

Session Wrap

2021 Regular Session

Louisiana Legislature



House Legislative Services
Louisiana House of Representatives

August 19, 2021

All included legislation completed the legislative process.



2021 Regular Session

Convened April 12 – Adjourned June 10

Odd years are limited “fiscal” sessions

Legislators could file:

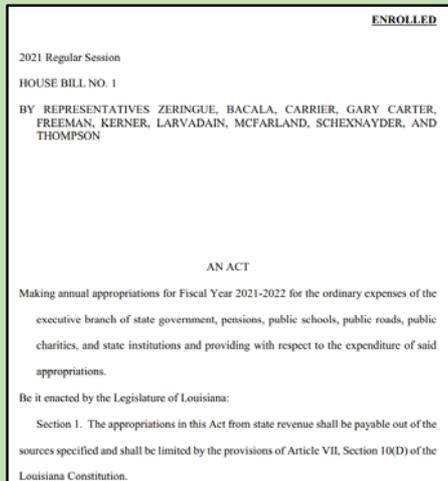
- Unlimited fiscal bills
- Unlimited local bills
- Only 5 general bills

Instruments filed

- 959 bills (712 House/247 Senate)
- 37 constitutional amendments
- 706 resolutions and study requests



Balanced State Budget – FY 2021-2022



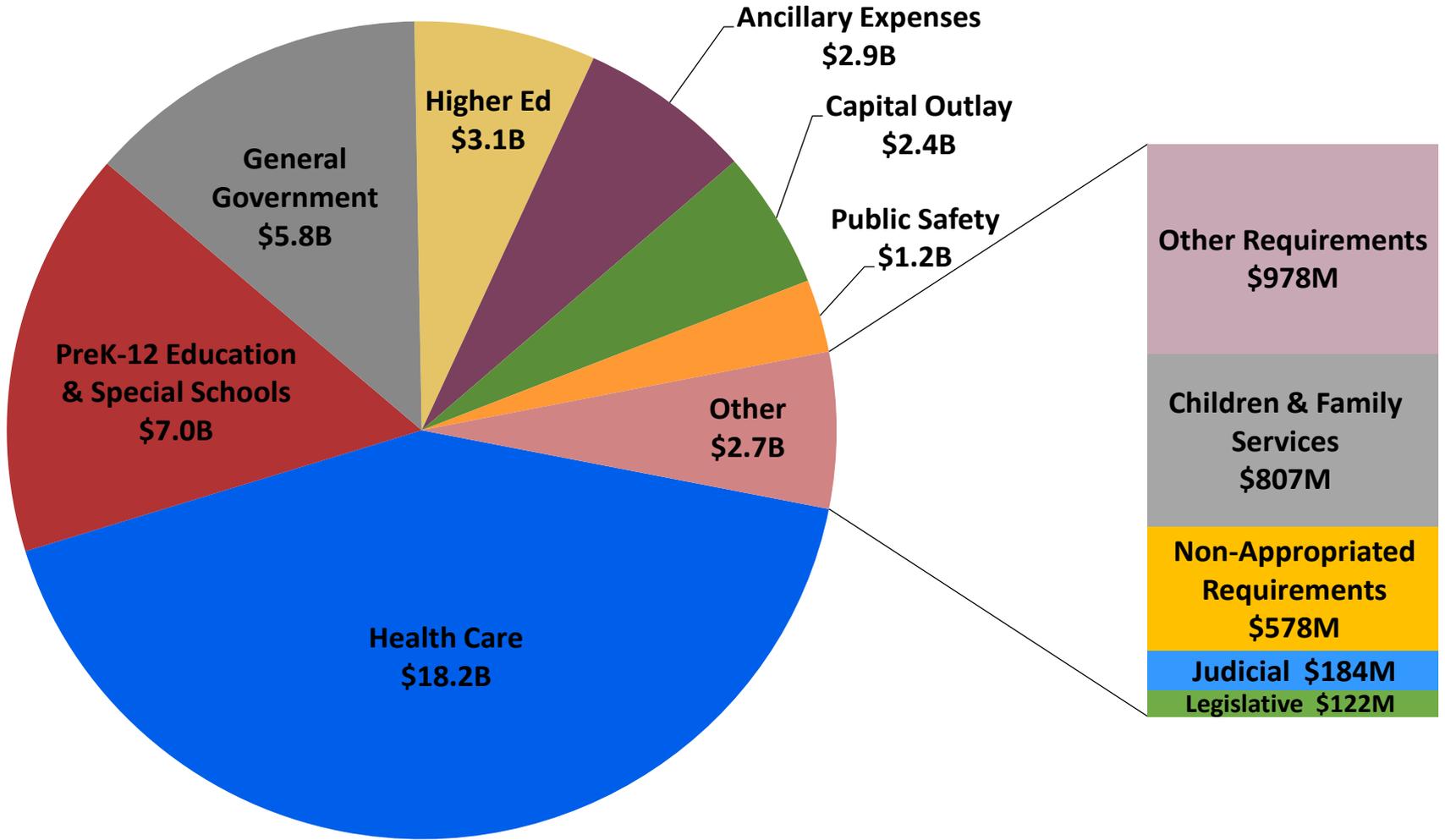
Appropriation Bills

The General Appropriation Bill ([HB 1](#)) contains \$37.1B for the ordinary operating expenditures of the executive branch for FY 2021-2022, a \$2.0B increase over FY 2020-2021.

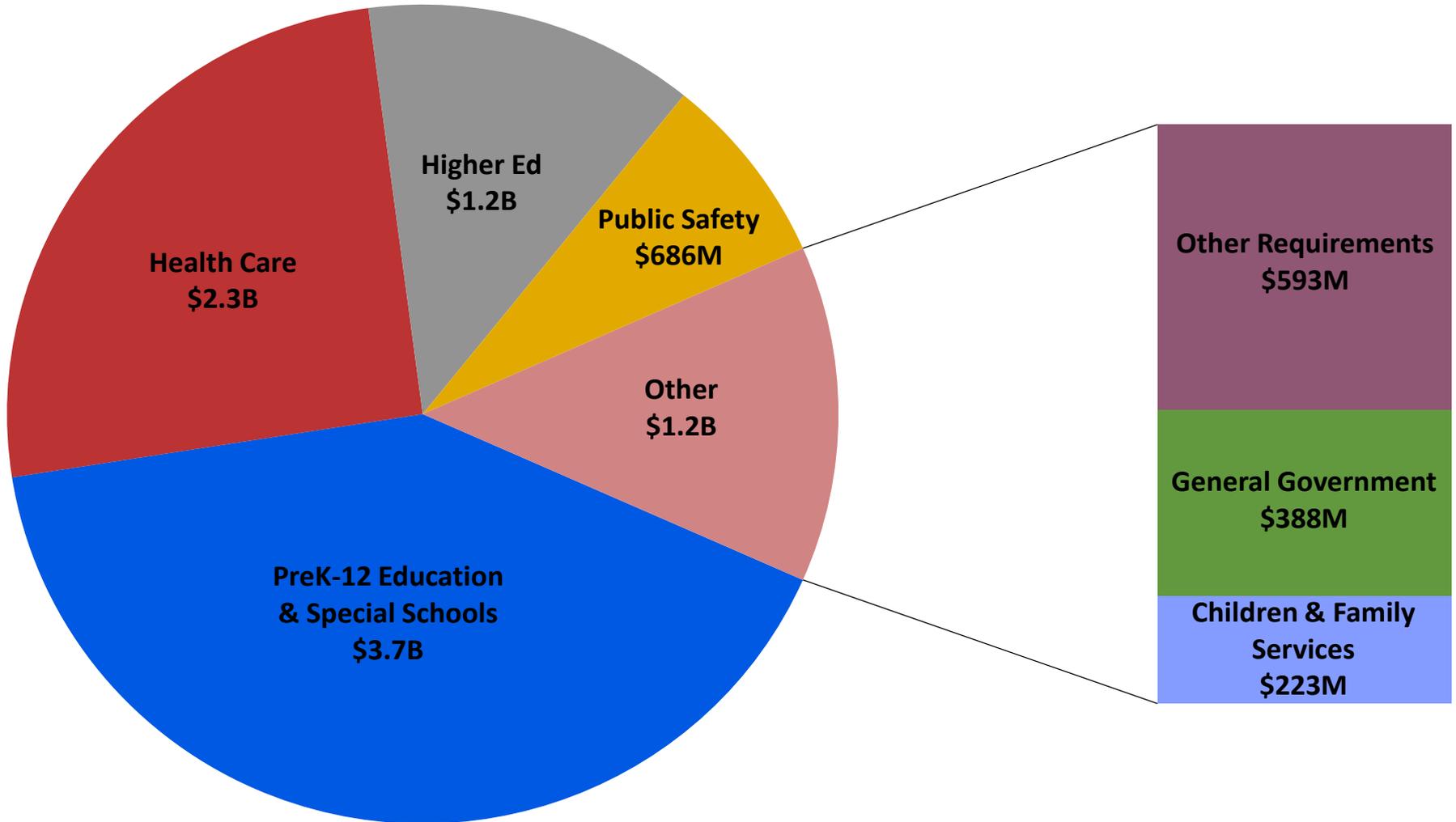
\$37.1B General Appropriations

- \$19.2B in federal funds
 - \$9.1B in state general funds
 - \$4.4B in statutory dedications
 - \$3.2B in fees and self-generated revenues
 - \$1.2B in interagency transfers
- When added to all other funds – including appropriations for the operation of the judiciary and the legislature, monetary judgments – and ancillary funding, the total amount of appropriations for FY 2021-2022 is \$43.3B.

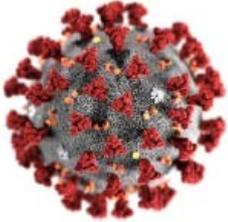
Total FY 21-22 Appropriations (\$43.3B)



State General Fund – HB 1 (\$9.1B)



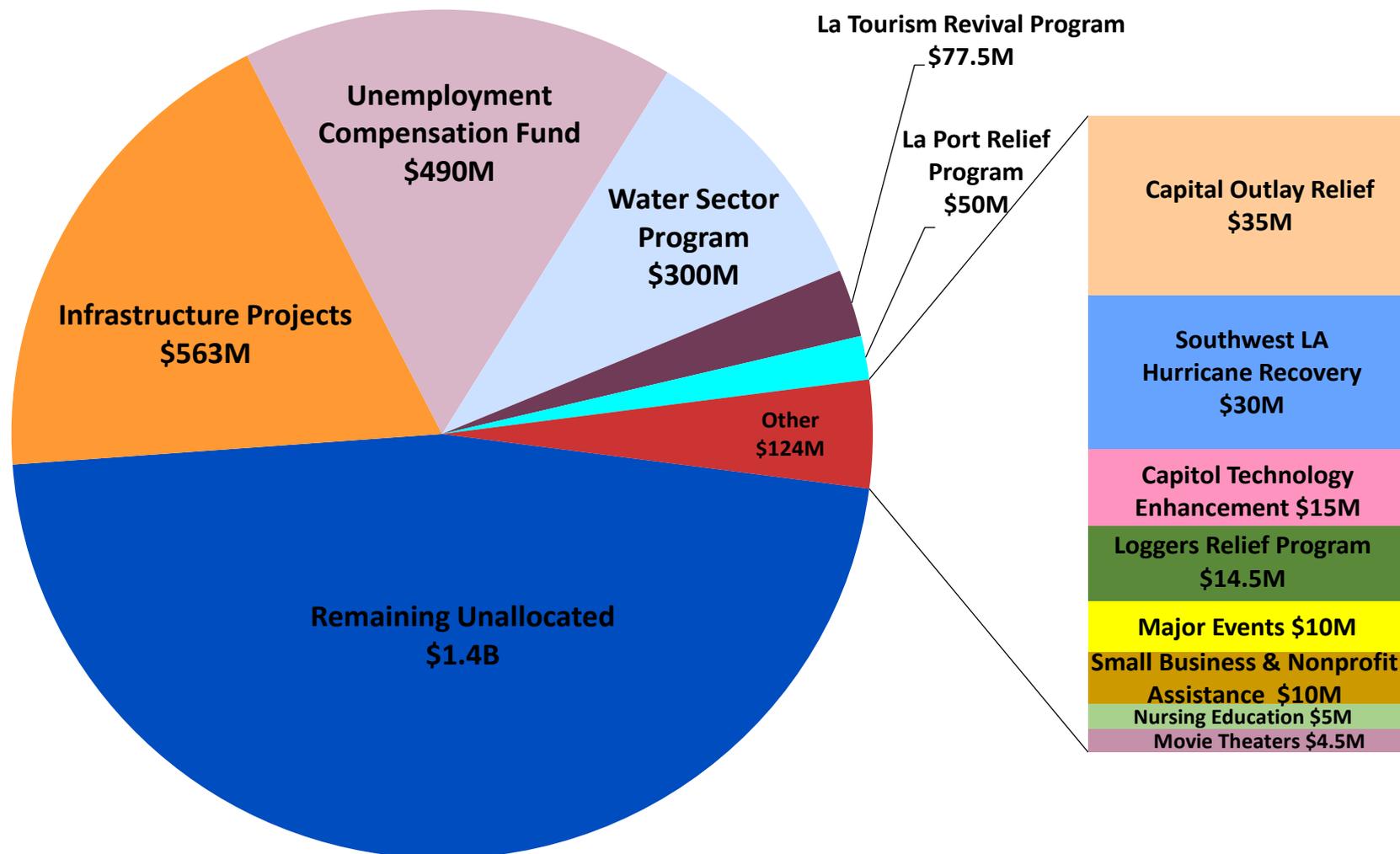
COVID-19 Relief Funding



The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) allocated \$3.011 billion to Louisiana from the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund. [HB 642](#) directs a portion of this funding to the Louisiana Rescue Plan Fund to be used for various state initiatives.

- **Infrastructure Projects (\$563M)** – Funding for capital outlay road and infrastructure projects
- **Unemployment Compensation Fund (\$490M)** – Replenishes the fund from a zero balance to prevent further borrowing from the federal government and repays previously borrowed money
- **Water Sector Program (\$300M)** – Grants for community water and sewer systems, repairs, and improvements necessitated by storm water
- **Louisiana Tourism Revival Program (\$77.5M)** – Support for state, local, and regional tourism to promote travel in Louisiana via in-state and out-of-state markets
- **Louisiana Port Relief Program (\$50M)** – Grants to ports for revenue losses and expenses related to COVID-19
- **Capital Outlay Relief Fund (\$35M)** – Funding for capital outlay projects
- **Southwest Louisiana Hurricane Recovery Fund (\$30M)** Funding to repair structural damage in Southwest Louisiana resulting from the 2020 hurricane season
- **Legislative Capitol Technology Enhancement Fund (\$15M)** – Funding for enhancing technology in the state Capitol
- **Louisiana Loggers Relief Program (\$10M)** – Grants to eligible timber harvesting & hauling businesses effected by COVID-19
- **Louisiana Small Business & Nonprofit Assistance Program (\$10M)** – Grants to eligible small businesses and nonprofits that aid individuals impacted by COVID-19
- **Major Events Fund (\$10M)** – Funding for attracting, hosting, and incentivizing major regional and statewide events to be conducted in Louisiana
- **Health Care Employment Reinvestment Opportunity (H.E.R.O.) Fund (\$5M)** – Funding to expand the capacity for nursing education programs
- **Louisiana Save Our Screens Program (\$4.5M)** – Grants to eligible movie theaters impacted by COVID-19

Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund



Tax Reform Package

SB 159 – income tax

- A constitutional amendment that will be presented to voters on October 9, 2021.
- Limits the maximum allowable income tax rate to 4.75% and permits (rather than requires) a deduction for federal income taxes paid.
- If approved by the voters, the tax rates are effective January 1, 2022.

HB 278 – individual income

- Lowers the individual income tax rates to:
 - 1.85% on the first \$12,500 of net income (currently 2%)
 - 3.5% on the next \$37,500 of net income (currently 4%)
 - 4.25% on net income in excess of \$50,000 (currently 6%).
- Taxpayers can deduct certain medical care expenses, but not all excess federal itemized personal deductions or income taxes paid.
- Includes a trigger to automatically lower tax rates if certain revenue thresholds are met.
- Tax rates are effective January 1, 2022, if SB 159 passes and HB 292 and SB 161 become law.

SB 159
income tax
(constitutional
amendment)

HB 278
individual
income
(statutory)

HB 292
corporate
income

SB 161
corporate
franchise

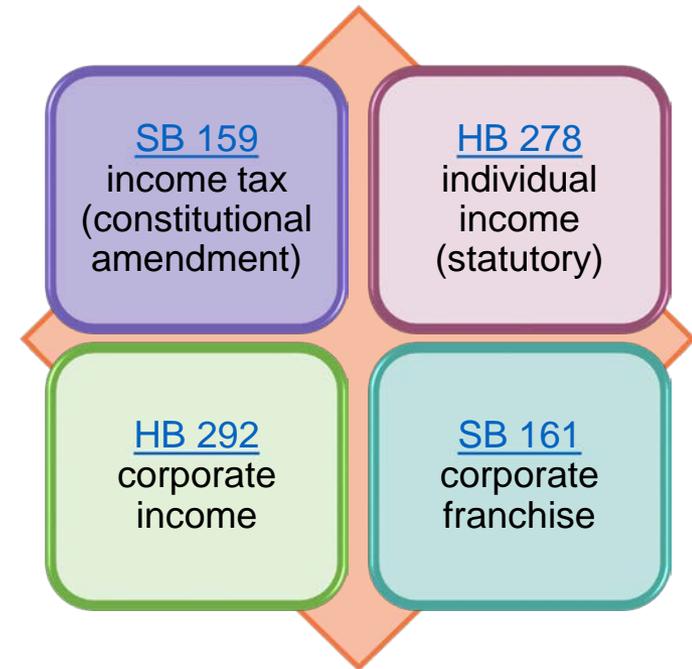
Tax Reform Package

[HB 292](#) – corporate income

- Repeals the deduction for federal income taxes paid.
- Reduces the number of corporate income tax brackets and reduces the rates to:
 - 3.5% on the first \$50,000 of taxable income
 - 5.5% on income between \$50,000- \$150,000
 - 7.5% on income in excess of \$150,000.
- Reduces rates of S corporations that elect to be taxed at the corporate level:
 - 1.85% on the first \$25,000 of taxable income (currently 2%)
 - 3.5% on income between \$25,000-\$100,000 (currently 4%)
 - 4.25% on income in excess of \$100,000 (currently 6%).
- Tax rates are effective January 1, 2022, if SB 159 passes and if HB 278 and SB 161 become law.

[SB 161](#) – corporate franchise

- Extends the tax suspension on capital up to \$300,000 for small business corporations until July 1, 2023.
- Eliminates tax on the first \$300,000 beginning January 1, 2023 (currently \$1.50 per \$1,000).
- Reduces rate for capital above \$300,000 to \$2.75 (currently \$3 per \$1,000).
- Includes a trigger to automatically lower the tax rate if certain revenue thresholds are met.
- Tax rates are effective January 1, 2022, if SB 159 passes and HB 278 and HB 292 become law.



Centralization of Sales Tax Collection

[HB 199](#) is a constitutional amendment that, if approved by voters, creates the State and Local Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Commission, tasked with streamlining the electronic filing, electronic remittance, and collection of sales and use taxes levied within the state.



During the 2020 First Extraordinary Session, the House of Representatives created a group to study preferred methods for centralizing sales and use tax collection.

This study group unanimously recommended a constitutional amendment to authorize the creation of a single sales and use tax collection board.

Taxes



Sales Tax

- [HB 7](#) permanently extends the local exemption and establishes a state exemption on feminine hygiene products and diapers effective July 1, 2022.
- [SB 77](#) exempts purchases of school buses.
- [SB 6](#) exempts purchases of utilities used by commercial farmers for on-farm storage.

Severance Tax

[SB 171](#) exempts oil produced from orphan wells from severance taxes. After an initial grace period, the operator will remit the severance tax equivalent for participating wells to site-specific trust accounts for later shut-in and site restoration, as necessary.



Income Tax Adjustments

Credits

- [HB 146](#) – following the delivery of a stillborn child
- [HB 301](#) – funeral and burial expenses for pregnancy-related deaths
- [HB 445](#) – authorizes the tax credit for Qualified Music Companies to be refundable
- [HB 678](#) – work opportunity tax credit and earned income tax credit
- [HB 680](#) – Youth Jobs Tax Credit Program and apprenticeship tax credit

Deductions

- [HB 424](#) – for child adoption and fostering
- [SB 5](#) – START K-12 deposits
- [SB 11](#) – COVID-19 relief benefits



Exemptions and Exclusions

- [HB 200](#) – military survivor benefits
- [SB 31](#) – 50% of gross wages, up to \$150,000, for digital nomads
- [SB 46](#) – exclusion for active duty military, up to \$50,000
- [SB 157](#) – mobile workers in the state for 25 days or less

Transportation Funding

[HB 514](#) dedicates a portion of the taxes collected from the sale, use, or lease of motor vehicles to the Construction Subfund of the Transportation Trust Fund (30% in FY 23-24, 60% thereafter).

- Up to 75% of the money is for mega projects, including:
 - I-10 Calcasieu River Bridge replacement
 - US 90 upgrades
 - Mississippi River Bridge at Baton Rouge replacement
 - I-49 North upgrades
 - I-12, I-20, LA 28, LA 173, and I-10 widening.
- Of the remaining money, an amount not less than 25% shall be used for highway and bridge preservation projects.
- During any fiscal year with a projected deficit of \$100 million or more, the dedication will be limited to \$150 million. The remainder of the funds will go into the state general fund.



Capital Outlay

HB 2 – 2021-2022 Capital Outlay Budget (\$6.4B)

Priority 1 (P1) = \$899M

- Reauthorization of previously funded projects
- Eligible for a cash line of credit



Priority 2 (P2) = \$164M

- Proposed new funding for projects
- Eligible for a cash line of credit

Priority 5 (P5) = \$2.6B

- Both reauthorizations of existing funding and proposed new funding for projects
- Eligible for a non-cash line of credit

Cash = \$2.6B

- \$1.44B from the Transportation Trust Fund
- \$173M from the 2019-2020 surplus
- Cash-funded projects include:
 - \$86M – Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
 - \$29M – Highway Priority Program (DOTD)
 - \$25M – Deferred maintenance in higher education



Governmental Finance

[HB 639](#)

Designates funding mechanisms for certain infrastructure projects:

- Dedicates 38% of any Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-2022 excess state revenue collections and the FY 2022-2023 sales taxes collected from Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, and St. Charles parishes as payments toward the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System;
- Allows money in the Superdome Fund to go toward operational costs;
- Requires Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget approval of state infrastructure projects that use federal funds from the American Jobs Plan Act;
- Transfers \$1.65 million of the 2020-2021 FY surplus to the Capitol Outlay Savings Fund

[SB 223](#)

Allows the Louisiana Utilities Restoration Corporation to finance storm recovery costs with public trusts and bonds.



Broadband/Rural Development

The American Rescue Plan allocated \$180 million for broadband expansion in Louisiana.

[HB 648](#) establishes the Granting Unserved Municipalities Broadband Opportunities (GUMBO) program to distribute grants for broadband expansion in unserved communities.

[HB 465](#) designates the Office of Broadband Development and Connectivity to oversee leasing the 4.9GHz band.

[HB 622](#) includes broadband connectivity, water quality, and sewer treatment as policy areas within the state Office of Rural Development.



Sports Betting



[HB 697](#) and [SB 247](#) enact regulations, fees, and taxes for the sports wagering approved by 55 parishes in November 2020.

- HB 697 requires the Louisiana Lottery Corporation to conduct sports wagering and levies taxes on net gaming proceeds (15% tax via mobile apps and electronic devices and 10% tax for onsite wagering).
- SB 247 enacts the Louisiana Sports Wagering Act which grants the Louisiana Gaming Control Board authority to regulate sports wagering and authorizes 20 operator licenses subject to specific conditions.

[SB 142](#) allocates 25% of proceeds to Early Childhood Education Fund, 10% to the parish where the wagering occurred, 2.5% to the Sports Wagering Purse Supplemental Fund, 2% to the Behavioral Health and Wellness Fund, 2% to the Disability Affairs Trust Fund and the rest to the state general fund.



Horse Racing



[SB 209](#) expands the authority of associations, licensed by the State Racing Commission, to allow for historical horse racing on the premises of offtrack wagering facilities via dedicated machines or personal mobile devices and provides a regulatory structure for conducting historical horse races.



[HB 365](#) distributes monies from wagers placed on historical horse racing at offtrack wagering facilities as purse supplements for Louisiana-bred races. (70% for thoroughbred races and 30% for quarter horses races)



[SB 204](#) allows the State Racing Commission to amend race date applications to reduce overlapping live race meeting dates for the tracks in Louisiana.

Crimes



New crimes:

[HB 127](#) – submitting false statements or altered documents in unclaimed property claims

[HB 15](#) – staging a motor vehicle collision

[SB 144](#) – unlawful possession, transfer, or manufacture of animal fighting paraphernalia

[HB 54](#) – adoption deception

Human Trafficking

[HB 227](#) authorizes subpoena duces tecum to law enforcement agencies when investigating sex offenses involving human trafficking

[SB 170](#) creates the Office of Human Trafficking Prevention within the Governor's Office

Crimes of Violence

[HB 583](#) adds false imprisonment while armed with a dangerous weapon to the crimes of violence list

Criminal Justice

[HB 46](#)

Reduces the time a person can be held in jail without being charged.

[HB 145](#)

Removes prohibition on parole and sets eligibility criteria for those who meet certain conditions.

[HB 248](#)

Decreases fees for individuals on unsupervised parole or with an inactive parolee status.

[HB 32](#)

Allows an offender that completes a bachelor's or master's degree while in custody to earn additional good time credit.

[HB 232](#)

Removes the restriction that a misdemeanor conviction can only be discharged and dismissed once during a five-year period.

[HB 106](#)

Requires a defendant be informed of certain rights and consequences prior to pleading guilty or nolo contendere.



Handguns



[SB 118](#)

Allows Louisianians 21 and older to carry a concealed handgun without a permit unless barred from possessing a firearm under another law. State Police will provide an online concealed handgun education course and an online database of licensed handgun and firearm instructors.

[HB 240](#)

Requires law enforcement agency heads to issue identification that qualified, retired officers may use for concealed carrying.

[HB 124](#)

Exempts valid concealed handgun permit holders from the crime of illegal carrying of weapons.

[HB 48](#)

Increases the certification options for concealed handgun permit safety and training course applicants and instructors.



[HB 597](#)

Prohibits contracts between governmental entities and companies that discriminate against firearm and ammunition industries.

Law Enforcement

Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST)

- [HB 129](#)
 - Allows suspending or revoking POST certification for officer misconduct;
 - Requires policy to increase minority recruitment;
 - Requires anti-bias and duty to intervene officer training;
 - Enacts penalties for agency non-compliance with POST reporting;
 - Requires agencies be certified to investigate officer-involved shootings resulting in death or great bodily harm.
- [HB 325](#)
 - Requires guidelines and officer training to ensure the safety of dependent children upon the arrest of a parent or guardian.



[HB 430](#) – Officer Bill of Rights

- Shortens the time for an officer to secure legal representation from 30 days to 14 days;
- Extends the investigation time period from 60 days to 75 days;
- Requires an officer be given written or electronic notice of investigation;
- Requires sustained complaints to remain in officer's file for at least 10 years.

Alcohol and Tobacco



- [HB 473](#) raises the minimum age to purchase all forms of tobacco, alternative nicotine, and vapor products from 18 to 21.
- [HB 368](#) requires elementary and secondary schools include the health risks of vapor products in student instruction.



[HB 571](#) updates third-party alcoholic beverage delivery laws to clarify the delivery distance radius, penalties, and necessary permits. Reiterates that deliveries cannot be made to college housing, classes, gatherings, or meeting locations.

- [HB 706](#) includes wine producers as manufacturers, authorizes microwineries to import wine-producing ingredients, and taxes wine produced by a microwinery at the same rate as other beverages.
- [HB 192](#) authorizes credit card payments to manufacturers and wholesale dealers of alcoholic beverages.



Rentals and Leases

[HB 374](#) requires written notice to lease applicants regarding screening practices including any application fee amount, the criteria the lessor may rely upon to accept or deny an application, and that the applicant can submit a written statement of financial hardship



[HB 375](#) allows survivors of sexual assault not in a relationship with their assailant to terminate their residential lease early. The lessee must assert in writing that they are a victim of sexual assault and seeking early termination.

[SB 101](#) includes electronic communication methods to contact delinquent renters of self-storage facilities.

Labor

[SCR 5](#) suspends the unemployment insurance solvency tax until sixty days after final adjournment of the 2022 Regular Session.

[SB 89](#) and [SCR 3](#) continue the same taxable wage base in calendar year 2022 as in calendar year 2020.



[SB 215](#) requires reasonable accommodations for medical needs arising from pregnancy, childbirth, and related medical conditions unless the accommodation would impose an undue hardship.

[HB 183](#) increases the maximum weekly unemployment benefit.

[HB 707](#) prohibits discrimination based on criminal history by requiring employers to consider the nature and gravity of an offense, the time that has lapsed since the offense, and the nature of the job sought.

[HCR 63](#) memorializes Congress to modify the H-2B nonimmigrant program to assist with workforce shortage in the state.

Civil Law

[HB 492](#)

Removes the time limit for child sex abuse survivors to pursue civil cases against their abusers. Any claims that previously expired are revived for a three year period.

[HB 379](#)

Establishes liability and a prescriptive period for damages caused by sexual assault in the workplace.

[HB 55](#)

Simplifies the process for domestic violence victims to get a restraining order against their abusers by allowing use of a written affirmation.

[HB 498](#)

Prohibits discrimination by government agencies and officials on the basis of COVID-19 vaccination or immunity status.

[HB 385](#)

Allows land owners to expedite removal of abandoned mobile homes on their property.



Insurance



Health

- [HB 190](#) adds midwives and doulas as covered services within health plans that include maternity services.
- [SB 94](#) includes patient assistance program payments toward enrollee deductibles.

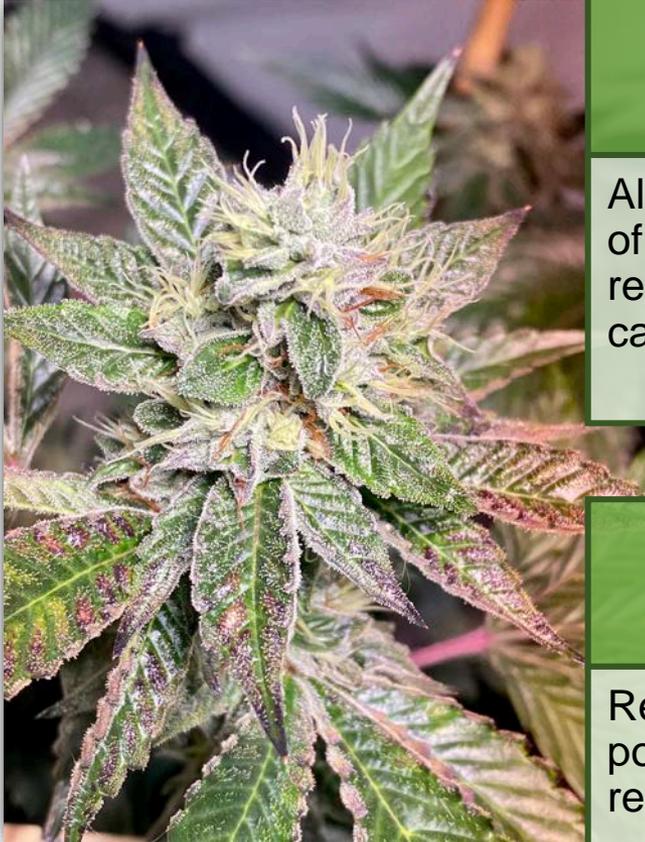
Industry

- [SB 41](#) repeals insurance company deposit requirements unless required by another state.
- [HB 457](#) enacts standards of conduct for claims adjusters, including truthful reports, appropriate care dealing with the elderly, and no financial interest in any aspect of the claim.

Property

- [HB 451](#) allows discounts and rate reductions for buildings built or retrofitted to reduce the threat of loss due to windstorm events.
- [HB 577](#) establishes a five-year trial program to increase the market options for residential flood policies.
- [HB 585](#) requires a field adjuster report be given to policyholders within 15 days of a report request and increases penalties for insurance companies that violate rules regarding homeowner claims due to a presidentially or gubernatorially declared disaster.
- [HB 591](#) requires insurance companies provide a written explanation of how depreciation is calculated and prohibits an insurer from requiring particular vendors or contractors when repairing property.

Marijuana



[HB 391](#)

Allows physicians to recommend raw and crude forms of therapeutic marijuana as options for recommendation to patients. Limits the quantity that can be dispensed to a patient every 14 days.

[HB 652](#)

Reduces the criminal penalty to a \$100 fine for possession of 14 grams or less of marijuana and removes the possibility of jail time.

Health



[HB 172](#) requires comprehensive dental care through the state Medicaid program for adults 21 years and older with developmental and intellectual disabilities.



[HB 397](#) aims to increase awareness of Alzheimer's disease, cognitive impairment, and dementia by requiring the Department of Health to educate the public and healthcare providers.



Dr. James W. Quillin, MP

[HB 477](#) designates [Act 251 of the 2009 Regular Session](#), regarding medical psychologists, as “The Dr. James W. Quillin, MP, Medical Psychology Practice Act” and authorizes the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists to implement certain fees.

Foster Youth and Adoptions

SB 151

Enacts the Foster Youth's Bill of Rights for 14- to 18-year-olds in foster care. These including rights to privacy, participation in their own case plans, health care, access to educational materials, and much more.

SB 143

Requires the Department of Children and Family Services to conduct a diligent search for adult relatives and those with significant relationships to children within the first 30 days the child is in state custody. Priority adoption placement includes kinship care with the child's family members. Allows courts to find in the best interest of the child when they are under six years old and have been in a stable home environment the previous six months.

HB 37

Requires uniform post-placement follow-up, assistance, and reporting associated with both agency and private adoptions.



Education



Former Gov. Murphy James
"Mike" Foster
Photo courtesy of
State Library of Louisiana



Former Rep. Steve Carter

M. J. Foster Promise Award ([SB 148](#))

- Financial assistance for students in the Louisiana Community and Technical College System pursuing an associate's degree or education credential aligned with Louisiana's workforce priorities
- Awards up to \$3,200 per year toward tuition and fees
- Available to Louisiana residents 21 years or older who are unemployed, underemployed for 6 months, or have a family income threshold of 300% of the Federal Poverty Level

Steve Carter Literacy Program ([HB 85](#))

- Provides supplemental education services to eligible K-5th grade students
- Can be used to fund books for home use, instructional materials and curricula, and tutoring services
- Eligible students include:
 - Kindergarteners to 3rd graders who read below grade level or are at risk for reading difficulties
 - 4th and 5th graders who score below mastery in English language arts on state assessments
- Priority is given to low-performing, economically disadvantaged students

Education Administration



Special School District ([HB 253](#))

Establishes the Special School District (SSD) to provide special education services through its schools and programs. The SSD in existence will transition into an independent agency with a board of directors.

Minimum Foundation Program ([SCR 2](#))

Approves the MFP formula for the 2021-2022 school year; includes an \$800 pay raise for teachers and a \$400 pay raise for paraprofessionals.

School Choice ([HB 211](#))

Requires BESE to review a denied intradistrict public school enrollment request to determine whether the school capacity policy was followed.

K-12 Students



[SB 222](#)
and
[SB 216](#)

Require literacy assessments for kindergarten-3rd grade students during the first 30 days of school; inform the parent/legal guardian when a child is below grade level; provide mid-year and end-of-the-year updates on a student's literacy skills; require teacher certification and education programs to include foundational literacy skill standards.

[SB 10](#)

Requires kindergarten and compulsory school attendance beginning at age 5.

[SB 214](#)

Requires a student's parent or legal guardian to approve a revised individual graduation plan.

[SB 234](#)

Creates expanded academic support options for public school students in 4th–8th grade who did not achieve mastery on statewide assessments administered during the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years.

[SB 114](#)

Allows remote school registration and enrollment for children of military and civilian personnel transferring to the state.

Campus Accountability & Security

Power-Based Violence on College Campuses

[HB 409](#) and [SB 230](#)

define “power-based violence” as including domestic abuse, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and stalking; set out the duties of higher education personnel and give clear authority to terminate employees for failing to report power-based violence; require campus police provide offense data to the university; and allow victims to obtain a copy of their filed report.

[SB 232](#)

Establishes the Power-Based Violence Review Panel to evaluate and advise public postsecondary education institutions, boards, and the Board of Regents regarding power-based violence policies, practices, investigations, and adjudications. The panel will serve as an advisory agency to the legislature, the governor, the Board of Regents, and the public postsecondary education boards regarding power-based violence.

[HB 394](#)

Requires postsecondary education institutions to post reports relative to campus security policies and campus crime statistics on their websites.



Athletics

SB 60

Establishes guidelines for the compensation of intercollegiate athletes for the use of their name, image, or likeness.

HB 184

Designates [Act No. 259 of the 2020 Regular Session](#), regarding comprehensive sports injury management, as "The Remy Hidalgo Act".

SB 124

Requires playing or singing the national anthem prior to athletic events at publicly-financed venues.

SB 156

The "Fairness in Women's Sports Act" requires an athletic team or sporting event sponsored by an elementary, secondary, or postsecondary educational institution to be designated based upon the biological sex of team members.



Remy Hidalgo



Municipal

HB 415

Allows tourist commissions to create tourism recovery and improvement districts with approval from 2/3rd of businesses within the district.



HB 261

Requires background checks of potential fire and police civil service board appointees. If the background check shows felony convictions or a civil rights violation within the past 10 years, the appointee is not eligible to serve.

HB 412

Requires fire and police civil service employees who resigned or retired due to an injury or medical condition be reemployed after receiving clearance from a physician.

Natural Resources



[HB 72](#) requires the Department of Environmental Quality establish a voluntary environmental self-audit program modeled after the United States EPA's self-auditing program. All final decisions are public and will be posted on the department's website.

[HB 670](#) establishes a fee for radioactive waste disposal processing and authorizes an increase in air, solid waste, and waste tire fees collected by the Department of Environmental Quality.



[HB 572](#) establishes a regulatory framework for storing substances in underground reservoirs and salt domes and adds to the existing list of substances that can be stored, including hydrocarbons, hydrogen, nitrogen, ammonia, compressed air, and noble gasses.

[SB 185](#) requires the Department of Natural Resources to consider utility, agricultural, landowners, and solar industries when developing regulations governing solar leases.

Wildlife & Fisheries



[HB 655](#)

Remove criminal penalties for low-level hunting and fishing violations.

[HB 691](#)

- Updates, restructures, and simplifies Department of Wildlife and Fisheries fees for recreational licenses, commercial licenses, and vessel registration.
- The commercial license restructuring will be phased in over three years.

[HCR 55](#)

Creates the Outdoor Conservation Study Group to identify conservation funding mechanisms to preserve wildlife habitats and outdoor recreational areas.

[HCR 26](#)

Authorizes the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to conduct a study to determine the final destination of oyster shells removed from Louisiana waters.

Agriculture & Forestry



[HB 239](#) prohibits cutting and harvesting cypress trees on state-owned property with narrow exceptions for routine maintenance, management, and construction projects.



[HB 177](#) authorizes veterinarian students in their 4th year or 2nd semester of their 3rd year to perform sterilizations on dogs and cats being adopted from animal shelters.



[SB 58](#) adds tattoos and electronic devices as options for identifying impounded animals. Also requires a person seeking to claim ownership of a found animal to prove the lack of owner-identification.



[SB 103](#) creates the Equine Promotion and Research Program to grow and develop the Louisiana equine industry.

Industrial Hemp



HB 640

Brings Louisiana in line with USDA and FDA guidelines on industrial hemp and furthers legislation from previous sessions to:

- increase the time a grower has to harvest approved crop from 15 to 30 days;
- require LSU Agricultural Center, Southern University Agricultural Center, the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, the Department of Health, and the office of alcohol and tobacco control to collaboratively develop a website to provide the public with resources and educational opportunities on the industrial hemp industry;
- replace the term "industrial hemp-derived cannabidiol (CBD) product" with "consumable hemp product" and provides that a consumable hemp product is any product containing cannabinoids, including CBD, intended for consumption or topical use;
- expand allowable CBD products to include commercial feed, pet products, hemp flower, foods, and non-alcoholic beverages;
- create criminal penalties for those processing consumable hemp products without a license;
- allow the University of Louisiana at Monroe Agribusiness Program to conduct industrial hemp product research and development.



Retirement

SB 24

Grants a minimum benefit increase for state retirees with pensions below the poverty line in the retirement systems for state employees (LASERS), teachers (TRSL), school employees (LSERS), and state police (LSPRS).



HB 157

Extends financial security to the surviving spouses and children of law enforcement officers who suffer a heart attack or stroke death while on duty.

SB 23

Provides insurance coverage and enhanced survivor benefits for the spouses and children of members of the LSPRS killed in the line of duty.

Motor Vehicles



[HB 349](#)

Prevents the Office of Motor Vehicles from requiring any COVID-19 vaccination verification or immunity status on department-issued credential.

[HB 147](#)

Clarifies that public license tag agents may collect convenience charges up to \$23 in addition to other required fees and taxes.

[HB 621](#)

Increases the renewal period of identification cards to six years.

[HB 587](#)

Creates the Drone Advisory Committee.



[SB 147](#)

Regulates personal delivery devices, powered devices that travel twenty miles an hour or less, equipped with automated driving technology, and transports cargo and goods in a pedestrian area.

[HB 265](#)

Adds critical infrastructure, grain elevators, and grain storage facilities as “targeted facilities” and increases the penalty for second and subsequent convictions of unlawful use of an unmanned aircraft system.

Transportation and Development

[HB 701](#)

Authorizes the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) to establish permit requirements for the use of high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes.

[HB 44](#)

Expands the definition of construction aggregates to include dirt for overweight permitting.

[HB 606](#)

Modifies the approval process of design-build contracts within DOTD.

[HB 220](#)

Outlines the expedited judicial process for awarding public works contracts.

[SB 190](#)

Transfers stationary weight enforcement scale operation from Department of Public Safety and Corrections to DOTD.

Elections

- [SB 221](#) creates the Voting System Commission to analyze voting systems and the Voting System Proposal Evaluation Committee to publicly test voting systems. Both groups are required to make recommendations to the Secretary of State on which system to procure.
- [HCR 81](#) directs the legislative auditor to include election processes in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Department of State performance audit.
- [HB 286](#) increases the early voting period for presidential elections from 7 days to 11 days.
- [SB 4](#) eliminates aggregate campaign contribution limits from political committees.



Vetoed by the governor:

- [HB 138](#) requires a supplemental annual canvass of registered voters.
- [HB 20](#) prohibits the use of private funds for election-related expenses.
- [HB 704](#) authorizes political parties to designate a poll watcher at every precinct, a super watcher in each parish, and an early voting watcher at early voting locations.
- [SB 224](#) requires a voter include their driver's license, special identification card number, or the last four digits of their Social Security number on absentee by mail applications, ballot envelopes, and early voting identification affidavits. Prohibits recording or transmitting information read aloud during ballot tabulations.
- [SB 220](#) requires the legislative auditor audit election processes and specifies retention policies for certain election records.

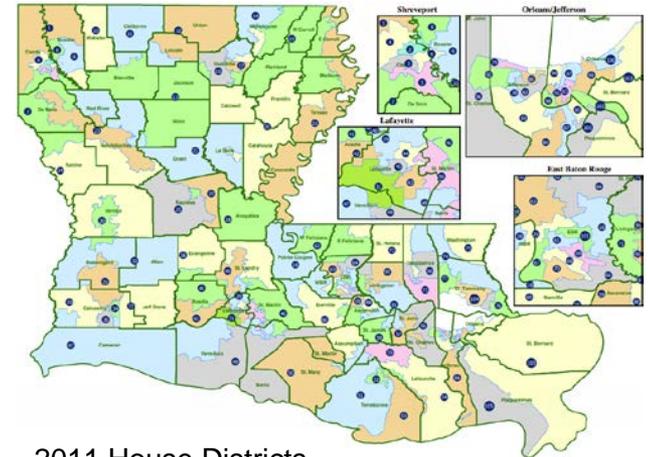


Redistricting Principles

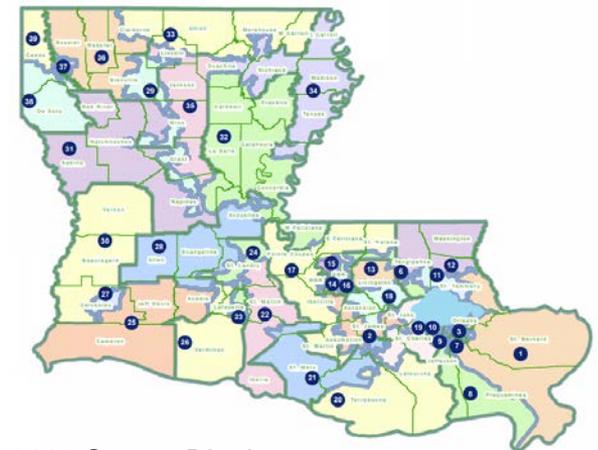
The Legislature recently launched a [website](#) devoted to the upcoming redistricting process.

[HCR 90](#) adopts minimally acceptable criteria for consideration of redistricting plans. In brief, the criteria includes:

- All plans for consideration must comply with all federal and state laws. They must respect the established boundaries of political subdivisions and natural geography but not undermine the maintenance of communities of interest.
- Publicly submitted plans must be submitted electronically in a comma-delimited block equivalency file.
- House of Representatives, Senate, Public Service Commission, and Board of Elementary and Secondary Education plans:
 - must contain single-member districts, substantially equal in population with contiguous geography;
 - assign the entire state geography;
 - cannot deviate in excess of 5% of the ideal district population.
- Congressional plans must include single-member districts as nearly equal to the ideal district population as practicable and assign the entire state geography.
- Supreme Court plans must assign the entire state geography.



2011 House Districts



2011 Senate Districts

Constitutional Amendments

October 9, 2021

(special election date created by [SB 149](#))



- [HB 199](#) creates the State and Local Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Commission and authorizes the legislature to enact laws regarding the centralized electronic filing, remittance, and collection of sales and use taxes.
- [HB 487](#) increases the amount of allowable deficit reductions to statutory dedications and constitutionally protected funds from 5% to 10%.
- [SB 87](#) requires voter approval of levee district taxes.
- [SB 159](#) reduces the maximum rate of individual income tax and changes the deduction for federal income taxes paid from mandatory to permissive.

November 8, 2022

- [HB 59](#) allows a political subdivision to waive water charges incurred through damage not caused by the customer.
- [HB 143](#) limits the increase in assessed value of certain immovable property in Orleans Parish after property reassessment of ad valorem taxes.
- [HB 154](#) increases the cap on the amount of monies in certain state funds that can be invested in stocks.
- [HB 315](#) allows members of civil service systems to support a political candidate within their immediate family.
- [SB 154](#) allows taxing authorities to adjust ad valorem millage rates.