Session Wrap

2023 Regular Session

Louisiana Legislature

House Legislative Services
Louisiana House of Representatives

June 20, 2023

All included legislation completed the legislative process.

2023 Regular Session

Convened April 10 - Adjourned June 8

Odd years are limited “fiscal” sessions.

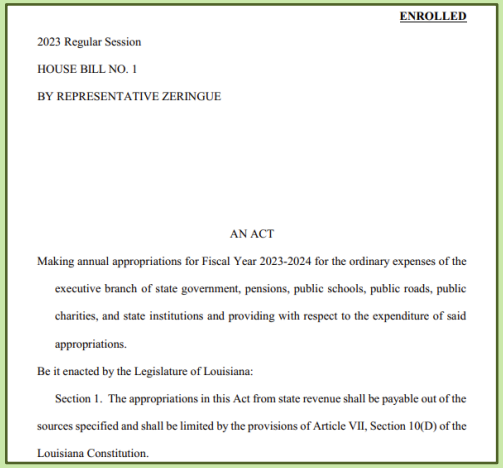
Legislators could file:

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

Instruments Filed

- 894 bills (661 House/233 Senate)
- 29 constitutional amendments
- 723 resolutions and study requests

Balanced State Budget – FY 2023-2024



ENROLLED

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1

BY REPRESENTATIVE ZERINGUE

AN ACT

Making annual appropriations for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 for the ordinary expenses of the executive branch of state government, pensions, public schools, public roads, public charities, and state institutions and providing with respect to the expenditure of said appropriations.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. The appropriations in this Act from state revenue shall be payable out of the sources specified and shall be limited by the provisions of Article VII, Section 10(D) of the Louisiana Constitution.

Appropriation Bills

The General Appropriation Bill (HB 1) contains $43.7 B for the ordinary operating expenditures of the executive branch for FY 2023-2024, an $113.6 M increase over FY 2022-2023.

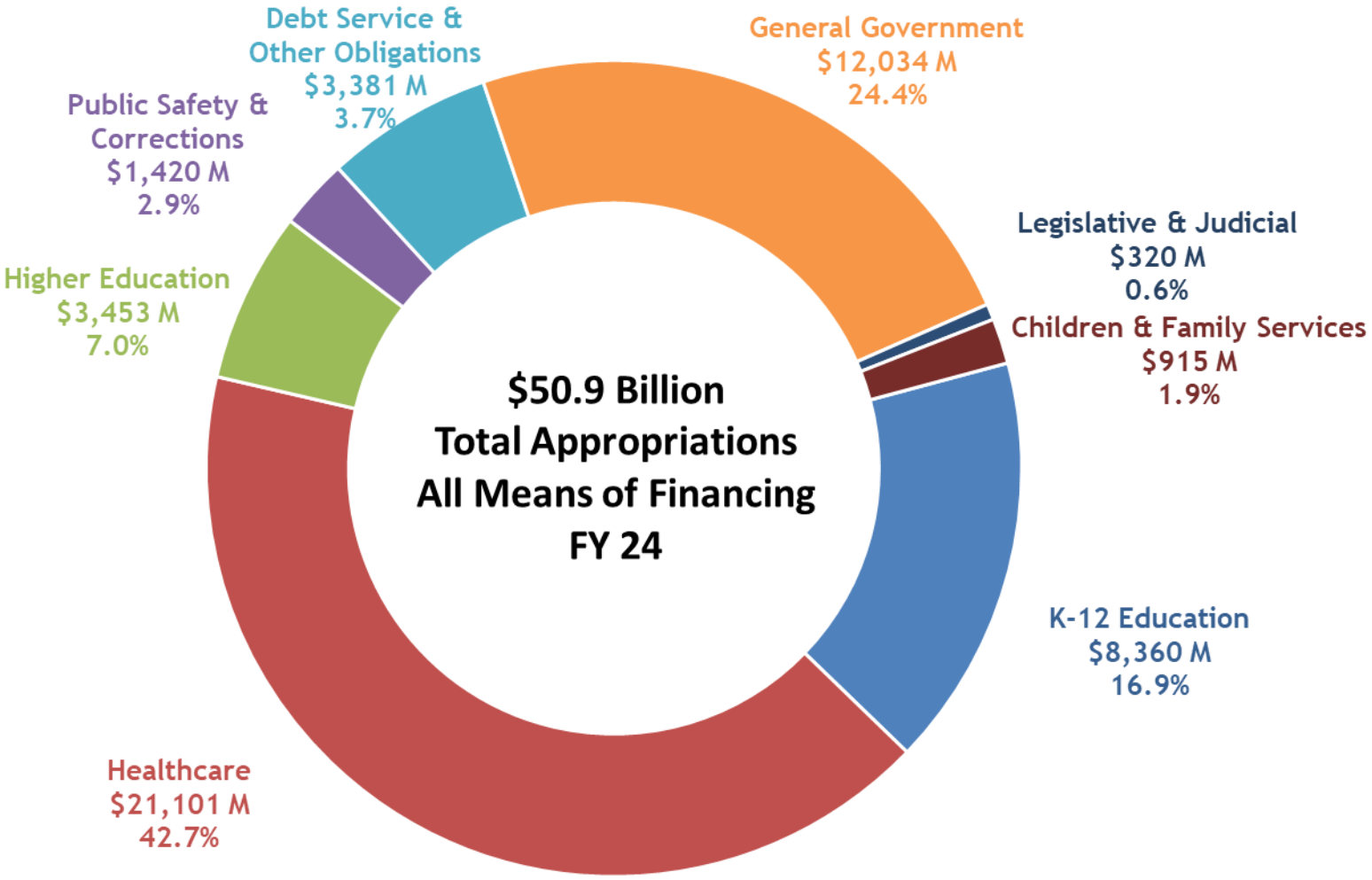
$43.7 B General Appropriations by Means of Finance

- $24 B in federal funds
- $10.8 B in state general funds
- $4.1 B in statutory dedications
- $3.6 B in fees and self-generated revenues
- $1.2 B 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 2023-2024 is $50.9 B.

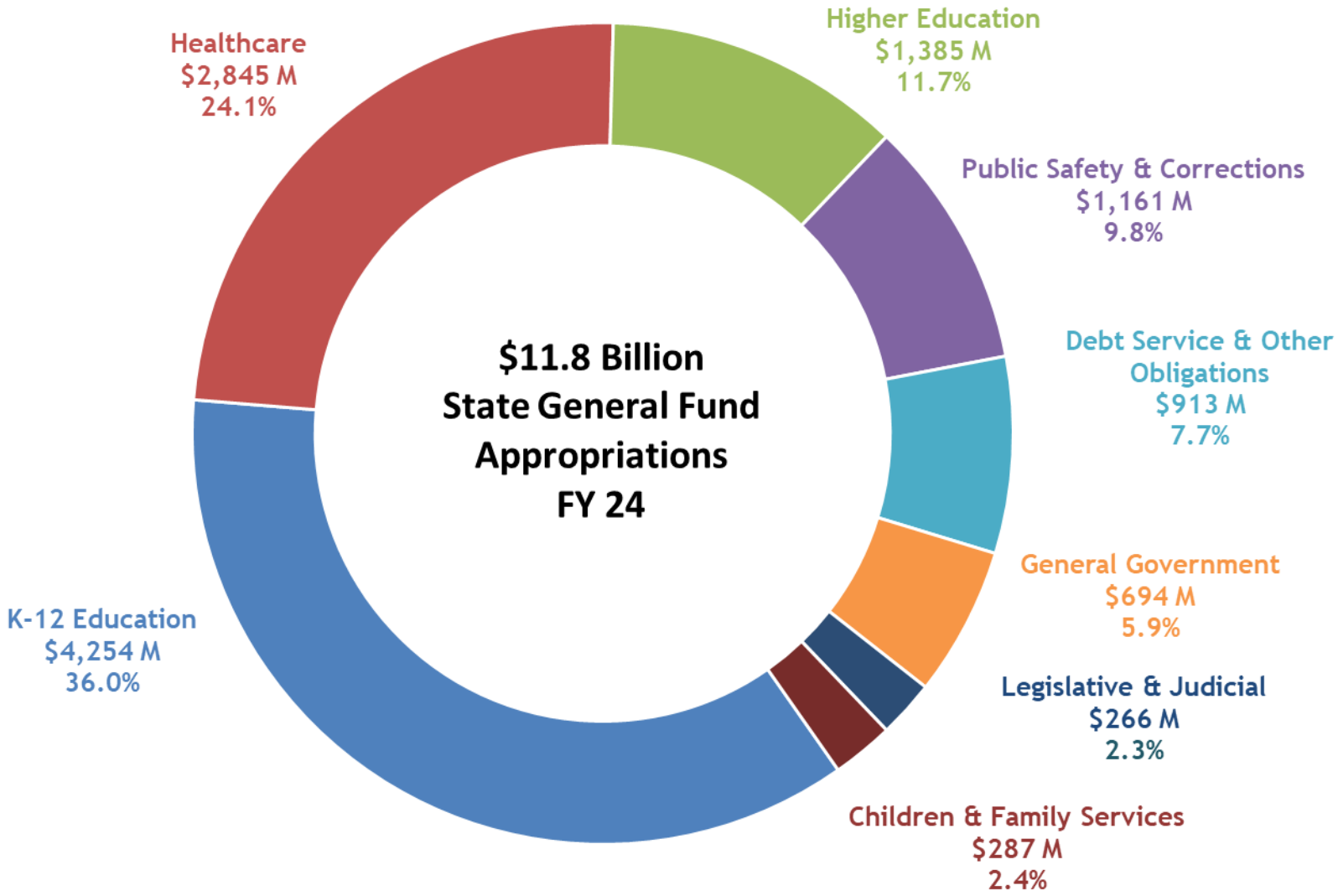
SCR 3 increased the expenditure limit for FY 23 by $250 M and FY 24 by $1.4 B allowing the legislature to appropriate additional state revenue recognized by the Revenue Estimating Conference (REC).

Total FY 23-24 Appropriations ($50.9 B)



Prepared by House Legislative Services, Louisiana House of Representatives

State General Fund, HB 1 ($11.8 B)



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Capital Outlay

Priority 1 (P1) = $1.7 B

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

Priority 2 (P2) = $101.7 M

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

2023-2024 Capital Outlay Budget ($11.7 B), HB 2

Priority 5 (P5) = $5.9 B

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

Cash = $3.9 B

- $1.6 B from the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF)
- $479 M from the FY 2021-2022 surplus
- $167 M from state general funds

Cash-funded projects include:

- $107 M – Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
- $132 M – Highway Priority Program (DOTD)
- $7.3 M – Deferred maintenance in state buildings
- $68 M – Deferred maintenance on higher education campuses

Tax Reduction

Corporate Tax

- SB 1 reduces the corporate franchise tax rate over a six-year period if certain revenue thresholds are met.
- SB 6 reduces the Quality Jobs Program rebates, up to 50%, in connection with corporate franchise tax reductions.

Deductions

HB 32 increases the income tax deductions to $6,000 per student for:

- elementary and secondary school tuition;
- education expenses for homeschooled children; and
- education expenses for a quality public education.

Credits

- Motion Picture Production Tax Credit (HB 562)
  - Directs the Department of Economic Development to create a new graphic for placement in all subsidized films;
  - Mandates certification of federal, state, and local tax compliance before a credit is issued, earned, transferred or used; and
  - Extends the program application deadline to July 1, 2031.
- HB 255 establishes a tax credit for restaurants that recycle oyster shells.
- SB 41 establishes a tax credit for maternal wellness centers.

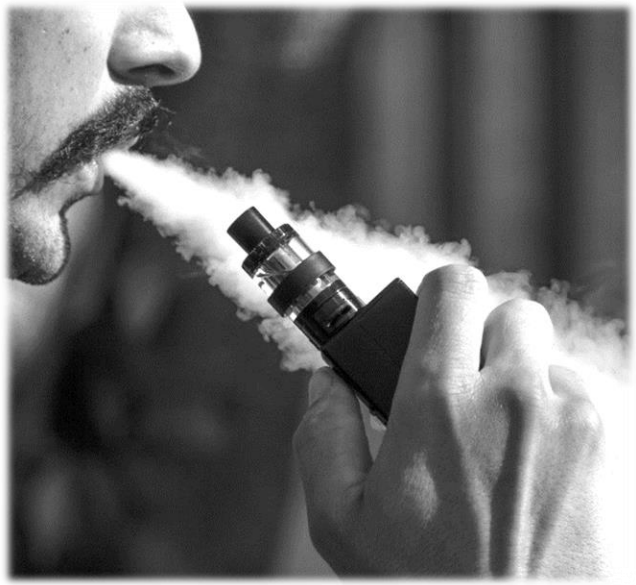
Exemptions

- HB 330 creates a state and local sales tax exemption for purchases of agricultural fencing materials by commercial farmers.
- HB 500 clarifies that ad valorem property tax exemptions for certain veterans with disabilities apply to taxes beginning in tax year 2023.

Taxes

Collections

HB 558 moves responsibility for the management and supervision of the uniform electronic local return and remittance system from the Department of Revenue to the Louisiana Uniform Local Sales Tax Board and requires the board to design and implement a single remittance system so taxpayers can remit state and local sales and use taxes through a single transaction.



Tobacco Tax

HB 635 increases the rate of excise tax on vapor products from $0.05 per milliliter to $0.15 per milliliter.

- Mandates that all vaping products sold in the state must be purchased from a Louisiana wholesaler and limits nicotine products sold in the state to those associated with an application for an FDA marketing order.
- Requires the Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control to create a directory of products eligible for sale in the state and will limit remittances of taxes to the reported products. Specifies proof of age requirements for online sales.
- Dedicates the revenue to salary and benefits for State Police, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Office of the State Fire Marshal, and the Public Defender Board.

Criminal Justice

Penalties

- HB 65 designates the crime of burglary of an inhabited dwelling as a crime of violence.
- HB 16 adds an additional penalty for the crime of simple burglary when committed as a part of a continuous sequence of events.
- SB 117 increases the minimum and maximum sentences for assault by drive-by shooting.
- HB 84 requires secure placement for juveniles adjudicated delinquent for carjacking.
- HB 188 allows the court to consider whether a person is a dangerous offender and lists offenses that disqualify an offender from parole eligibility.
- HB 70 changes the diminution of sentence and parole eligibility for fourth or subsequent nonviolent felony offenses.
- HB 484 sets the base blood alcohol concentration for suspension of a driver's license and eligibility for a hardship license for certain offenses of operating a vehicle while intoxicated.

Crime Victims

- HB 91 enacts “Cody’s Law” to allow the court to order an offender to make restitution payments to the victim’s minor child until the child reaches the age of 18. Restitution may be extended if the child is enrolled in a program of study which upon completion will entitle him to be issued a high school equivalency diploma.
- HB 439 enacts the “Victims of Vehicular Homicide Act” to establish a fund for vehicular homicide victims’ families to apply for reparations when the offender failed to maintain compulsory motor vehicle liability security and the victim failed to maintain uninsured motorist coverage.
- SB 169 requires State Police to create and operate a statewide sexual assault collection kit tracking system.

Cody McClung

Criminal Justice

Criminal Procedure

- HB 475 enacts the “Restoring Artistic Protection Act of 2023” to limit the admissibility of a defendant's creative or artistic expression as evidence.
- HB 271 requires juries be given specific instructions and be sequestered during active deliberations.

Gaming

- HB 488 establishes riverboat inspections of landside facilities.
- SB 191 prohibits promotional agreements between public postsecondary education institutions and gaming entities.

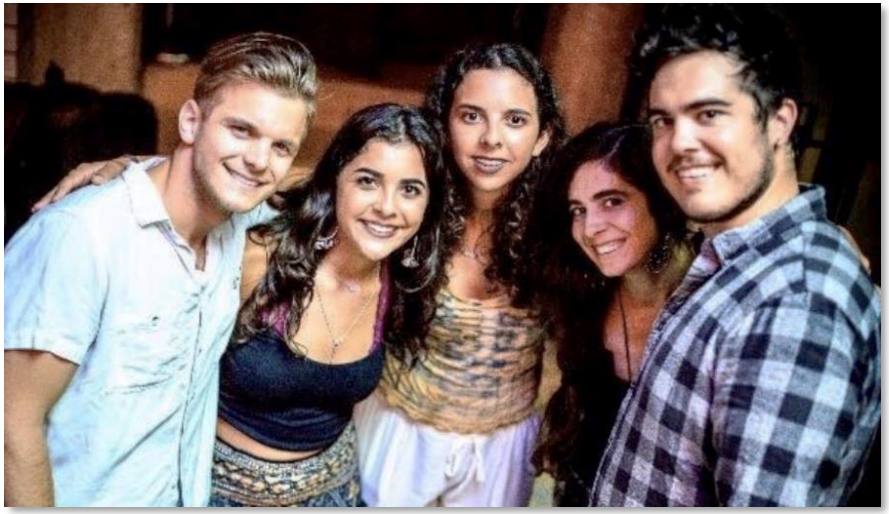
Criminal Records

- HB 265 allows for the release and dissemination of an arrestee’s booking photograph as necessary for investigative purposes or to an individual’s surety agent when the individual is released on bail.
- HB 286 creates a process and form to expunge an arrest record of a misdemeanor, first offense possession of marijuana.
- HB 479 authorizes local courts to expunge records within their trial jurisdictions.
- SB 111 establishes a process for the automatic expungement of arrest, felony, and misdemeanor convictions.

Criminal Justice

Fentanyl

- HB 586 and HCR 126 enact “JaJa’s Law” to establish a civil action for damages against foreign states or entities engaging in fentanyl trafficking causing injury or death in this state.
- HB 90 increases penalties for distribution or possession with intent to distribute fentanyl or carfentanil based on aggregate weight and number of convictions.
- SB 49 increases penalties for the crime of creation or operation of a clandestine laboratory for the unlawful manufacture of certain controlled dangerous substances.
- HCR 7 memorializes Congress to take necessary actions to halt the influx of fentanyl from Mexico and China into the United States.



JonTerez "JaJa" Broussard (second from left) with her brothers and sisters: James, AnnMarie, Lexxi, and Bobby

Kratom

SB 94 creates the crime of sale or distribution of mitragynine speciosa to persons under the age of 21 and creates the “Local Option for Mitragynine Speciosa,” allowing local governments to enact more restrictive ordinances regulating Kratom sales.

New Crimes

- Approaching a law enforcement officer lawfully engaged in law enforcement duties (HB 85);
- Theft or criminal access of automated teller machines (HB 94); and
- Unlawful production, manufacturing, distribution, or possession of Xylazine (HB 645).

Firearms

Possession

HB 331 defines “machine gun” and prohibits the manufacture, transfer, or possession of machine guns within Louisiana.

Taxes

- SB 56 reinstates the Second Amendment sales tax holiday for September of 2023 and 2024.
- HB 247 establishes a tax credit for purchases of firearm safety devices.

Concealed Carry

- HB 660 and SB 130 authorize retired law enforcement officers to carry concealed firearms if certified (by the Peace Officer Standards and Training Council) at the time of retirement.
- HB 446 prohibits suspending or revoking a concealed carry permit on first offense operating while intoxicated and includes suicide prevention in the online handgun education course.

Schools

Safety

- HB 169 enacts the "Safe Path from School Act" to require safety protocols for elementary students when being dropped off at and picked up from school.
- SB 207 enacts the "School Safety Act of 2023" to require:
  - The Center for Safe Schools to develop statewide panic emergency notification and anonymous reporting systems;
  - Bleeding control kits within each school and for employees to be trained in their use;
  - Creating a district threat assessment team to have input on the creation and revision of school crisis management and response plans;
  - At least one school safety drill to be conducted during high traffic points during the school day; and
  - In-service crisis management and response training to include an active shooter scenario.
- HB 213 exempts surveillance and security video of school buildings from the Public Records Law.

Financial Information

HB 462 requires public school governing authorities to post their budget and general summary on their websites.

Students

- HB 282 extends free breakfast and lunch to students eligible for reduced price meals.
- HB 81 requires school employees to use the name listed on a student's birth certificate, or a derivative thereof, and pronouns that align with the sex listed on his original birth certificate, unless his parent provides written permission otherwise.

Education

Reading

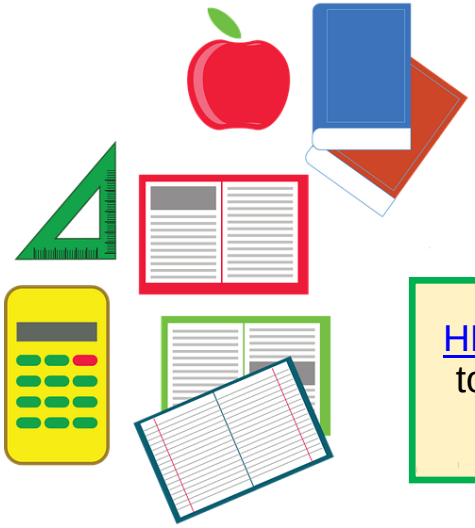
- HB 412 establishes the Imagination Library of Louisiana to encourage reading for young children.
- HB 69 requires that the Department of Education select a dyslexia screener, available at no cost, and that a classroom teacher administer the screener to each student in the second half of kindergarten.
- HB 12 prohibits promotion to the fourth grade of students whose reading deficiencies have not been remedied by the end of the third grade.

Aliye Ringe

Curricula

- HB 121 requires public schools to provide at least one recess period per school day in kindergarten through fifth grade.
- HB 103 adds Financial Literacy as a required course for high school students.
- HB 289, “Aliye’s Law,” requires organ donation instruction in public high schools.
- HB 466 prohibits a public school teacher, employee, or other presenter at a school from doing any of the following with students:
  - Incorporating into classroom instruction or discussion topics of sexual orientation or gender identity in a manner that deviates from state content standards or curricula developed or approved by the public school governing authority.
  - Covering the topics of sexual orientation or gender identity during any extracurricular activity.
  - Discussing his personal sexual orientation or gender identity.

Teachers



HB 205 requires that teachers and school employees be compensated for work beyond the scope of their prescribed duties and responsibilities.

HB 86 enacts the "Protect Teachers Act" to provide immunity from civil liability to school teachers, principals, and administrators for intervening to protect a student or school employee from battery or aggravated battery.

Certification

- SB 81 allows the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to develop an associate educator program to permit those with an associate's degree to serve as teachers.
- HB 472 requires that BESE grant teaching certifications to out-of-state military personnel and their spouses who hold a valid out-of-state teaching license.
- SB 197 expands certification pathways for teachers and revises the laws concerning criminal background checks for those with educator credentials or teaching authorizations.

Family Law

- HB 337 eliminates the minimum child support award in the child support guidelines.
- HB 194 allows grandparents post-adoption visitation rights regardless of the marital status of the parents of the adopted child.
- HB 5 allows the biological mother of a child to recover 50% of out-of-pocket pregnancy-related medical expenses from the biological father.
- HB 298 clarifies the right to terminate all parental rights of the perpetrator where the child was conceived as a result of a sex offense.
- HB 443 establishes a one-time refundable $5,000 individual income tax credit for a taxpayer that adopts a child under the age of three.

Children

Ezekiel Harry

Steve, Miranda, and Journie Bailey, Rep. Horton, and Karen Young

Lane Allen Gottschalck

SB 64

Enacts "Ezekiel's Law" which creates the Partners in Protecting Children Subcommittee to coordinate services among agencies that investigate child abuse/neglect.

SB 137

Establishes the state child ombudsman, appointed by the legislative auditor, to monitor and evaluate the agencies charged with protecting or delivering services to children.

HB 643

Enacts "Journie's Law" to require cytomegalovirus (CMV) testing for children who fail their newborn hearing screening.

HB 200

Revises the structure of the state's newborn screening panel to allow LDH to update the list of genetic and congenital conditions to test for via administrative rule.

HB 541

Designates RS 40:2193.6, which requires licensed pediatric day healthcare facilities install and monitor cameras, as "Lane Allen Gottschalck Law".

Health

- HB 291 enacts the “No Patient Left Alone Law” to allow in-person visits at inpatient facilities from family, clergy, or other designated individuals, even during a public health emergency.
- HB 658 requires LDH and LDI to monitor hospitals and health insurers to enforce compliance with federal hospital prices and insurance costs transparency laws.
- HB 648 enacts the “Stop Harming Our Kids Act” to prohibit healthcare professionals from knowingly committing certain acts that attempt to alter a minor's appearance to validate the minor's perception of his sex if the minor's perception is inconsistent with his sex.
- HB 457 creates an optional commemorative certificate of miscarried child for pregnant patients who suffer a miscarriage before the twentieth week of pregnancy.
- HCR 84 creates the Task Force on African American Suicide to study suicide rates among African Americans and make recommendations for increasing prevention efforts.

Healthcare Professionals

HB 652 allows advanced practice registered nurses (APRN) & physician assistants (PA) to certify illness and sick leave for teachers, teaching staff, and bus drivers.

HB 320 authorizes qualifying nursing students to be licensed or certified in a nursing profession with lesser educational requirements.

HB 319 simplifies licensing by endorsement for out-of-state registered nurses or APRNs by removing the requirement to maintain a current license with their last employing jurisdiction.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY LICENSURE COMPACT

SB 186 enacts the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact, which will allow occupational therapists and assistants to obtain a multi-state license with privileges to practice in participating compact states.

HB 587 creates the “Louisiana Community Health Worker Workforce Board” to oversee education, training, and standards for community health workers who facilitate public access to health and social services.

Medicaid

HR 173

Directs LDH to report allegations of abuse and neglect among Medicaid providers of Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS), Intermediate Care Facilities for the Developmentally Disabled (ICF-DD), and Adult Day Health Care (ADHC) services.

SB 135

Establishes the "Jessica Collins-Ruffin Act," which requires implementation of a Medicaid reimbursement rate for midwifery services provided by licensed midwives or certified nurse midwives be at least 95% of the amount reimbursed to physicians for the same services.

HR 273

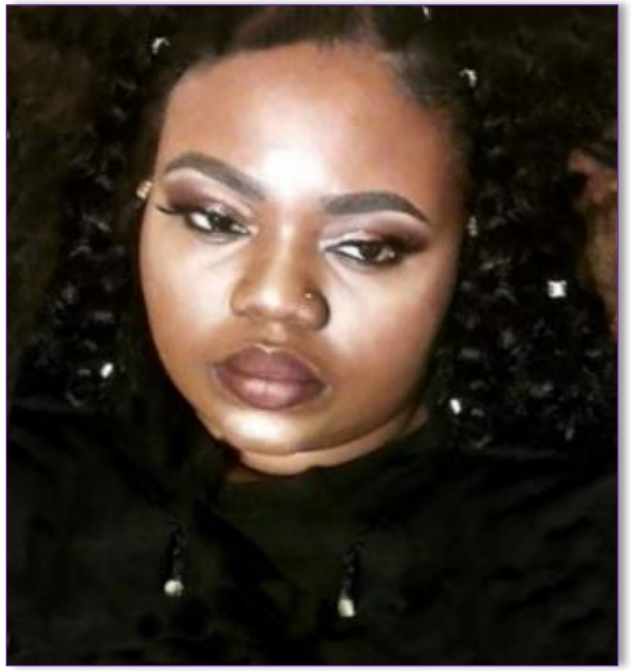
Requests LDH amend the state Medicaid plan to cover pregnant individuals with income that is 185% of the federal poverty level or less.

SB 39

Establishes a revenue dedication for the Community Options Waiver Fund for home- and community-based Medicaid services for persons with age-related or adult-onset disabilities.

Mandated coverage

- inpatient and outpatient chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy, as a form of targeted cancer treatment (HB 435); and
- minimum of six months of smoking cessation benefits (HB 578).



Jessica Collins-Ruffin

Health Insurance

HB 468
Establishes standards for health insurance companies that require utilization review for provider reimbursement. These standards include preauthorization programs, timeframes, documentation, adverse determinations, claim denials, and appeals.

SB 188
Requires health insurance issuers to submit annual reports aggregating utilization review data and outcomes. Also mandates that insurance companies must maintain a list on their websites of all items and services subject to preauthorization requests.

SB 110
Creates the "Cancer Patient's Right to Prompt Coverage Act" to streamline preauthorization for cancer diagnoses or treatment and mandate coverage for certain scans, outpatient treatments, and other services consistent with nationally recognized guidelines.

SB 109
Provides for reimbursement for out-of-network emergency ambulance services and prohibits the ambulance provider from billing the patient for any remaining balance.

Mandated coverage:

- minimum six months of smoking cessation benefits (HB 578);
- occupational therapy services provided via telehealth (HB 41);
- doula support services for pregnant and birthing women (HB 272);
- biomarker testing for disease diagnosis or treatment (SB 104); and
- fertility preservation services when a medically necessary treatment may cause infertility (HB 186).

Property Insurance

HB 294 and HB 309
Require insurance companies to provide discounts for individuals who build or retrofit their homes or businesses using certain fortified home or commercial standards.

SB 113 and HB 309
Remove a restriction limiting discounts for fortified construction to single-family homes, thereby expanding access to the discount to all insurable residential and commercial property.

HB 110
Requires an insurer to offer an endorsement to upgrade a non-fortified roof to comply with fortified standards when the roof is already damaged and undergoing replacement.

HB 183
Prohibits agreements between an insurance consumer and a third party that would transfer benefits for a property insurance loss to the third party as payment for services.

HB 489
Revises the property insurance rate approval process by clarifying the time the commissioner has to respond and banning disapprovals based on time since the last rate adjustment.

SB 156
Prohibits an insurance company from including policy provisions to restrict a consumer's right to hire a public adjuster for property insurance claims.

Other Insurance

HB 568

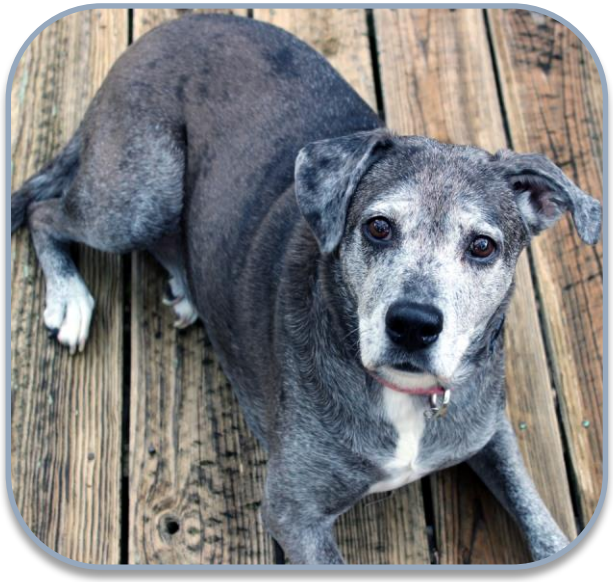
Waives the reinstatement fee for a first lapse in required motor vehicle liability insurance, as long as the lapse was five days or less and the insured was given immediate notice of the cancellation.

SCR 19

Creates the “Task Force on Available and Affordable Commercial Motor Vehicle Insurance” to study impediments to commercial insurance affordability, how other states reduce commercial premiums, and how to increase access to.

HB 383

Requires insurers to prepare and maintain a data transfer plan that details format and file information for the company’s records and procedures to transfer these records to the Louisiana Insurance Guaranty Association if facing rehabilitation or liquidation.



HB 579

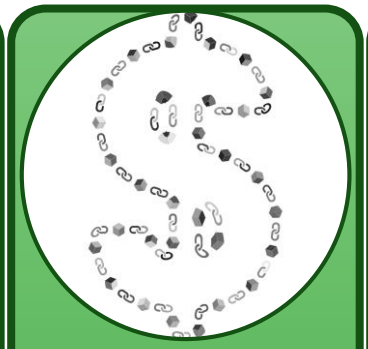
Defines “pet insurance” as property insurance that offers coverage for the accidents and illnesses of pets, details requirements for policies and distinguishes these policies from a subscription or reimbursement based “wellness program”.

HCR 58

Requests the Department of Justice to seek legal relief against the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to protect Louisiana citizens against Risk Rating 2.0, FEMA's new pricing method for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Commerce

HB 585 creates the “Council for Economic Prosperity” to oversee state economic development and produce a master plan and yearly action plans that articulate long-term vision and short-term objectives for economic strategy.



HB 415 defines “central bank digital currency” as a digital monetary unit that has been issued by the Federal Reserve or other federal agency and provides that a deposit account does not include a digital currency.

HB 248 allows cemeteries to designate new sections or locations that would allow the interment of cremated pet remains alongside human remains.

HB 653 establishes the “Granting Unserved Municipalities Broadband Opportunities (GUMBO) 2.0 Program” to facilitate deployment of broadband service to unserved or underserved areas of the state.

HB 77 enacts the “Pornography Age Verification (PAVE) Act” to allow the attorney general to investigate and fine commercial entities that intentionally publish or distribute materials harmful to minors without verifying the age of the individuals accessing the materials.

Social Media

- HB 361 prohibits the use of TikTok and related applications on computers and certain networks owned or leased by the state.
- HB 61 requires the consent of a minor's legal representative to enter into an interactive computer service contract.
- SB 162 enacts the "Secure Online Child Interaction and Age Limitation Act" that prohibits a social media company to allow a minor in this state to hold a social media account unless the minor has consent from a parent or guardian.
- SB 175 criminalizes "unlawful deepfakes" involving minors.

State Government

Culture, Recreation and Tourism

- HB 649 creates the Louisiana Music Trail to promote awareness and encourage the enjoyment of the stories, biographies, and points of interest in the blues, rock and roll, jazz, rockabilly, soul, hip hop, opera, country, zydeco, swamp pop, gospel, and other music throughout Louisiana.
- HB 132 allows the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism secretary to enter sponsorship agreements and to authorize the placement of advertising and sponsorship signs on department property and assets.

Transparency

HB 597 establishes the Louisiana Transparency Portal to provide comprehensive financial and other information to the public.

Public Meetings (SB 201)

- Allows most non-local public bodies to conduct some meetings via electronic means from an anchor location;
- Requires most public bodies to allow participation via electronic means or viable alternative to members of the public with ADA-recognized disabilities and caregivers upon request;
- Requires most public bodies with a member with an ADA-recognized disability to allow that member to participate via electronic means.

Local Government

Governing Authorities

- HB 344 prohibits a parish or municipal governing authority from requiring a permit to change the name of the person listed as the account holder for electric services.
- HB 409 authorizes parishes and municipalities to create stormwater management utility districts as political subdivisions of the state to manage stormwater flooding.
- HB 650 revises methods official journals use to calculate the cost of publication of proceedings and public notices of parishes, municipalities, and school boards, and provides for a transitional period between the current method and the new method.

Infrastructure

- HB 155 establishes the Louisiana Rural Infrastructure Revolving Loan Program to provide financial assistance to local governments and political subdivisions for capital infrastructure projects.
- SB 166 authorizes the Division of Administration to waive local match requirements for projects undertaken by a municipality with a population of less than 6,000 or parish with a population of less than 7,500 which has demonstrated its inability to provide a local match.

Local Officials

Law Enforcement

- HB 563 creates an incentive payment program for newly-employed law enforcement officers.
- HB 362 prohibits re-electing or re-appointing a police chief served at least one year and who has not completed required chief management training.
- SB 33 increases the supplemental pay of eligible law enforcement and fire service employees.

Coroners

SB 187 requires coroners to release bodies to the family or friends for disposition upon completion of his investigation. If the coroner cannot release the body within 30 days of death, the coroner is required to notify the person or persons with the right to dispose of human remains the reasons for any delay.

Assessors

HB 250 allows tax assessors in each parish to increase their annual compensation.

Libraries

SB 7 requires each parish and municipal library to adopt and implement a policy to limit a minor's access to sexually explicit material.

Military and Veterans Affairs

Postsecondary Education

- SB 115 expands the definition of a qualified veteran eligible for tuition and fee exemptions at public postsecondary institutions.
- HB 167 creates a tuition and fee waiver for certain disabled veterans.
- HB 485 creates the Louisiana National Guard Patriot Scholarship Program to cover the cost of mandatory fees for members attending Louisiana public postsecondary education institutions.

Insurance

HB 369 extends the present law 25% premium discount on automobile insurance policies for active duty military personnel to Louisiana Air National Guard and the Army National Guard servicemen.

Elections

HB 216 authorizes military members and their dependents stationed in Louisiana to serve as election commissioners.

Louisiana Veterans Memorial Park

- HCR 9 requests the Division of Administration (DOA) include a Purple Heart Trail in Veterans Memorial Park.
- SCR 11 requests the DOA expand Veterans Memorial Park pursuant to the Capitol Complex Master Plan.

Foreign Adversaries

Property Owners

- HB 125 restricts any foreign adversary or prohibited foreign actor from directly or indirectly, owning, acquiring, leasing, or otherwise obtaining any interest in agricultural land. Violators are subject to a civil penalty of $50,000 and forfeiture of the agricultural land.
- HB 537 prohibits the purchase, lease, or acquisition of immovable property by foreign adversaries or persons connected with a foreign adversary.

Litigation Financing

SB 196 enacts the "Litigation Financing Disclosure and Security Protection Act" requiring disclosure of third party litigation finance agreements.

Defines "foreign adversary" as an individual or a government identified as a foreign adversary pursuant to 15 CFR 7.4. Includes the:

- People's Republic of China and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region,
- Republic of Cuba,
- Islamic Republic of Iran,
- Democratic People's Republic of Korea,
- Russian Federation, and
- Venezuela under the leadership of Nicolas Maduro.

Agriculture

SB 67 allows the Department of Insurance to accept financial documents in lieu of statements when verifying the combined net worth of Louisiana Timber and Agriculture Transportation Group Self-Insurance Funds.

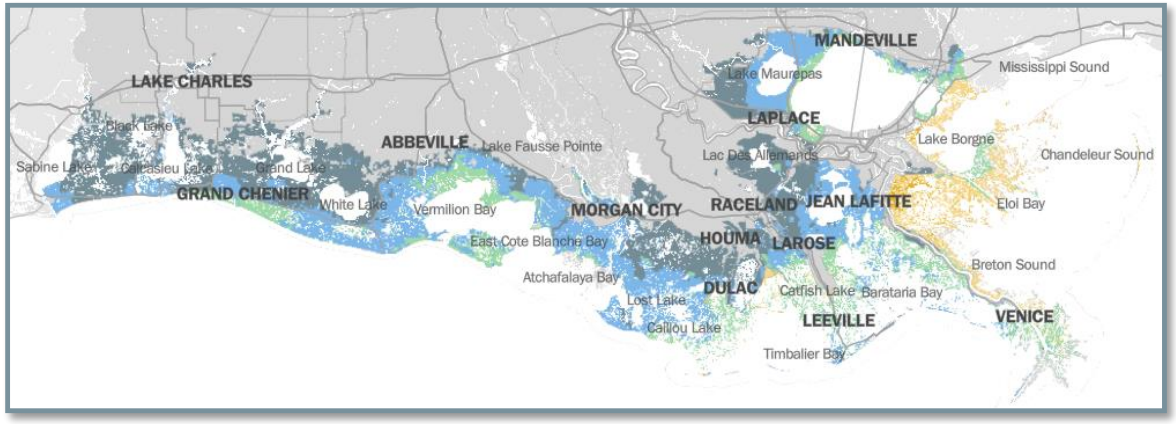
- SB 22 removes outdated soil conservation provisions.
- HB 60 requires the Department of Agriculture and Forestry to regulate fueling stations for electric vehicles.
- SB 28 requires grading of grain in accordance with United States Department of Agriculture standards.

HB 33 repeals the pest control registered technician exam 30-day retest waiting period and aligns the terms of the pest control research committee members with the Commissioner of Agriculture's term.

Coastal Zone

Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA)

SCR 17 approves the comprehensive master plan for integrated coastal protection and SCR 6 approves the annual integrated coastal protection plan. The state's "coastal master plan" must be updated every six years and sets out the strategy to combat coastal land loss and storm surge flood risk. 2023's master plan projects include: 65 restoration; 12 structural risk reduction; $11 billion for nonstructural risk reduction; and $19 billion for dredging.



Imported Seafood

- SR 159 directs the Department of Health (LDH) to protect Louisianians from the dangers of imported seafood by immediately taking all necessary action to enforce the many seafood safety provisions of law.
- HCR 105 requests LDH and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) expand imported shrimp testing.
- HCR 29 requests the President of the United States reconsider the signed agreement that facilitates growth of aquaculture exports from Ecuador.
- HCR 134 creates the Imported Seafood Safety Task Force to study regulations enforcement.
- Urges Congress:
  - HCR 113: to ban importing shrimp and crawfish.
  - HCR 88: to compel the FDA to fulfill its duties regarding imported seafood inspection and testing.
  - HCR 109: to impose a quota or tariff on imported shrimp, crab meat, and crawfish and enact a buy plan for domestic shrimp, crab meat, and crawfish.

Natural Resources

HB 59 allows the use of personal watercraft between sunset and sunrise when properly equipped with navigation lights.

- HB 503 removes the requirement that the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) issue batch hull IDs.
- HCR 3 removes the requirement that users of Rockefeller and Marsh Island refuges get a self-clearing permit.

LDWF to study:

- alligator markets, populations, and hunting (HCR 132);
- allowing the use of dogs for deer hunting within the Maurepas Swamp Wildlife Management Area (HR 85); and
- the feasibility of allowing a black bear hunting season (HCR 85).

Energy

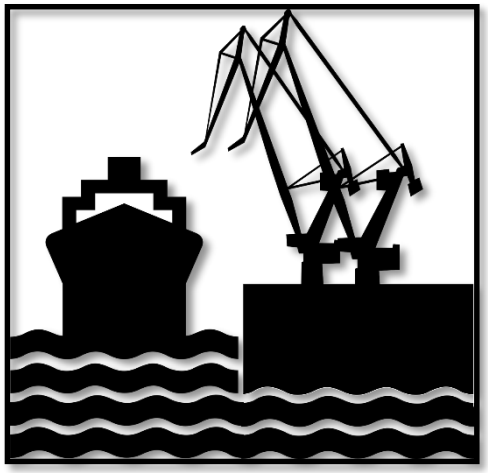
SB 103 renames the Department of Natural Resources the Department of Energy and Natural Resources.

SB 154 establishes a framework for "renewable energy leases" to regulate leases for wind, solar, and hydroelectric energy production and outline the rights of the parties involved.

Carbon capture and sequestration (HB 571)

- Requires notice to parishes when the Mineral and Energy Board, the Department of Natural Resources, or Department of Wildlife and Fisheries receive an application for a permit related to carbon capture and sequestration (CCS).
- Requires revenue sharing for CCS projects on state lands or water bottoms (30% to parishes, 30% to the Mineral and Energy Board, and 40% to the state general fund).
- Requires the submission of an environmental analysis as part of the application for a Class VI injection well permit.
- Increases reporting requirements.
- Aligns liability provisions with current Department of Natural Resources practices and Environmental Protection Agency standards.
- Increases funding for the Carbon Dioxide Geologic Storage Trust Fund.

Ports



SB 74 creates the Southeast Louisiana Port Authority Advisory Commission to:

- Provide the legislature and the Department of Transportation and Development with a broad perspective regarding maritime ports and transportation-related matters to be considered in formulating department policies concerning the Louisiana maritime port system located along and near the lower Mississippi River.
  - Includes representatives of maritime port industry located in Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Iberville, Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John, and West Baton Rouge parishes.
- Prepare a comprehensive one-year, five-year, and ten-year maritime port mission plan.

SB 214 creates the:

- Office of Port Development within the Department of Economic Development (LED) with duties including:
  - Implementing a statewide port strategic plan (subject to legislative approval);
  - Identifying sources of non-state funds for port economic development purposes;
  - Attraction, retention, and expansion of industrial and business investments at or near Louisiana ports; and
  - Cooperation/collaboration with regional and local economic development entities throughout the state with regard to port development.
- Port Advisory Development Commission help allocate Office of Port Development employees, equipment, and facilities, as well as create the organizational structure and breakdown of the offices' powers, duties, responsibilities, officers, etc.

HCR 127 requests LED, in consultation with the Workforce Commission, to evaluate the state's business advantages, economic climate, and workforce readiness to compete in attracting offshore wind energy supply chain industries to the state.

Labor and Employee Safety

SB 200

Prohibits retaliation against an employee for an absence from work due to genetic testing or a medically necessary cancer screening.

HCR 112

Creates a task force to assess the benefits and drawbacks in designating a certain percentage of man-hours in any apprenticeable occupation to registered apprentices for certain construction and capital projects.

HB 258

Establishes a state maritime academy within the University of Louisiana System to coordinate the state's existing programs, provide training for merchant marine officers, and to equip the maritime industry's workforce with additional education pathways.

HB 398

Requires oil and gas workers who are transported offshore via aircraft to wear life jackets equipped with personal locator beacons, which are capable of transmitting distress and homing signals in case of emergency.

HR 210

Creates a task force to study the safety conditions, worker wages, staffing, and economic impact of dollar stores in this state and to make recommendations for policies that protect customers, workers, and local economies.

Retirement

SB 18 reforms the method for funding and granting increases to retiree benefits within the four state retirement systems including a transition period from the current Experience Account (that relies on "excess" investment returns) to a PBI/COLA Account (that relies on dedicated employer contributions).

- Permanent Benefit Increases (PBI) for LSERS, LSPRS, and TRSL
- Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA) for LASERS

SB 116 increases the minimum allocation of funds to parish councils on aging for senior centers to $50,000.

Social Security

- HCR 67 encourages Congress to eliminate the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) reductions of Social Security.
- HCR 69 requests the House and Senate retirement committees study benefit options for future state employees to avoid penalties associated with the GPO and WEP.

LSERS
LOUISIANA SCHOOL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

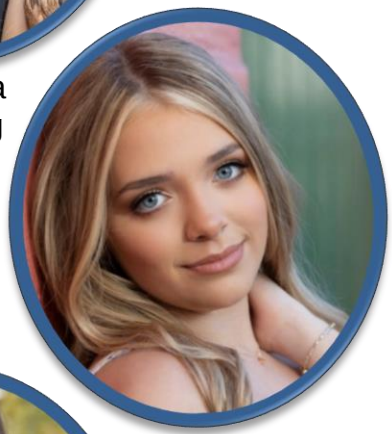
LASERS
Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System

Louisiana State Police Retirement System (LSPRS)

TRSL
Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana

Transportation

Michaila Bowling

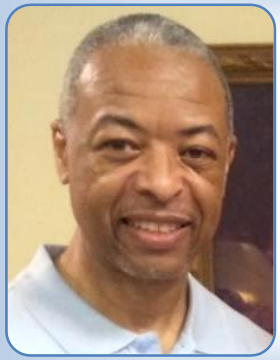


Hali Coss

Lili Dufrene

SB 82	enacts the "Bowling, Coss, and Dufrene Drunk Driving Prevention Act," which establishes an ignition interlock affordability plan for individuals who are required to install an ignition interlock device but demonstrate economic hardship.
HB 592	allows third-party examiners to administer driver's education skills tests and authorizes a web-based application where parents or legal guardians can provide e-signatures for their minor's licensing application.
HB 516	authorizes special ID stickers and a vehicle registration flag for individuals with autism spectrum disorder or a mental, physical, or developmental disability to better inform law enforcement when there may be a person with the disorder or disability in the vehicle.
SB 34	adds the words, "Crisis Lifeline dial 988" to all driver's licenses, special identification cards, and the application home page for digitized state credentials to bring awareness to the National Suicide Prevention Hotline.
HB 89	requires the state police to collect and report statistical information related to traffic stops e.g., the number of people stopped, the nature of the violation, the driver's identifying information, etc.

Elections



Robert J. Jackson

- HB 316 enacts the "Robert J. Jackson Louisiana High School Voter Registration Day Act."
- HB 449 requires the Secretary of State to appoint an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance officer and include ADA training in the election commissioners instruction course.
- SB 123 clarifies recall petition procedures.

- HB 135 prohibits a registered sex offender or child predator from serving as a commissioner or watcher.
- HB 646 requires the Department of State to conduct an annual canvass by June 30th to update voter registration records.
- HB 260 requires gubernatorial and legislative notice before implementing federal election directives and/or funds.

Constitutional Amendments

October 14, 2023

- HB 46 restricts nonprofit organizations' eligibility for property tax exemptions when residential property is found to endanger public health or safety.
- HB 47 requires the legislature to appropriate no less than 25% of nonrecurring state revenues for application to certain state retirement system unfunded accrued liability.
- HB 311 prohibits funding elections with money from a foreign government or nongovernmental source.
- SB 63 specifies that the right of freedom of worship in churches or other places of worship is a fundamental right that is worthy of the highest order of protection.

November 18, 2023

- HB 166 (2022 RS) clarifies that the timing of gubernatorial action on a bill and return of a vetoed bill to the legislature is based upon the legislative session in which the bill passed and to authorize the legislature, if it is in session, to reconsider vetoed bills without convening a separate veto session.
- HB 244 restricts the emergency use of the Revenue Stabilization Trust Fund to an annual maximum of $250 million if current or ensuing fiscal year revenue forecasts decline.
- SB 127 authorizes the local governing authority of each parish to provide a limited ad valorem tax exemption for qualified first responders.
- HB 254 repeals provisions of the constitution which create special funds within the state treasury:
  - Atchafalaya Basin Conservation Fund;
  - Higher Education Louisiana Partnership Fund;
  - Millennium Leverage Fund;
  - Agricultural and Seafood Products Support Fund;
  - First Use Tax Trust Fund; and
  - Louisiana Investment Fund for Enhancement.