 by Representative LaFleur

Representative LaFleur presented House Bill No. 218, which provides for the administration of food insecurity screenings to public school students.

Representative Schlegel offered amendments to House Bill No. 218 that:

1. Instead of requiring schools to administer a food insecurity screening to students, required the state Department of Education to include questions pertaining to food insecurity on the residency questionnaire administered for federal law purposes (the McKinney-Vento Act).
2. Added that the information on federal, state, and community resources shall be compiled by the Louisiana Department of Health, which shall provide it to each school at no cost to the school boards.
3. Added a limitation of liability for school boards and school employees.

Representative Schlegel offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Martinez, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

Sarah V. Kelley, Louisiana Charter School Association, 4722 Miles Drive, New Orleans, LA 70122, spoke in support of House Bill No. 218.

Ashley Townsend, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 218.

Stephanie Loup, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third St, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 218.

Dr. Will Hall, Louisiana Baptist Office of Public Policy, 1250 MacArthur Drive, Alexandria, LA 71309, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 218.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 218 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 218 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Martinez, 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.

House Bill No. 626 by Representative Jordan

Representative Jordan presented House Bill No. 626, which provides relative to suicide prevention plans at colleges and universities.

Dr. Allison Smith, Board of Regents, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 626.

Representative Carpenter offered a motion to report House Bill No. 626 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 626 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Terry Landry, Martinez, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, 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. 749 by Representative Carver

Representative Carver presented House Bill No. 749, which authorizes the Louisiana Tuition Trust Authority to contract with a program manager for the administration of certain savings accounts (ABLE, START, and START K12 programs) and the investment of account funds, and provided a handout, "College Savings Security", Exhibit B, which is included in the committee records.

Amy Matthews, Treasury, Louisiana State Capitol, 900 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 749.

Elizabeth Bentley-Smith, Board of Regents, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 749.

Representative Freiberg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 749 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 749 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Terry Landry, Martinez, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor 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 Bill No. 352 by Representative Mack

Representative Mack presented House Bill No. 352, which provides relative to behavioral health services for public school students.

Representative Schlegel offered amendments to House Bill No. 352 that:

1. Added an exception to the requirement that behavioral health services be provided in a physical classroom, providing that such services are required to be provided outside of the physical classroom if it is medically necessary.
2. Removed the prohibition on a board certified behavior analyst virtually supervising a behavior technician administering services. Instead, prohibited any student, other than the student receiving services, from being recorded if supervision is virtual.
3. Removed proposed law definitions of "board certified behavior analyst" and "behavior technician".

Representative Schlegel offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Terry Landry, Martinez, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

Ashley McReynolds, Arc of Louisiana, 600 Colonial Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in support of House Bill No. 352.

Beverly Haydel, Louisiana Coalition for Access to Autism Services, 609 Lakeland Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 352.

Angie Moran, Touchstone Applied Behavioral Analysis, 1726 Columbus Street, New Orleans, LA 70116, spoke in support of House Bill No. 352.

Mandie Zaunbrecher, 4585 Fruge Road, Iowa, LA 70647, spoke in support of House Bill No. 352.

Cynthia Posey, Louisiana Federation of Teachers, 9623 Brookline Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 352.

Representative Martinez 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 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, Carpenter, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Terry Landry, Martinez, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support, and 4 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 201 by Representative McMakin

Representative McMakin presented House Bill No. 201, which provides for a State Seal of Fine Arts to recognize high school graduates who meet certain academic eligibility criteria.

Duane LeBlanc Louisiana Music Educators Association, no address provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 201.

Representative Edmonston 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, Carlson, Edmonston, Freiberg, Terry Landry, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor 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.

House Bill No. 738 by Representative McMakin

Representative McMakin presented House Bill No. 738, which provides relative to student disciplinary proceedings, and provided a handout, "Student Disciplinary Proceedings", Exhibit C, which is included in the committee records.

Representative Owen offered a motion to report House Bill No. 738 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 738 was reported favorably by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Terry Landry, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 14 by Representative Carver

Representative Carver presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 14, which expresses support for federal efforts to eliminate the U.S. Department of Education and memorializes congress to fully cooperate with these efforts.

Representative Edmonston offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 14 favorably, to which Representative Taylor objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Concurrent Resolution No. 14 was reported favorably by a vote of 9 yeas and 3 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Owen, St. Blanc, and Tarver voted yea. Representatives Freiberg, Martinez, and Taylor voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by those who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support, and 3 in opposition. 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 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Schlegel, Amedée, Broussard, Carlson, Carver, Edmonston, Freiberg, Martinez, Owen, St. Blanc, Tarver, and Taylor voted yea.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Laurie Schlegel
House Committee on Education

Date adopted: