



# *NEWS RELEASE*

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## LOUISIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Monday, June 2, 2014 • Contact: Lauren Russell (225) 342-9795

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### **Governor Jindal signs Berthelot's House Bill 500 for Teachers**

**BATON ROUGE** - House Bill 500 (Act 172), authored by Representative John Berthelot, (R-Gonzales), was signed into law by Governor Jindal on last week. The bill, now Act 172, amends current law to allow a public servant employed by a pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, elementary, or secondary school to accept a gift valued up to \$25 from a student or former student, up to an average value of \$75 for all gifts from any one person in a calendar year.

Present law prohibits a public servant from receiving anything of economic value, other than compensation and benefits from the governmental entity to which he or she is entitled for the performance of her or her duties.

Berthelot said, "This bill simply now allows our teachers to receive small tokens of appreciation that they rightfully deserve. Our teachers provide a great service, not only to their students, but also to our state. I believe this bill will make the law more fair for teachers, and for students who wish to show their appreciation."

House Bill 500, signed by Governor Jindal, is now Act 172 of the 2014 Regular Session and becomes effective August 1, 2014.

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