



**ACADIANA LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION
STATE OF LOUISIANA**

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**ACADIANA DELEGATION HIGHLIGHTS ETHICS REFORMS FROM THE
SPECIAL SESSION**

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA—The Acadiana Legislative Delegation highlights sweeping ethics reforms from the 2008 1st Extraordinary Legislative Session.

The overhaul of the state's ethics and campaign finance laws was a comprehensive effort by all legislators from across the state. Particularly, Acadiana legislators authored and offered several reform-minded legislative instruments which were ultimately declared duplicate bills under the Administration's legislative package.

The Legislature heard loudly, the cries of its citizens. Our constituents demanded change. We are proud to say that these concerns have been boldly addressed. With these changes in our ethics laws, we hope to restore public trust through accountability, transparency, and enforcement.

"I am very proud that the Acadiana Delegation was instrumental in passing Governor Jindal's ethics package. This will undoubtedly move our state near the top of ethics in the entire country," said Representative Jonathan Perry.

For way too long, the perception of Louisiana as a culture of corruption has compromised the state of Louisiana from moving forward. It is paramount that we as elected and appointed officials working in the highest levels of state government all the way down to local levels be accountable to our constituents and to the taxpayers of this state.

During the special session, the Legislature addressed several issues involving financial disclosure, conflicts of interest, transparency for lobbyists, improving ethics education and enforcement, transparency and public access to information, further combating fraud and abuse, and improving campaign finance laws.

Key legislation passing the Legislature and some awaiting the signature of the Governor include the following legislative instruments:

1. HB 1 - Requires certain public servants and candidates for certain offices to disclose certain financial information.
2. House Bill 6 – provides for ethics education and training.
3. House Bill 22 - Provides for a prohibition on employment by a governmental entity of family members of certain officials of the governmental entity.
4. House Bill 29 – Provides for service and selection qualifications for service on the Board of Ethics.
5. SB 1 - Provides restrictions and disclosure requirements for contracts involving certain public servants and certain affiliated persons and entities.
6. Senate Bill 3 - Repeals the gift exception for elected officials for cultural and sporting events.
7. Senate Bill 6 - Eliminates provision authorizing certain elected officials to vote upon matters which would otherwise present a conflict of interest.
8. Senate Bill 8 - Prohibits nonpublic persons generally prohibited from giving a public servant a thing of economic value from offering food, drink or refreshment valued at greater than \$50 to public servants.
9. Senate Bill 58 – Creates the crime of abuse of office.

The above legislation has ultimately set the national standards for governmental ethics and gives the state of Louisiana favorable ratings with the Center for Public Integrity and the Better Government Association. Most importantly, these new standards can restore our constituents' confidence in their government and elected officials.

Stated Perry, "As chairman of the Acadiana Delegation, I would like to personally thank Representative Page Cortez for his diligence in working with the Administration to ensure that the laws we enacted are in the top tier of ethics as measured by CPI and BGA."

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