

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Committee on Education Wednesday, April 16, 2014 Committee Room 1				Bill Status
Bill #	Arthur/Topic	Bill Synopsis	The People, LLC	
HB 89	MILLER SCHOOLS/FINANCE	Provides relative to the payment of accrued liabilities of retirement systems and other retirement obligations from minimum foundation program funds allocated to charter schools	We agree. They should not be allowed to take local voter approved funding outside of the district. Any money allocated to fund retirement should go to retirement and not to the pocket of the charter schools	
HB 101	EDWARDS SCHOOLS/CHARTER	Requires charter school teachers to meet same certification requirements as other public school teachers	We agree. The attempt to distinguish charter schools as anything but public schools, when they are funded with taxpayer money, is ridiculous.	Not on Agenda for 04/16
HB124	SMITH, PATRICIA SCHOOLS/CHARTER	Provides relative to employment eligibility requirements for teachers in charter schools	This bill is not as strong as HB 101	Involuntarily Deferred
HB 125	HARRISON SCHOOLS/ST SUPERINTDT	(Constitutional Amendment) Provides for the statewide election of the state superintendent of education -	This is not necessary - but we are not opposed to it.	Reported Favorably - Moves to Civil Law and Procedure
HB 127	HARRISON SCHOOLS/ST SUPERINTDT	Provides for election of the state superintendent of education	We agree – in addition to making the state superintendent elected, this sets the salary for the position as the same salary as all other statewide elected positions at \$115,000. Currently, John White has a base salary of \$275,000.	Reported Favorably
HB 171	PEARSON SCHOOLS/EMPLOYEE S	Requires school boards and charter school governing authorities to offer to their employees the opportunity to participate in the La. Public Employees Deferred Compensation Plan	This is required by Federal Tax Law.	Reported Favorable

HB 184	HAVARD SCHOOLS/CHARTER	Provides relative to assets or property acquired or used by charter schools under certain circumstances	We agree - Charter Schools are funded with taxpayer money, therefore any assets acquired should remain the property of the public	
HB 192	PEARSON SCHOOLS/CHOICE	Provides relative to the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence (voucher) Program, including scholarship amounts, funding, and eligibility requirements for kindergarten students	We disagree - Removes the requirement for kindergarten enrollment since they are no longer "getting around the constitution". MFP funding for the vouchers is not constitutional so "other" money will be used.	Involuntarily Deferred
HB 276	GEYMANN ELECTED OFFICIALS/STATEW	Makes the office of state superintendent of education an elective rather than an appointed office	We agree – in addition to making the state superintendent elected, this sets the salary for the position as the same salary as all other statewide elected positions at \$115,000. Currently, John White has a base salary of \$275,000.	Not on Agenda for 04/16
HB 701	EDWARDS SCHOOLS/CHOICE	Provides relative to student eligibility for vouchers	We agree – If the purpose of the voucher is to address failing schools, then they should be applicable only to failing schools.	
HB 702	EDWARDS SCHOOLS/CHOICE	Provides relative to eligibility of kindergarten students for participation in the voucher	We disagree – Taxpayers should not be made to pay for kindergarten as it is not required.	
HB 703	EDWARDS SCHOOLS/CHARTER	Prohibits the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education from authorizing charter schools under certain circumstances	We agree – Although we disagree with the whole premise of Charter Schools, if we are forced to have them by Gov. Jindal, they should only be allowed in “failing” school systems.	
HB 816	BARROW SCHOOLS/DISTRICTS	Requires that the Recovery School District provide advance notice to contractors when decisions have been made to cancel contract	We disagree - These types of provisions should be provided for in a contractual agreement and not mandated by law.	

HB 836	HARRISON SCHOOLS/CHOICE	Requires the state Dept. of Education to develop an accountability system for nonpublic schools participating in the voucher program and requires compliance with the system by such schools	We agree – Although we know that the purpose of the voucher is the government takeover of private schools, if private schools want to accept taxpayer money, they should be held accountable. If they don't want the interference of government, then they should NOT take the voucher.	
HB 867	HOFFMAN TEXTBOOKS/MATERIALS	Provides relative to textbooks and other instructional materials for elementary and secondary schools	We disagree - This is unconstitutional in that BESE is charged with prescribing textbooks, not a process. This bill is in conflict with HB 988 which this committee just passed.	Not on Agenda for 04/16
HB 876	SEABUAGH SCHOOLS/BOARDS	Provides relative to greetings and displays associated with traditional celebrations in winter public schools		
HB 941	LEGER SCHOOLS/FINANCE	Provides for allocations of certain public school funds to building renovations and replacement purposes in certain school districts	Waiting for information...	
HB 954	LEGER EDUCATION/PRE-K	Provides relative to the Cecil J. Picard LA 4 Early Childhood Program	We disagree - This is the move to fund "pre-k for all" whether we want it or not. According to Sen. Appel, this is a necessary move because "petty" and "selfish" parents don't want this, so voluntary just doesn't cut it. BESE has no purview over anything but Elementary and Secondary Education.	
HB 988	SCHRODER STUDENT/STANDARDS	Permits local school boards to develop and implement curriculum content and methodology in lieu of that recommended by the state Dept. of Education or the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education	We agree - This bill makes it clear to parents who they can hold accountable for what their children are exposed to in the classroom.	Reported Favorable

HB 999	WILLIAMS, A SCHOOLS/CHARTER	Limits the percentage of its funding that a charter school may use to pay certain management fees	We agree that there needs to be a cap, however, since we have a system in place (Elected School Boards), we suggest that charter schools be placed under the management of those.	
HB 1000	TALBOT SCHOOLS/CHOICE	Provides relative to student eligibility requirements for the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence (voucher) program	These types of things could happen at any school. This bill does not merit an opinion.	Not on Agenda for 04/16
HB 1177	CARTER SCHOOLS	Provides relative to the governance of schools in school systems	We disagree - From the Bill: "Provides for governance and administration of large school systems." LA Constitution: "the legislature shall not pass a local or special law: Regulating the management of parish or city public schools..." This bill erodes our representative form of government.	
HB 1199	SCHRODER EDUCATION	Provides relative to parents' access to information about schools and instructional materials used by schools	We agree - Requires the schools to provide access to all instructional materials, including assessments and surveys, to parents	
HB 1208	PIERRE SCHOOLS/CHARTER	Requires that students attending a charter school be provided free transportation in certain parishes.	No opinion at this time	Not on Agenda for 04/16
HB 1228	FOIL SCHOOLS/CHARTER	Provides relative to a program for educating students with exceptionalities	The voucher is unconstitutional, but if the state insists on funding them, then voucher schools should be held accountable.	
HB 1243	HODGES SCHOOLS/CHARTER	Provides conditions and prohibitions relative to approval of certain charter school proposals	Charter schools should not be able to establish a school based on a proposal to use nonimmigrant foreign workers. By setting parameters with the use of the word "unless" this bill merely outlines the requirements that must be met in order to do so.	

SCR 61	LEGER EDUCATION/FINANCE	Urges and requests BESE to develop a statewide funding model for early childhood care and educational services	We disagree - This resolution is an attempt to fund the Childcare Network through the Dept. of Ed. for which BESE has no constitutional authority	
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