

N E W S R E L E A S E

For Immediate Release

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TRACKING THE LOUISIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Multi Media Citizen Access Readily Available

A major goal of the Louisiana House of Representatives is to provide easier citizen access to state government and, especially, the House of Representatives. Information about the House is available year round with additions during legislative sessions to keep citizens informed and simplify tracking of legislative activities.

In March, 1996 the House created a World Wide Web site and entered the world of technology. Through the House Web site, citizens can access information about legislators and the legislative process and can follow the legislative session in real time without traveling to the state capitol. For those wanting the scoop on House bills and resolutions, a click on Bill Information will give the requested information searchable by author, number and key word. Web visitors can also retrieve the full texts of legislative instruments, which include digests explaining the effect of the instruments and the full text of its amendments, fiscal notes (which give the monetary impact of legislation) and record votes. The information will be updated several times a day once session begins. Prefiled bill information is also available as well as last action on all introduced instruments. Additionally, Web visitors can peruse the state constitution and the rules of order for each house.

(more)

add one -tracking

Accessible again this year, Web visitors will be able to watch and listen to live broadcasts of House session debates. Additionally, archived information is available that will allow browsers to replay House action from earlier dates.

A **new feature** is available to visitors beginning this year. When a user clicks on any live video link from the House Live Video page they will get a window which shows the video selected. This new video window also shows links to all committee rooms simultaneously, so the user can click back and forth from room to room and see other meetings in progress. This applies only to live video streams. But stay tuned, other enhancements are coming to this video page.

In the past the public has been able to access the House Web site by using the url address **<http://house.legis.state.la.us>** This address may still be used but a new, shorter address is also now available. It is **<http://house.louisiana.gov>**

No computer access? You can still keep track by calling the PULS (Public Update Legislative Service) Line at 342-2456 (Baton Rouge area) or 1-800-256-3793 in other parts of the state to identify bills by subject, get bill status information and obtain assistance in accessing this information on the Internet. It will be available from 8:30 am until House adjournment.

For visitors to the State Capitol, public access kiosks which will have computers available for retrieving legislative information will be available in Memorial Hall, Alario Hall and House Committee Room One.

The Legislative Web Site is an ongoing project with continuous updates and additions.