



2014 Regular Session
of the
Louisiana Legislature



House Legislative Services
Louisiana House of Representatives
June 30, 2014



2014 Regular Session, the numbers

- Session convened March 10th, 2014.
- A “general” session; however, no matters involving state taxes or tax credits could be heard.
- 185 House Committee meetings.
- 48 days of House Floor proceedings.
- Session adjourned on June 2nd, 2014.

2014 was “General”,
Regular Session



- 1,969 Total Bills Filed:
 - House filed 1,284 bills
 - Senate filed 685 bills
- 854 Total Resolutions and Study Requests Filed
- 57 Constitutional Amendments filed
- In addition to the 6 proposed constitutional amendments adopted this session, an additional 8 from the 2013 Regular Session will be submitted for voter approval in Nov. 2014.

House and Senate
Instruments



State Operating Budget for FY 14-15

Appropriation Bills



- The General Appropriation Bill, HB 1 by Rep. Jim Fannin, contains \$24.6B for the ordinary operating expenditures of the executive branch for FY 14-15.
- When added to all other forms, including appropriations for the operation of the judiciary and legislature, money judgments, and ancillary funding, the total amount of appropriations for FY 14-15 is \$28.3B.

\$24.6B General Appropriation Bill



- \$9.9B in federal funds
- \$8.2B in state general funds
- \$1.1B interagency transfers
- \$2.4B in fees and self-generated revenues
- \$2.9B in statutory dedications

Additional Funding Added by the Legislature



- \$40M Higher Education's WISE Fund; \$6.1M for Competitive CORE Funding; \$12M for Medicaid NOW Waivers and \$1.3M for Human Services Districts, all for assisting the developmentally disabled; \$2M for STEM funding; \$32.5M for TOPS; and \$22.4M for state police salary adjustments.

Budgetary Issues



Decrease in Overall Spending

- Overall, there was an \$807M decrease from last year's budget mostly due to a reduction in federal funds, but an \$447M increase in spending from state general funds.

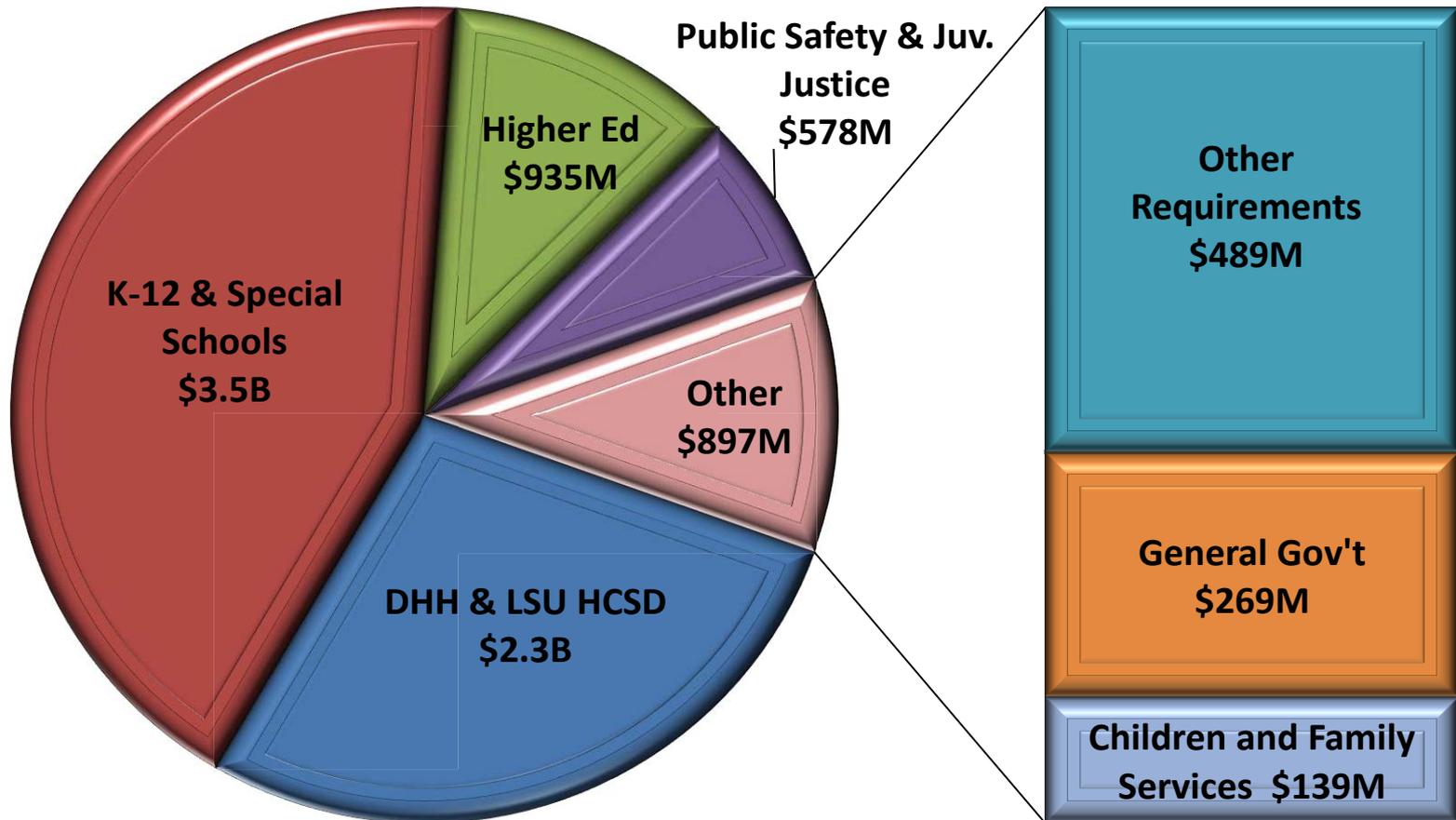
One-time Money

- The House eliminated the use of all one-time money for recurring expenses which included eliminating the "sweeping" of \$50M from the New Orleans Convention Center. The Senate added back \$51M of one-time money for recurring expenses.

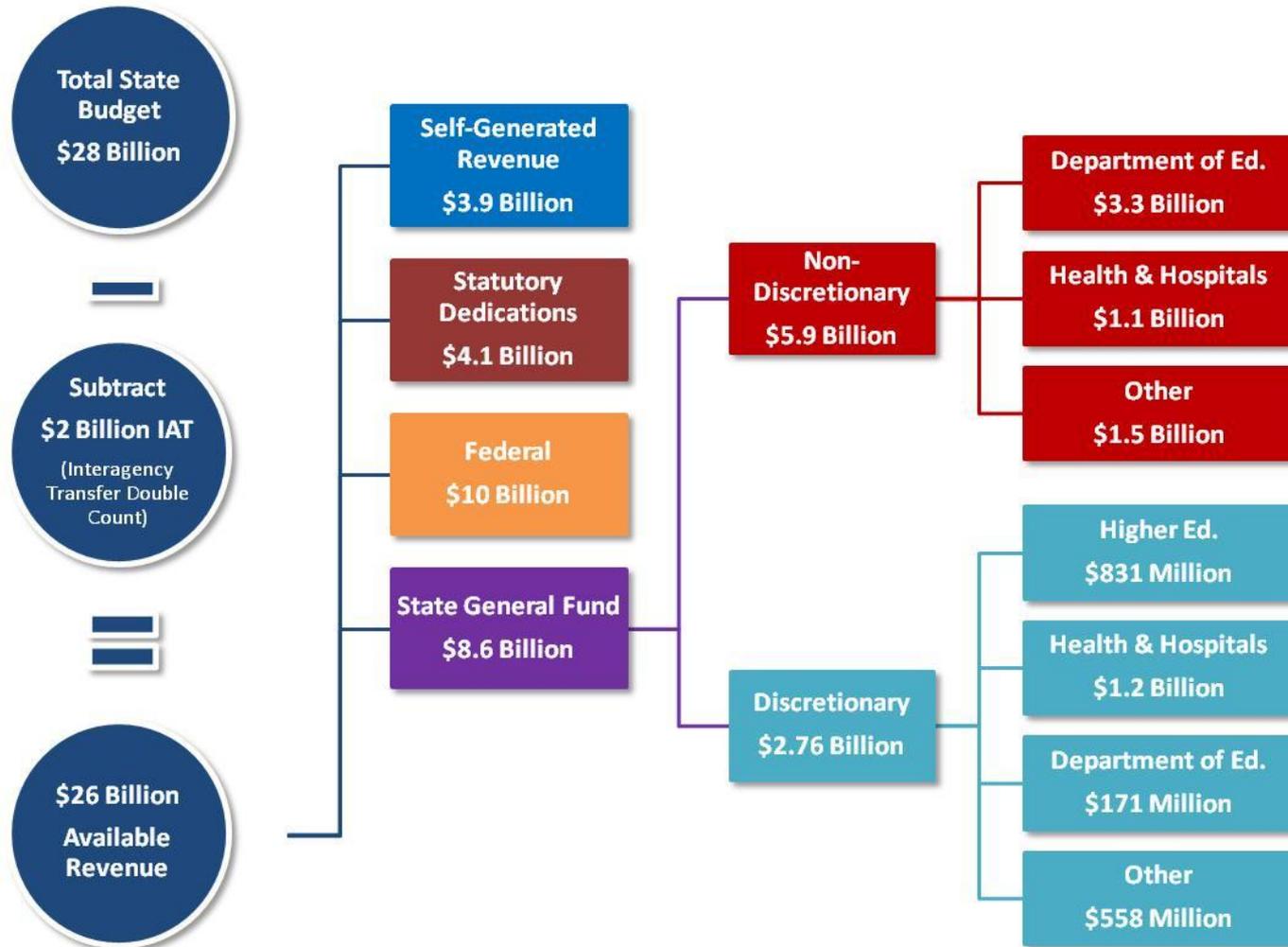
Budget Shortfalls

- **FY 13-14:** HB 1094 by Rep. Jim Fannin addresses the supplemental needs in the current year budget totaling \$75.1M, which includes funding for the MFP, local housing of state adult offenders, the TOPS program, and judgments. State general funding was freed up by the use of additional amnesty funds and reducing excess appropriations for scholarships, housing of juvenile offenders, and state supplemental pay.
- **FY 14-15:** The Legislature addressed a \$605M shortfall in next year's budget, in part, by using a \$65M increase in revenue forecasted by the REC and proposed efficiencies and cost-cutting measures recommended by the consulting firm of Alvarez and Marsal.
- **FY 15-16:** The use of one-time money in the FY 14-15 budget, coupled with continuation budget requirements, will likely result in a FY 15-16 anticipated funding shortage in excess of \$991M, according to the Legislative Fiscal Office.

State General Fund (SGF) Allocation, HB 1



Discretionary vs. Nondiscretionary Spending



Note: NonDiscretionary and Discretionary State General Funds are estimates based on the Executive Budget.

This graph was prepared by the Fiscal Division, HLS, Louisiana House of Representatives

\$ 5.9 Billion State Capital Construction Budget



Priority 1 –
Reauthorization of
existing projects;
eligible for a cash line
of credit: \$1.54B

Priority 2 -
Proposed new
funding for
projects; eligible
for a cash line of
credit: \$445M

Priority 5 - Both
proposed new
funding and re-
authorizations of
existing funding
for projects;
eligible for a non-
cash line of credit:
\$1.94B

Updated Expenditures:
*Reappropriated bond
proceeds from previously
funded projects that were
delayed for various reasons
to allow for the timely
expenditure of bond
funding on the following
projects:*

- *University Medical Center of Louisiana*
- *DOTD Highway Projects*
- *Hurricane Projects under Div. of Admin.*
- *Maintenance Projects under Military Office*

State Contracts

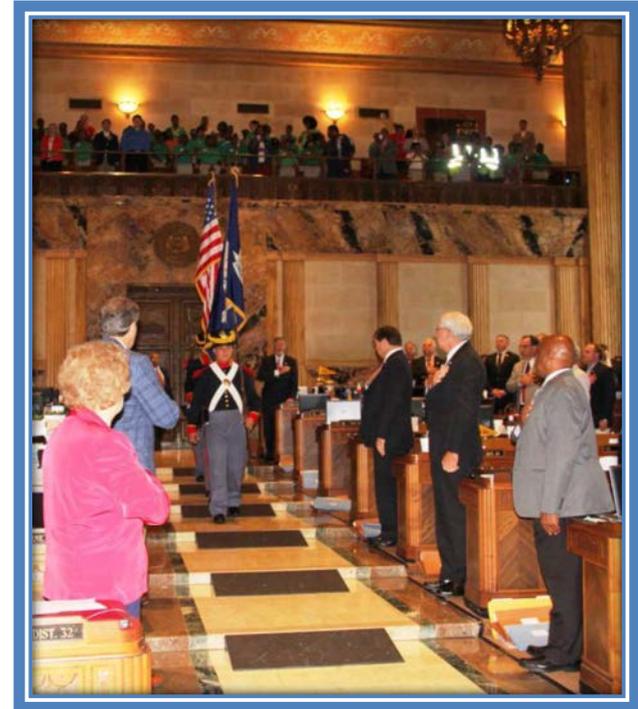
State's Consulting Contracts



- HB 142 by Rep. Dee Richard, originally introduced as a 10% reduction, now requires certain state contracts exceeding \$40,000 to be pre-approved by the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget with savings generated by the rejection of a contract being dedicated to higher education.

Alvarez and Marsal Contract

- The state entered into a \$5M contract with a global management firm as part of an effort to find \$500M in efficiencies and cost-cutting measures.
- The initial recommendations involve \$74M in potential cost cutting measures which are calculated as savings in next year's budget.
- It is anticipated that the full report will contain cost cutting measures and efficiencies exceeding \$500M.



Memorial Day Tribute led by Army veteran Rep. Nick Lorusso in the chamber of the Louisiana House of Representatives, May 22, 2014.

BESE Requested Funding for K-12

The Legislature approved a \$3.6B Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) that funds public elementary and secondary education. The approval came after BESE backed off an automatic, annual 2.75% inflationary factor, carried-over last year's \$70M increase, and ensured funding of \$14.5M for special education for students with profound disabilities, career diplomas, and an allocation for supplemental courses; SCR 55 by Sen. Conrad Appel.



There are approximately 685,000 students who attend Louisiana public schools in kindergarten through 12th grade. With all sources, including federal and local revenue, funding per student is in excess of \$12,000.

With respect to the voucher program, the Department of Education expects a 20% increase in the number of participants, from 6,700 in FY 13-14 to approximately 8,100 for the upcoming school year. The funding level for these scholarships is increasing from last year's \$36M to \$46M this school year.

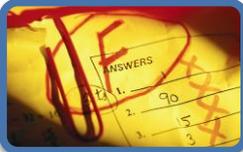
Elementary and Secondary Education



Common Core and PARCC - Bills to prohibit implementation of Common Core State Standards and related assessments (PARCC) failed to pass. However, HB 953 by Rep. Walt Leger provides an alternative method ~ for a couple of years ~ of assigning school and district letter grades and prohibits using student assessment results as part of teacher evaluations.



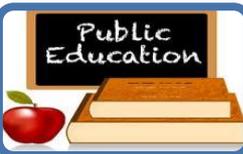
Student Data - HB 1076 by Rep. John Schroder limits the collection, storage, and sharing of student data by and with the state Dept. of Education, BESE, local school boards, and other public and private entities.



Public School Choice Act - SB 61 by Sen. Ben Nevers allows parents with children in “D” and “F” public schools to enroll their children in “A”, “B”, or “C” public schools regardless of residence, geographic boundaries, or attendance zones.



Course Choice Program – SB 179 by Sen. Dan Morrish requires the state, for public and nonpublic course choice providers, to disburse funds (MFP) for the program to public school systems and other public schools; any funds not used by the system or school may be reallocated to another system or school for the program.



Statewide Technology Plan - SB 622 by Sen. Conrad Appel requires a statewide plan for all public schools to be developed and implemented by the Dept. of Education to ensure classrooms have necessary infrastructure and capacity to provide a high quality, digital instructional environment.

High School Diplomas



High School Career Option Program - HB 944 by Rep. Jim Fannin revises current high school career option program including course and testing requirements; provides that a career diploma be recognized by all Louisiana public postsecondary education institutions.



High School Diploma for Students with Exceptionalities - HB 1015 by Rep. John Schroder provides for determinations for grade level promotion and graduation requirements by IEP (Individualized Education Program) teams for certain students with exceptionalities and those students who successfully complete the requirements of their IEP are issued a high school diploma.



State Seal of Biliteracy – HB 1016 by Rep. Vincent Pierre provides for a State Seal of Biliteracy to be affixed to the high school diploma of a graduate who meets certain academic standards of proficiency in a foreign language.

Higher Education

WISE Fund

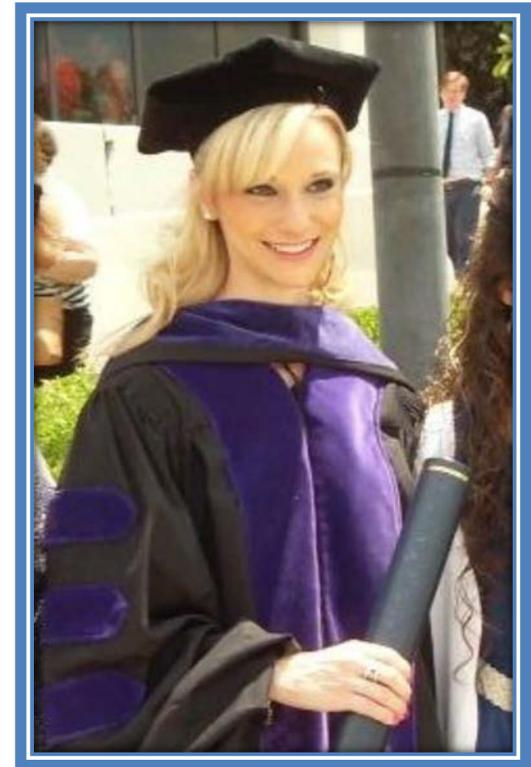
- HB 1033 by Speaker Chuck Kleckley creates the Workforce Innovation for a Stronger Economy (WISE) fund. The fund distributes \$40M to public higher education institutions based on workforce needs and research priorities in high-demand fields such as science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The institutions must certify private match to receive the funds.

Common applications

- SB 62 by Sen. Conrad Appel requires Louisiana public colleges and universities to develop a common application for enrollment which prospective students can use to apply to any in-state public college or university.

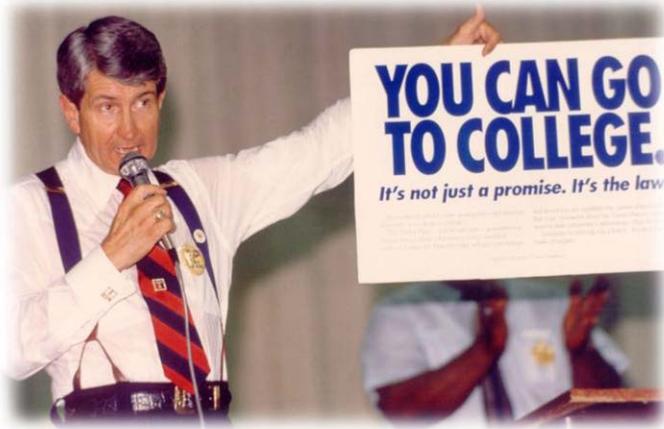
Interstate online courses

- HB 433 by Rep. Steve Carter authorizes Board of Regents to enter into reciprocity agreements that provide for interstate, online postsecondary education and provides for application and fees for Louisiana institutions wishing to offer such instruction in other states pursuant to the agreement.



Katie Luminais, a 4-year intern in HLS' Legal Division, graduated this spring from the Southern Law Center.

Taylor Opportunity Program (TOPS)



Patrick F. Taylor, founder of TOPS

SB 126 by Sen. Ben Nevers expands the use of the TOPS Tech Early Start Award toward any course leading to an industry certification or certificate of applied or technical sciences at both public and nonpublic colleges and universities. Also allows the award to be used for certain workforce training programs.

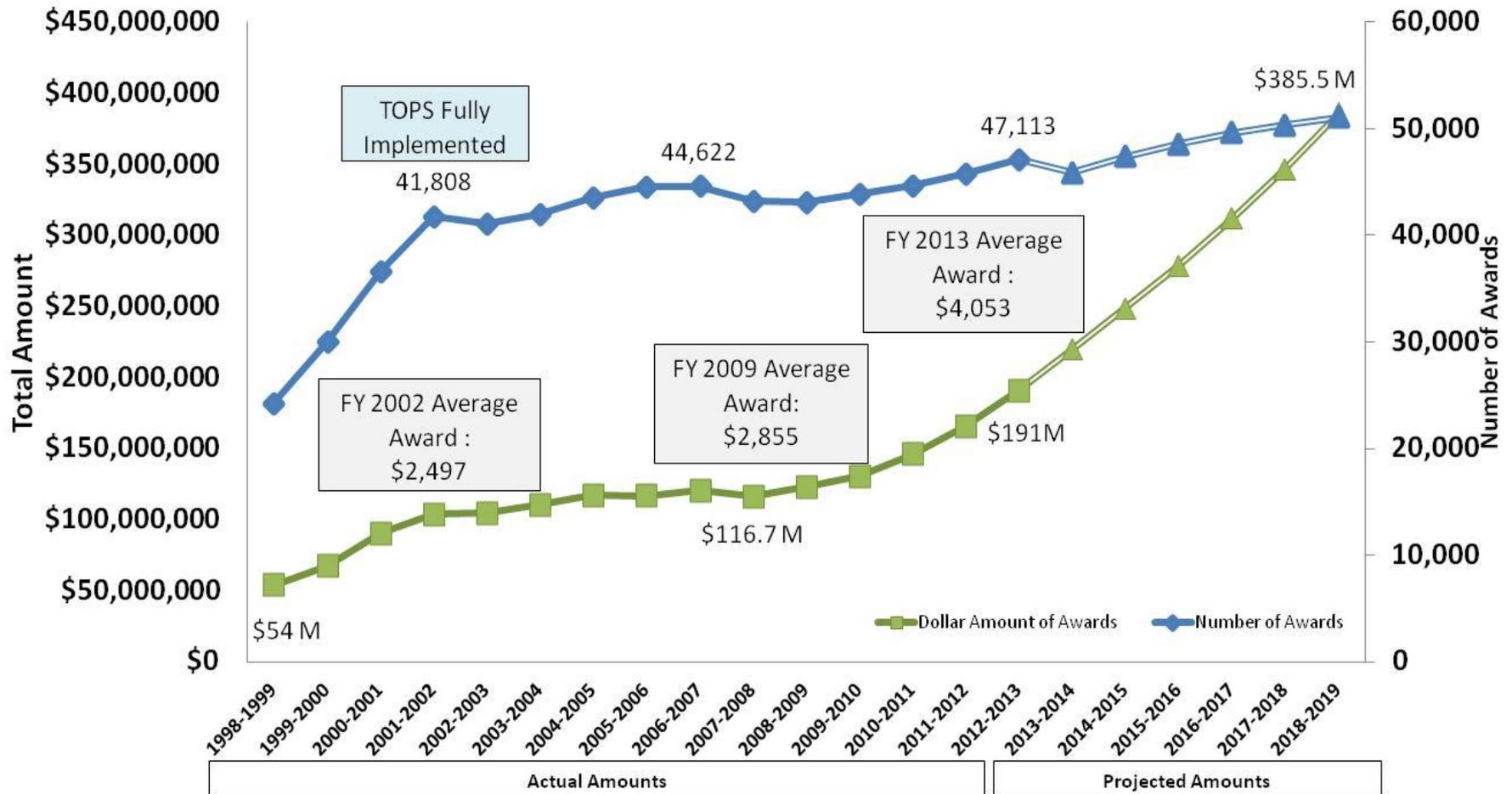
Beginning in 1989 as the Tuition Assistance Program (TAPS), the program was renamed in honor of Patrick Taylor and the income requirement was eliminated.

TOPS has paid for more than 200,000 students at a cost of \$1.76B.

The cost of TOPS has grown from an initial \$54.5M to \$250M for the next academic year.

Proposals to limit costs included increasing academic standards, converting TOPS into a loan repayment program, and varying the amount of TOPS scholarships based on a student's performance or grade level in college; no such bills passed this year.

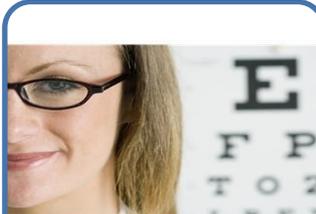
TOPS Funding: Historical & Projected



Medical Procedures & Practices



Surrogacy – HB 187 by Rep. Joe Lopinto establishes a tight legal framework by which married couples can contract with a woman to act as their surrogate. Requirements include using the biological material of the couple who, out of medical necessity, need assistance in reproduction. The law further prohibits compensation other than health care and certain living expenses if the surrogate is unable to work due to the pregnancy. Vetoed last year, the bill currently awaits gubernatorial action.



Optometrists - HB 1065 by Rep. Rogers Pope authorizes optometrists, after additional training and licensure, to perform surgical procedures previously performed by ophthalmologists exclusively, including three types of laser treatments; but specifically excluding LASIK, PRK, and other forms of refractive surgery.



Telehealth Access - HB 1280 by Rep. Scott Simon provides for the delivery of healthcare services through a variety of modes known as telehealth, including an expanded definition of telemedicine to allow easier access to medical services.

Health & Safety Regulations



Smoking Regulations - *HB 168 by Rep. Frank Hoffmann bans smoking within 25' of the public entrance of a state-owned office building. *SB 514 by Sen. David Heitmeier prohibits smoking within 200' of a public or private elementary or secondary school. *HB 1075 by Rep. Patrick Connick classifies cigarette butts as litter and provides a fine of \$300 for first offenders who throw their butts out of a car window. *SB 12 by Sen. Rick Gallot prohibits the sale of alternative nicotine or vapor products such as e-cigarettes and vapor pens to minors.



Tanning Beds – HB 746 prohibits the use of tanning beds by anyone under the age of 18, regardless of whether accompanied by a parent or legal guardian, and requires signage at the entrance of the tanning facility indicating this prohibition.



Cottage Food Industry – Several House Bills exempt from the state's sanitary code certain "low risk" cottage foods prepared in one's home for outside sale. Such foods include cakes and pies, cane syrup, pickles, and spices; (HB 294 by Rep. Stuart Bishop; and HB 1270 by Rep. Scott Simon).

Health & Public Welfare



Abortion – HB 388 by Rep. Katrina Jackson requires physicians who perform abortions to have admitting privileges at a hospital within 30 miles of the abortion clinic and imposes the same restrictions, such as mandatory waiting periods, prior to the use of an abortion pill. The 30-mile requirement could cause the closure of three of the state’s five abortion clinics.



Public Assistance – HB 1176 by Rep. Chris Broadwater enacts into law a prohibition against spending public assistance benefits at certain establishments or on certain items, including liquor stores, gaming establishments, lottery tickets, adult-entertainment, adult bookstores, tattoos and piercings, nail salons, jewelry stores, amusement rides and attractions, bail bond companies, bars, cruise ships, and psychics.



SNAP Pilot Program – HB 464 by Rep. Chris Broadwater establishes a pilot program in Tangipahoa Parish whereby able-bodied adults without children have to participate in education or workforce programs in order to continue to receive SNAP (formerly food stamp) benefits.



Persons with Exceptionalities - HB 63 by Rep. Walt Leger makes revisions throughout law to eliminate outdated and potentially offensive terms referring to persons with disabilities. For example, the bill deletes such terms as “retarded” and “handicap” and instead uses more current clinical terms such as “persons with intellectual disabilities”.

Delivery of Health Care Services

- None of the bills filed in support of Medicaid expansion made it through the legislature. However, SB 682 by Sen. Ben Nevers ~ a bill initially filed to require Medicaid expansion ~ was amended to authorize a health care plan for Louisiana based on the Governor's "America Next" proposal. In concept, the plan envisions the federal government providing health care block grants that would allow individual states to develop their own health programs. The federal government will first need to change certain rules and then DHH will have to fill in necessary details, with JLCB approval, to effectuate the plan.
- Additionally, HB 764 by Rep. Kevin Pearson requires "navigators" ~ those who help people navigate the purchase of health insurance through the online marketplace created by the Affordable Care Act ~ be licensed by the state Dept. of Insurance.

Health Care Reform



- The Huey P. Long Medical Center in Pineville is slated for closure with medical services being transferred to CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Hospital and Rapides Regional Medical Center. *Constitutionality, on procedural grounds, being litigated.*
- Prior to 2013, there were 10 state-run charity hospitals; six have been privatized and three have been closed with services being provided at nearby private facilities.
- Lallie Kemp Regional Medical Center in Independence remains the only state-operated hospital in Louisiana.
- CMS, a federal regulatory agency, rejected the use of advance lease payments involving the six privatized hospitals. DHH has recently submitted new plans.



Public to Private Medical Services



Lawsuits Against Oil Industry

Levee Board Lawsuit



- The final version of SB 469 by Sen. Bret Allain limits which state or local governmental entities can pursue a right or cause of action arising from activities conducted pursuant to coastal use permits or federal dredge and fill permits. Limits those governmental entities to the secretary of DNR, the attorney general, an appropriate district attorney, or a local government with an approved coastal plan. Applies the limitation retroactively to the existing Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority – East (SLFPA-E) lawsuit.

Legacy Lawsuits



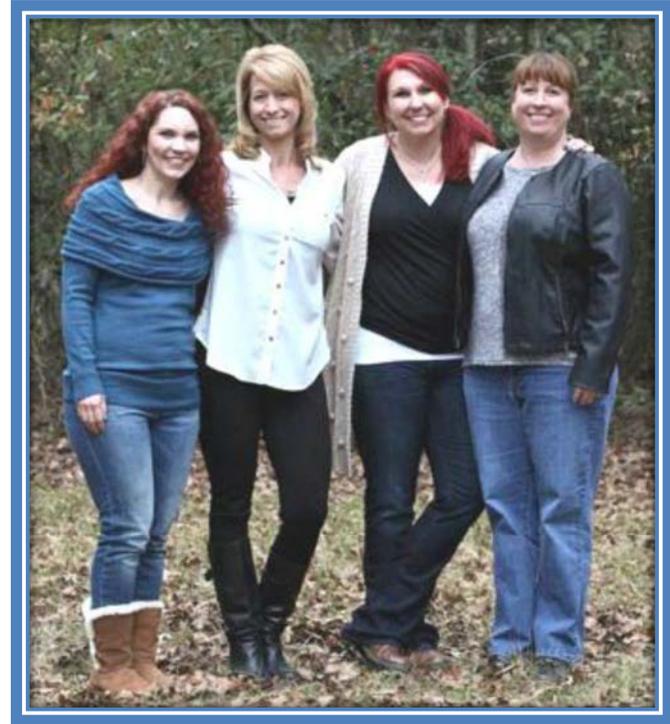
- There are presently over 300 “legacy” lawsuits brought by landowners against oil companies who drilled on their land. Existing law requires remediation of the sites in accordance with plans approved by DNR. SB 667 by Sen. Robert Adley creates a presumption that the approved plan is the most feasible plan thereby limiting the ability of the landowner to require the oil company to remediate to a higher, more costly standard, and applies these limits to existing lawsuits as well as future lawsuits.

Domestic Violence Prevention

Gwen's Law, named for Gwen Cox Salley and introduced as HB 1142 by Rep. Roy Burrell, requires a bail hearing be held for any felony offense committed against a family or household member and requires the court to issue a protective order if, as a condition of bail, the offender is required to refrain from contacting or going near the victim. Gwen's law also allows the court to keep the domestic abuser in jail under certain circumstances.

Package of three anti-domestic violence bills brought by Rep. Helena Moreno: *HB 753 criminalizes the possession of a gun by a person against whom a protective order was issued due to domestic abuse. *HB 747 classifies certain domestic abuse offenses as a "crime of violence" and increases penalties for domestic abuse battery. *HB 750 streamlines the process by which protective orders are issued and entered into the La. Protective Order Registry.

SB 292 by Sen. J.P. Morrell adds the issuance of a protective order protecting a spouse from abuse as immediate grounds for divorce for the protected spouse and requires the court to consider the effect and duration of domestic abuse during the marriage in determining spousal support.



Gwen Cox Salley (far right), a loving mother, daughter, sister, friend, and colleague was the victim of domestic violence in an apparent murder-suicide in May, 2014. Her family asked that her story be shared in an effort to bring awareness to domestic violence. She leaves behind her 7-year-old daughter, Samantha, and is pictured above with her sisters.

Criminal Justice



Expungement – HB 55 by Rep. Joe Lopinto provides a comprehensive revision of the expungement laws in this state by establishing state-wide procedures, a uniform fee structure, and uniform expungement forms. The bill allows the expungement of certain arrests and felony convictions (other than crimes of violence and sex offenses) after a ten-year “cleansing period” or a five-year “cleansing period” for certain misdemeanor offenses.



Parole Eligibility – HB 1255 by Rep. Katrina Jackson decreases the amount of time that must be served by a person convicted of a crime of violence before becoming parole eligible from 85% to 75% of the sentence imposed, and authorizes the granting of parole by a majority vote of the Committee on Parole for such persons when certain conditions are met such as the person having obtained a GED or re-entry training and having a clean disciplinary record.



Dealing Heroin - SB 87 by Sen. Dan Claitor increases the maximum term of imprisonment for distribution of heroin from 50 to 99 years for multiple offenses.

Reversing Heroin Overdoses – HB 754 by Rep. Helena Moreno authorizes first responders to carry naloxone and administer it as a life-saving drug to people who are overdosing on heroin.

Firearm Possession



Two firearm bills add exceptions to the crime of illegal possession of a firearm; in effect, allowing various classifications of people to carry guns where previously not allowed:

- HB 72, by Rep. Joe Lopinto, allows concealed handgun permit holders to possess a firearm in restaurants that serve alcohol. Additionally, HB 72 allows law enforcement officers and judges, DAs., and others in the judiciary to possess a firearm in any establishment that sells alcohol. SB 651 by Sen. Bret Allain, includes legislators in the same class as those in the judiciary allowing possession of a firearm in various establishments and locations.
- There are POST certification requirements for police, those in the judiciary, and legislators. However, firearm possession is still generally prohibited at locations such as school campuses, school buses, and the state capitol.



SB 361 by Sen. Neil Riser authorizes the carrying of concealed firearms by qualified law enforcement officers and retired law enforcement officers in any place open to the public, subject to the rules and regulations or policies of the agency or office employing the officer or from which the officer retired. The officer must be carrying the identification required by his office and, a qualified retired law enforcement officer must have been commissioned by the agency or office from which he retired.

Employment



Equal Pay - In 2013, The Equal Pay for Women Act was enacted to require equal pay for women who are public employees. This year, SB 359 provides that intentional discrimination in employment includes paying lower wages to a person of the opposite sex for the same job done but provides a 'good faith' exception which limits an employer's liability to wages in dispute plus judicial interest, no penalty.



Minimum Wage – Fourteen bills were filed to establish or increase the federal minimum hourly wage of \$7.25. None passed.



Online Privacy – HB 340 by Rep. Ted James enacts the "Personal On-line Account Privacy Protection Act" which bars employers and schools from demanding access to social media, personal e-mail and other online accounts.

Commerce



Plumber's Code

HB 1048 by Rep. Erich Ponti replaces the state's plumbing code, as promulgated by the Dept. of Health and Hospitals, with the International Plumbing Code as promulgated by the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Council.



Payday Lending

Several pieces of legislation on payday lending were introduced, but HB 766 by Rep. Erich Ponti was the only bill to pass. It requires online payday lenders to comply with the same rules as "brick and mortar" payday lenders and permits consumers to enter into extended payment plans with payday lenders upon notification of the inability to pay prior to default.



Equal Housing Opportunity Act

There were two bills introduced proposing to amend the Equal Housing Opportunity Act: one would have added protected classes such as those based on sexual orientation, arrest, conviction record, or veteran's status; and the other would have protected victims of domestic abuse from housing discrimination. Neither bill passed.

State Government



Department of Elderly Affairs

- Acts 2013, No. 384 created the Dept. of Elderly Affairs, to become effective when the constitutional limit of 20 executive branch departments was increased or an existing department was abolished. HB 341, by Rep. Joe Harrison, increases to 21 the number of authorized departments and provides that no department may be created with functions historically performed by any other agency, office, or department.



Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA)

- More than 100,000 retired state police, state employees, school employees, and teachers (SBs 16, 18, 19, & 21 all by Sen. Elbert Guillory) will receive a 1.5% COLA effective July 1, 2014.
- The COLAs were linked to HB 1225 by Rep. Joel Robideaux which revises the manner in which future COLA benefits can be awarded by increasing the amount of excess investment earnings that is dedicated to funding system liabilities and restricting the amount and timing of future COLAs based on the system's funded ratio.



Office of Technology Services

- SB 481 by Sen. Jack Donahue creates the Office of Technology Services with the duty of establishing and coordinating information technology systems across the executive branch of state government, including systems and services for networks, telecommunications, servers, software, infrastructure, platforms, desktop computing, geographic information, mobile devices, video, radio, and emerging technology.

Driver's License & Responsibilities



REAL ID - HB 907 - by Rep. Karen St. Germain authorizes the issuance of REAL ID compliant driver's licenses and allows an "opt out" for those persons who prefer a traditional license which lacks the security information necessary for TSA travel regulations. According to DPS, REAL ID compliant license should be available to the public in the fall of 2014.



License Renewal- HB 1252 by Rep. Franklin Foil and SB 582 by Sen. Dan Claitor extends the length of time a Louisiana driver's license remains valid from 4 to 6 years and adjusts the fee accordingly. The new fee is actually an adjustment, not an increase, to account for the extension of time.



Motor Vehicle Safety Responsibility - HB 851 by Rep. Kirk Talbot increases the penalties and period of suspension of vehicle registration and driving privileges for violation of the state's compulsory automobile insurance law, including the imposition of minimum penalties for providing false documentation and stiffer penalties for failure to provide proof of insurance. HB 872 by Rep. Barry Ivey also increases these penalties and funds a "real time" insurance verification system.



Cell Phones in School Zones – HB 370 by Rep. Jeff Thompson prohibits the use of cell phones, except for hands-free wireless phones, in a school zone during certain hours provided warning signs are posted regarding this prohibition.

Highways



Louisiana Transportation Infrastructure Bank

HBs 628 and 979 by Rep. Karen St. Germain provide for creation of the LA Transportation Infrastructure Bank as an agency of the state to fund or assist in funding eligible transportation projects of public entities through a revolving loan fund, to be capitalized by federal grants, state funds when required or available, and other funds generated by operation of the bank.



Speed Enforcement

HB 896 by Rep. Mike Danahay prohibits local governing authorities from using speed enforcement devices, typically an unmanned camera used in conjunction with a radar speed detection equipment, on interstate highways within their jurisdiction.



Dogs in Pickup Truck

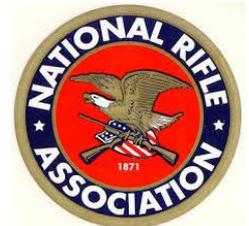
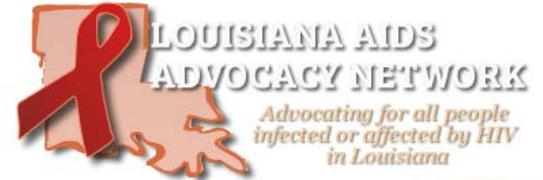
HB 1091 by Rep. Tom Willmott prohibits dogs from being transported in the back of a pickup truck on interstate highways unless humanely secured.

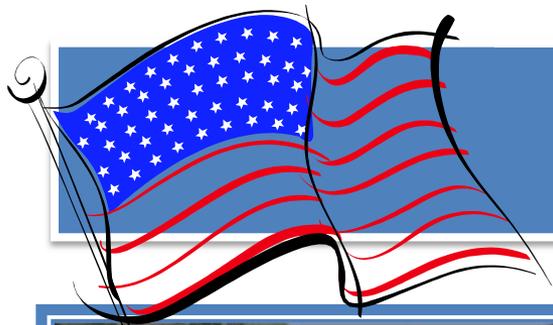


Blue Dog on U.S. 90 Overpass

HB 402 by Rep. Taylor Barras renames the overpass at U.S. 90 and La Hwy 83 in Iberia Parish after Cajun artist George Rodrigue who died in December, 2013.

Specialty & Prestige License Plates





Military & Veterans



Residential Lease

- HB 654 by Rep. Nick Lorusso expands protections for members of the military, and now their spouses, making it easier to terminate a house or apartment lease for those members injured and hospitalized incidental to his service.

Military Open-Air Burn Pit Registry

- SB 538 by Sen. John Smith, establishes the Staff Sergeant William Austin Daniel Military Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry Act of 2014, a voluntary registry for veterans exposed to open-air burn pits in the Gulf War, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation New Dawn, in order to assist these veterans in accessing treatment for medical conditions related to such exposure.

In Appreciation and Memoriam

- HCR 93 by Rep. Bryan Adams commends the United States Armed Forces and recognizes May 2014 as Military Appreciation Month and HB 11 by Rep. John Bel Edwards designates the seventh day of August as “Purple Heart Recognition Day”.
- On May 22, the House recognized fallen members of the armed forces with a Memorial Day Tribute, led by army veteran Rep. Nick Lorusso, remembering those who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces.

Of Interest in New Orleans Area



Morial Convention Center

- Expands the authority of the Ernest N. Morial-New Orleans Exhibition Hall Authority, including authorization of a Phase V expansion project, (HB 788 by Rep. Walt Leger).



Official Paper

- Allows the New Orleans edition of *The Advocate* to compete for the business of publishing judicial advertisements, official proceedings, and legal notices in Orleans and Jefferson Parishes, (HB 787 by Rep. Jeff Arnold).



Lower Ninth Ward

- Requires the city to sell to adjacent landowners and others vacant lots in the Lower Ninth Ward which were acquired, post-Katrina, through the Road Home program. Sale price is fixed at \$100 and comes with conditions, (HBs 489 and 1001 by Rep. Wesley Bishop).



Ad Valorem Taxes

- Constitutional amendment authorizing, subject to voter approval, increases in property taxes for police protection (from 5 to 10 mills) and fire protection (from 5 to 10 mills), (HB 111 by Rep. Walt Leger).

\$6M in funding was included in HB 1 for the Greater New Orleans Community Health Clinic (GNOCHC) Medicaid Waiver Program.



2014 Constitutional Amendments on November 4, 2014 ballot



Retirement Age of Judges

HB 96 by Rep. John Bel Edwards proposes to remove the mandatory retirement age of judges who, currently, are not allowed to run for office after age of 70.

Property Tax in Orleans

HB 111 by Rep. Walt Leger proposes to provide relative to ad valorem taxes for fire and police protection in Orleans Parish.

Lower Ninth Ward Property

HB 489 by Rep. Wesley Bishop proposes to authorize the donation or sale of certain property in the Lower Ninth Ward of the city of New Orleans.

Transportation Infrastructure Bank

HB 628 by Rep. Karen St. Germain proposes to authorize investment of public funds to capitalize a state infrastructure bank.

Tax Sales

HB 488 by Rep. Johnny Berthelot authorizes agents of the tax collector to sell property for delinquent taxes and requires the fee of the agent to be included within the costs recoverable in the tax sale.

Number of State Departments

HB 341 by Rep. Joe Harrison increases to 21 the number of permissible state departments and provides that no department may be created with functions historically performed by any other agency, office, or department.



2013 Constitutional Amendments on November 4, 2014 ballot



HB 131 by Rep. Ted James proposes to prohibit bills that grant “rebates” or other tax incentives from being introduced in “limited” sessions of the legislature just as tax exemptions, exclusions, deductions, or credits are currently prohibited.

HB 256 by Rep. Patrick Williams proposes to provide an 18-mo. redemption period for blighted or abandoned property sold at tax sale.

HB 426 by Rep. James Armes proposes to require two at-large members of the Wildlife & Fisheries Commission be from North Louisiana.

HB 532 by Rep. Chuck Kleckley proposes to create the Hospital Stabilization Fund.

HB 533 by Rep. Chuck Kleckley proposes to constitutionally protect the Medical Assistance Trust Fund.

SB 56 by Sen. J.P. Morrell proposes to remove the requirement of annual recertification of those permanently disabled for purposes of ad valorem taxation.

SB 96 by Sen. Robert Adley proposes to reduce the eligibility threshold for disabled veterans and spouses from 100% disabled to “totally disabled or unemployable” for purposes of exemption from property taxes

SB 128 by Sen. Bret Allain proposes to constitutionally protect the Artificial Reef Development Fund.