Session Wrap

2024 2nd Extraordinary and Regular Sessions

Louisiana Legislature



House Legislative Services Louisiana House of Representatives

June 26, 2024

All included legislation completed the legislative process.



2024 2nd Extraordinary & Regular Sessions

2024 Second Extraordinary Session

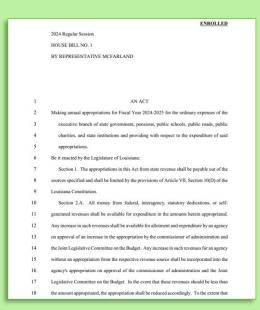
- Convened February 19 Adjourned February 29
- "Called" by <u>Governor's Proclamation No. 13</u> JML 2024 to address crime issues.
 - Legislators limited to filing and debating bills that fall within the 24 items included in the Governor's "call."
- Instruments Filed
 - 48 bills (23 House/15 Senate)
 - 3 resolutions

2024 Regular Session

- Convened March 11 Adjourned June 3
- Even-numbered years are "general" sessions.
 - No matters involving state taxes or tax exemptions, exclusions, deductions or credits could be considered.
- Instruments Filed
 - 1491 bills (982 House/509 Senate)
 - 42 constitutional amendments
 - 771 resolutions and study requests



State Budget – FY 2024-2025



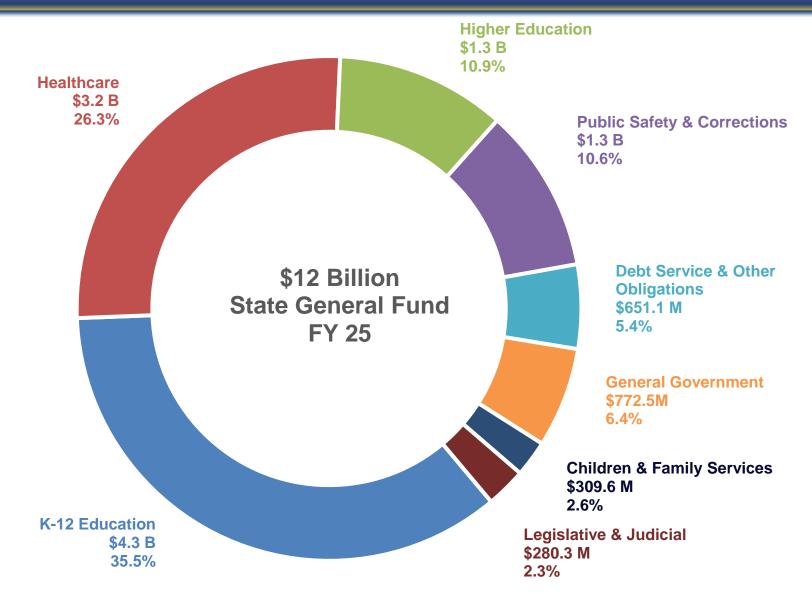
The General Appropriation Bill (<u>HB 1</u>) contains \$42.1 B for the ordinary operating expenses of the executive branch for FY 2024-2025, a \$2.7 B decrease over FY 2023-2024.

These appropriations, by means of finance, break down as:

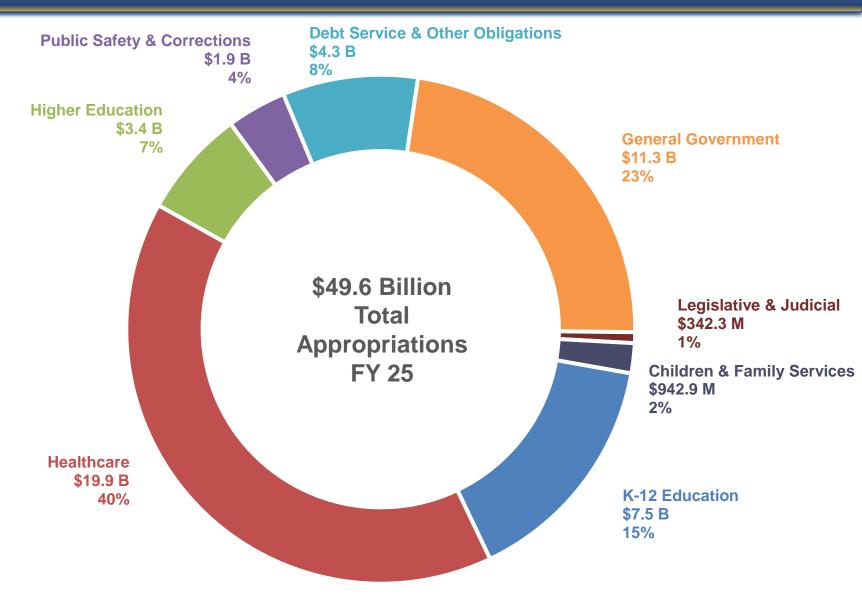
- \$21.4 B in federal funds
- \$11.2 B in state general funds
- \$4.7 B in statutory dedications
- \$3.5 B in fees and self-generated revenues
- \$1.2 B in interagency transfers

Total appropriations for the operation of state government for FY 2024-2025, including those for the legislature, judiciary, ancillary agencies, and the capital outlay budget is \$49.6 B.

Total FY 24-25 SGF Appropriations (\$12 B)



Total Appropriations (\$49.6 B)



\$717 M Revenue Stabilization Trust Fund

Revenue Stabilization Trust Fund Transfers (HB 1 & HB 786)

Louisiana Transportation Infrastructure Fund \$390 M

- **\$285.7 M** used in the Highway Priority Program for specific highway projects
- \$25 M used for the Road Transfer Program

Criminal Justice and First Responder Fund \$157.6 M

1st **\$100 M** into the Criminal Justice Priority Fund (<u>SB 431</u>)

Higher Education Campus Revitalization Fund \$94.3 M

1st **\$75 M** into the

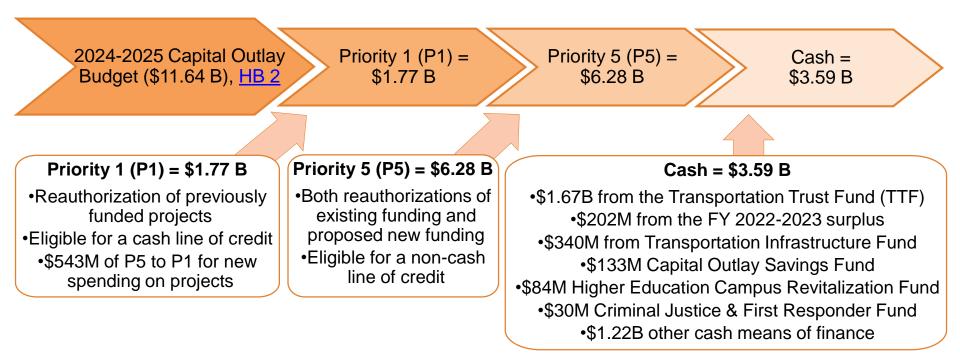
College & University

Deferred Maintenance &

Capital Improvement Fund (HB 940) Water Sector Fund \$75 M

\$70 M into the
Phase II Subfund;
\$5 M into the
Emergency
Subfund (SB 64)

Capital Outlay



- <u>HB 786</u> limits the withdrawal of monies from the Capital Outlay Savings Fund for projects to those made by an appropriation in a bill enacted by the legislature.
- <u>HB 857</u> increases the parish population threshold for parishes to qualify for a capital outlay matching funds waiver. The calculation of population excludes the number of correctional facility inmates.
- <u>SB 318</u> requires a nonstate entity that receives funding for the acquisition or construction of new buildings through the Capital Outlay Act to establish, fund, and maintain an escrow account to be used exclusively for costs associated with the long-term major capital maintenance of the project beginning on or after July 1, 2024.

Firearms

Firearms



- <u>SB 1 (2nd ES)</u> allows a person at least 18 years old and not prohibited from possessing a firearm to carry a concealed firearm without a permit.
- <u>SB 2 (2nd ES)</u> provides for a limitation of liability for persons authorized to carry a concealed handgun. "Authorized persons" include active law enforcement, retired law enforcement, any person with a valid concealed handgun permit, and military personnel who are active, reserve, or retired.
- <u>SB 377</u> adds any person who committed a felony-grade delinquent act while in possession of a firearm, if adjudicated when the person was 15 or 16 years of age and under 22 years of age at the time of violation, to the list of those prohibited from possessing a firearm or carrying a concealed weapon.
- <u>SB 507</u> specifies that a person carrying a concealed handgun shall be fined not more than \$500, or imprisoned for not more than six months, or both, if he negligently carries a concealed handgun while under the influence of alcohol or a controlled dangerous substance or while behaving in a criminally negligent manner. The penalty increases to not less than \$500 and not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment for not more than six months, or both, if the violation occurs in the French Quarter Management District.
- <u>HB 67</u> adds parish presidents, mayor-presidents, and the statewide elected officials (the governor, the lieutenant governor, the secretary of state, the treasurer, the commissioner of agriculture, and the commissioner of insurance) to the list of certain persons who are not prohibited from possessing and concealing a handgun when the person is qualified annually by the Peace Officer Standards and Training Council (P.O.S.T.). Former statewide elected officials are added to the list of persons who are not prohibited from possessing and concealing a handgun when the person is qualified annually by P.O.S.T., and requires each of the listed former officials to provide valid identification showing proof of such status.

New Crimes and Increased Penalties

New Crime

- Approaching a peace officer lawfully engaged in law enforcement duties (<u>HB 173</u>)
- Unlawful dissemination or sale of images of another created by artificial intelligence (<u>SB 6</u>)
- Possessing, trafficking, or importing a child sex doll (<u>SB 107</u>)
- Vandalizing, tampering with, or destroying a crime camera system (<u>SB 387</u>)
- Election fraud or forgery (SB 420)
- Picketing at the residence or dwelling of an individual (HB 737)
- Illegal use of weapons or dangerous instrumentalities (<u>HB 5 (2nd ES)</u>)
- Prohibited persons wagering on sports events (<u>SB 50</u>)

Abortion

<u>SB 276</u> creates the crime of coerced criminal abortion by means of fraud and adds mifepristone and misoprostol to Schedule IV of the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Law.



Increased Penalties

- Negligent homicide when victim is killed by a dog or other animal (<u>HB 213</u>)
- Public bribery (HB 226)
- Human trafficking involving sexual activity of those under eighteen (<u>SB 306</u>)
- Carjacking (<u>HB 7 (2nd ES)</u>)
- Molestation of a juvenile (<u>HB 130</u>)

Sentencing



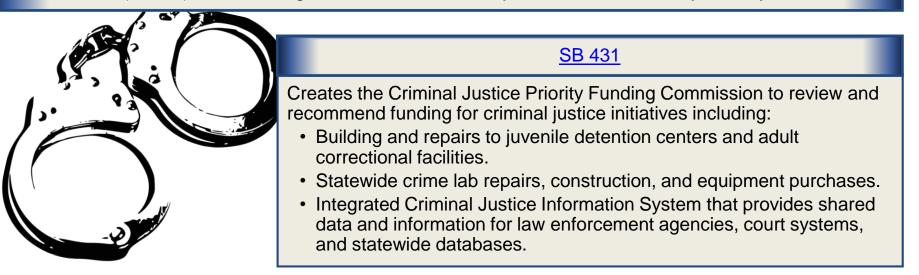
- <u>SB 9 (2nd ES)</u> allows the prosecution of any sex crime to be initiated outside of the current time limitations when the identity of a suspect is established using newly discovered evidence.
- <u>HB 8 (2nd ES)</u> specifies that any person who possesses fentanyl with the intent to distribute in a manner with reasonable appeal to a minor due to the shape, color, taste, or design of the fentanyl or packaging shall be imprisoned at hard labor for not less than 25 years nor more than 99 years without benefit of probation, parole, or suspension of sentence.
- <u>HB 3 (2nd ES)</u> requires drug testing to determine the presence of any controlled dangerous substance to occur within twenty four hours of the booking of the person arrested for a violation of the Uniform Controlled Dangers Substances Law.
- <u>HB 6 (2nd ES)</u> adds nitrogen hypoxia and electrocution as additional methods for administering the death penalty.
- <u>SB 7 (2nd ES)</u> requires the court to order the use of an ignition interlock for at least six months on a first
 offense conviction of operation of a vehicle while intoxicated.
- <u>SB 371</u> allows the court to sentence an offender to surgical castration when convicted of a sex offense that is also an aggravated offense with a victim under the age of thirteen.
- <u>HB 4 (2nd ES)</u> specifies that post-conviction relief is subject to all of the limitations and restrictions set forth in either C.Cr.P. Art. 930.4 or 930.8, shall be jurisdictional, and shall not be waived or excused.

Juvenile Justice

SB 4 (2nd ES)

- Prohibits the modification of the sentence of a child who was 14 years of age or older when he committed first degree rape or aggravated kidnapping.
- A child, who was 14 years of age or older and is a second time offender of a crime of violence, shall be confined in secure placement within DPS&C or any secure public or private institution without benefit of probation or suspension of imposition or execution of sentence.
- A child confined in secure placement for armed robbery, carjacking, or a second offense of a crime of violence will be eligible for modification after serving at least 24 months of the disposition or half of a disposition than 36 months.
- Also specifies factors for a court to consider when deciding if a child poses a risk to the community.

<u>SB 3 (2nd ES)</u> lowers the age for consideration as a juvenile in the criminal justice system.



Criminal Justice

Supervised Release

<u>Parole</u>

 <u>HB 9 (2nd ES)</u>, <u>HB 10 (2nd ES)</u>, and <u>HB 11 (2nd ES)</u> restrict parole eligibility, strengthen penalties for violating conditions of parole, and reduce the diminution of sentence. <u>SB 5 (2nd ES)</u> requires a unanimous vote of the Committee on Parole to grant parole, only allows parole consideration if an offender has not committed any major disciplinary offenses for 36 consecutive months prior to his parole eligibility date, and makes other specifications about parole procedures and victim and law enforcement notice. <u>SB 10 (2nd ES)</u> restricts the diminution of sentence rate for a person convicted in the death of a peace officer or first responder killed in the line of duty. 	 HB 206 allows the state to seek active supervised release of a committed person based upon the committed person's continued dangerousness if both of the following conditions are satisfied: The committed person was found not guilty by reason of insanity for, or attempted to commit, any crime punishable by death or by life imprisonment or any crime that is either a crime of violence or a sex offense. The state proves by clear and convincing evidence that the committed person is dangerous to others or himself.
<u>Pardon</u> <u>HB 391</u> makes a person convicted of possession of marijuana, tetrahydrocannabinol, or chemical derivatives thereof, eligible for a pardon by the governor without the necessity of sentence completion and a recommendation of the Board of Pardons. All court costs imposed with the conviction must be paid in full.	 <u>Statute of Limitations</u> Time limitations for prosecution of third degree rape do not start until the crime is discovered by the victim (<u>HB 356</u>) Eliminates the statute of limitations to prosecute the crime of molestation of a juvenile or a person with a physical or mental disability (<u>HB 453</u>)

Criminal Justice

Public Defender

<u>SB 8 (2nd ES)</u> creates the Office of State Public Defender and reorganizes the public defender system.

Criminal Records

<u>HB 1 (2nd ES)</u> creates the Truth and Transparency in the Louisiana Criminal Justice System Program, which requires each district clerk of court responsible for maintaining criminal records to provide the public electronic access via an online portal. Each district clerk of court and the clerk of the Juvenile Court for the Parish of Orleans responsible for juvenile court records shall also transmit to the same online portal all minute entries involving juveniles accused of committing a crime of violence.



Victim Notification

- <u>HB 734</u> allows a victim's family the right to not be contacted once the clemency process has begun unless arranged through a victim service coordinator appointed by the prosecuting agency.
- <u>HB 723</u> requires the governor to provide notice to certain persons prior to commuting a criminal sentence or granting a pardon to any person.
- <u>HB 212</u> requires the Department of Health (LDH) to notify the district attorney and criminal court when a defendant adjudicated not competent to stand trial or not guilty by reason of insanity and committed to LDH is transferred to another facility or released from custody or placed on conditional release.

Law Enforcement



- <u>SB 31</u> increases survivor benefits for dependent children of firemen and law enforcement officers.
- <u>HB 2 (2nd ES)</u> provides civil liability immunity under certain circumstances for peace officers and public entities that employ or appoint peace officers.
- <u>HB 639</u> expands the definition of "obstruction of" an officer to also mean the failure to provide or display the person's state issued driver's license or identification upon the officer's request when the person is an operator of a motor vehicle, the person has been lawfully detained for an alleged violation of a law, and the officer has exhausted all resources at his disposal to verify the identity of the person.
- <u>SB 24</u> repeals prohibitions limiting the release of booking photographs by law enforcement officers and agencies.

Civil Law

VETO

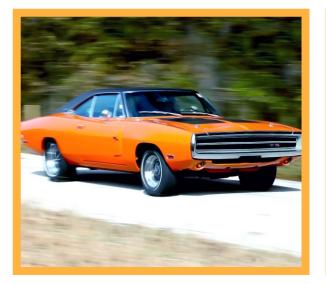
HB 423 limits recoverable medical expenses a court may award in damages and bases the calculation for this award on the amount actually paid or owed—not the original amount billed by a healthcare provider. HB 315 defines a two year time limit to file a civil action that begins the day actionable damage or injury occurred. For immovable property, this time limit starts the day the owner acquired, or should have acquired, knowledge of the damage.



SB 84 provides for a motion for judgment on an offer of judgment, the offer must be served at least 20 days before trial, and a plaintiffofferee must pay court costs for the defendant-offeror if the final judgment is in the defendant's favor.

HB 785 limits liability for commercial vehicles that do not install optional equipment and clarifies that commercial vehicle owners have no duty to install equipment that is not required by law. <u>HB 21</u> allows for service of process by commercial courier for a petition for appointment as curator for an absent person.
 <u>HB 27</u> allows for service of process by commercial courier for a subpoena for medical records.

Motor Vehicle Insurance



HB 375 mandates that insurers who write homeowners' or motor vehicle insurance must disclose all discounts that could reduce a policyholder's premium. HB 337 limits direct action lawsuits by preventing insurers from being named in initial lawsuits for an auto accident and prohibits a court from disclosing insurance coverage to a jury unless required to by evidentiary laws.

<u>SB 499</u> addresses selection or refusal of uninsured motorist coverage when purchasing car insurance.

HB 511 requires insurers to verify proper completion and retain a copy of the uninsured motorist form for rejection of coverage. <u>SB 337</u> extends a 25% discount for car insurance premiums to military reservists, retired military, and disabled veterans.

HB 430 allows a car owner whose vehicle is registered in this state to show a valid motor vehicle liability policy issued from another state, to satisfy requirements for proof of financial responsibility.

Property Insurance

Fortify Homes Program

HB 120 repeals termination date.

<u>SB 484</u> allows the commissioner to apply for grants or funding to supplement state appropriations, and requires the Department of Insurance (LDI) to annually publish insurer discounts approved thus far and actuarially sound program and discount recommendations.



HB 609 addresses claim disputes when insurers and consumers disagree on the amount of loss the company should cover. Allows both parties to hire an independent appraiser, and if these appraisers still do not agree, an impartial umpire can be assigned.

<u>SB 295</u> updates property and casualty lines to a "file-and-use" system, allowing new rates and products to take effect upon filing. LDI may, within 30 days, disapprove these filings. SB 323 streamlines bad faith statutes, clarifies the claims process, and details the duties of good faith and fair dealing for both the insurance company and customer.

SB 113 suspends the 10% surcharge for rates for policies from Citizens Property Insurance Corporation in all parishes from January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2027. <u>SB 242</u> allows homeowners insurers to use aerial images to inspect property as long as the images were taken within the last 24 months. HB 611 phases out Louisiana's unique rule that prohibits homeowners insurers from raising deductibles or canceling or not renewing policies in effect more than three years.

Health Insurance



<u>SB 219</u>

Requires mutual insurance companies be transparent about seeking reorganization as part of a proposed sale and revises laws for hearings, voting, and advertising.

<u>SB 200</u>

Mandates health insurers make life-sustaining services accessible at in-network rates to seriously ill patients displaced out-of-state by a named storm.

<u>SB 463</u>

Requires transparency of expenditures for dental healthcare plan premiums and annual reporting of dental loss ratios.

<u>HB 616</u>

Creates a process for actuarial reviews of proposed legislation that would mandate, reduce, or eliminate aspects of health insurance coverage.

The following mandates coverage for:

- menopausal and perimenopausal treatment (<u>HB 392</u>).
- expanded types of colorectal cancer screening (<u>HB 361</u>).
- patient's choice of medical and surgical treatments following a cancer diagnosis (<u>HB 508</u>).
- pregnancy-related nutrition counseling & postpartum lactation support services (<u>SB 300</u>).

Health

Medicaid ≺	 HB 80 authorizes transportation network companies to provide nonemergency medical transportation services through the state Medicaid program. HB 896 creates the Remote Patient Monitoring Program Law to allow remote monitoring services within the Medicaid program. SB 187 establishes a pilot program for adult Medicaid beneficiaries to receive coverage for portable oxygen concentrators.
Public Health ≺	 HB 853 creates the Office of Surgeon General within LDH to serve as its chief medical officer. HB 687 creates a license for providers of the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) and establishes licensing standards and requirements. HB 83 requires the state health officer to establish a mandatory consent form detailing the health risks and permanence of each procedure at commercial body art facilities. SB 46 creates the Alzheimer's and Related Dementias Advisory Council within LDH to review and assess the status of such diseases in this state.

Consumable Hemp & Therapeutic Marijuana

Consumable Hemp

HB 952 requires a person be 21 years of age or older to purchase consumable hemp products and:

Limits

- Consumable hemp edibles to 5 mgs of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) per serving and 40 mgs of THC per package.
- Beverages to 1 single, 5 mgs THC serving per can or bottle.
- Tinctures to 1 oz. packages with 1 mL servings of 1 mgs THC.

Prohibits

- Sale of consumable hemp products at certain establishments permitted to sell alcohol and at convenience stores that sell fuel.
- Adding consumable hemp to alcoholic beverages.
- Floral hemp material.
- Inhalable consumable hemp products.

Requires

- Manufacturers ensure THC uniformity with potency testing on every batch of consumable hemp
- Child resistant packaging of consumable hemp.
- Labels include total THC per serving and a warning that consumption of products with THC may result in a failed drug test.

Therapeutic Marijuana

- <u>SB 228</u> gives authority to the Department of Health to issue two licenses to cultivate, extract, process, and produce therapeutic marijuana and extends the sunset on regulations to July 1, 2030.
- <u>HB 376</u> transfers the authority to regulate marijuana pharmacies from the Pharmacy Board to the Department of Health.



Health Occupations

Mental Health

- <u>HB 865</u> allows supervision for certain social workers and licensed professional counselors to be conducted in-person or remotely via telesupervision.
- <u>HB 888</u> enacts the Social Work Licensure Compact and establishes a multistate license for social workers.
- <u>HB 849</u> allows behavioral health providers to include collateral information in a patient's record and details a facility's notification duties prior to a patient's discharge.
- <u>SB 57</u> creates a license for psychological associates to independently offer mental health counseling and psychotherapy.

Physical Health

- <u>HB 972</u> allows the Medical Examiners Board to grant a temporary license to an international medical graduate who satisfies certain criteria.
- <u>SB 165</u> limits allowable noncompetition provisions for physicians.
- <u>HB 869</u> requires emergency physicians and physician assistants receive continuing education on sickle cell disease.

Pharmacists & Pharmacies

- <u>HB 579</u> authorizes pharmacists to dispense and administer HIV pre-exposure (PrEP) and postexposure prophylaxis (PEP).
- <u>SB 444</u> prohibits pharmacy benefit managers from reimbursing a pharmacy or pharmacist less than acquisition cost for a covered drug, device, or service.

Occupations



HB 716 and SB 60 "Welcome Home Act" Allows qualified workers with outof-state licenses to apply for instate recognition without repeating training.



HB 933

Removes license and exam requirements for retail and wholesale florists and cut flower dealers and consolidates these to a single "floral dealer" permit.

Require

<u>HB 366</u>

Requires home buyers and real estate brokers to sign a basic buyer agreement detailing the services to be provided and compensation in return.



<u>SB 506</u>

Prohibits unfair residential real estate service agreements purportedly secured by lien or mortgage and recorded in conveyance records.



<u>HB 814</u>

Updates age requirements for barber college admissions and barbers registered out-of-state who apply to take a Louisiana certifying exam.



<u>HB 753</u>

Replaces the tradesman plumbing license with a residential plumbing limited license and updates the membership of the state's Plumbing Board.

Postsecondary Education

Tuition and Fees

<u>HB 862</u> allows postsecondary education management boards to establish and increase differential tuition and mandatory fees for high cost programs.

Facility Maintenance

<u>HB 940</u> authorizes the issuance of up to \$1.681 billion in bonds to fund College and University Deferred Maintenance Capital Improvement Program projects.

M.J. Foster Promise Program

- <u>HB 728</u> phases in minimum eligibility age decrease, from 21 to 17, over a period of four award years.
- <u>SB 272</u> increases the maximum appropriation limit.



Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL)

<u>SB 465</u> changes intercollegiate athlete NIL regulation to:

- Allow a player to hire a marketing representative to secure compensation for NIL use.
- Allow institutions to compensate an athlete for NIL activity if authorized by court order, consent decree, or settlement agreement.
- Allow players to not disclose NIL contracts under \$600 to their institution.
- Require players be provided with financial literacy and life skills courses annually for at least two and one half hours.
- Require institutions to provide intercollegiate athletes with annual financial literacy and life skills training for a minimum of two and one half hours.

Education

Charter Schools

- <u>HB 78</u> and <u>SB 47</u> authorize initial proposals for charter schools with corporate partners to be made to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education as a Type 2 charter school proposal.
- <u>HB 708</u> reduces requirements that charter schools meet a certain threshold with respect to the number of students with exceptionalities and economically disadvantaged students relative to its total student enrollment.
- <u>SB 316</u> increases the initial charter term to a maximum of five years, makes changes to charter renewal criteria and contract extensions due to extraordinary circumstances, and permits the granting authority the option to reconstitute the governing body of a charter found in violation of laws and policies as an alternative to revocation.
- <u>SB 350</u> revises charter school statutes concerning school autonomy and requires applicants for Type 1 and Type 3 charter schools provide a notice of application to the Department of Education.

Testing

- <u>HB 8</u> prohibits using an appeals process for students who fail state-administered tests required for high school graduation.
- <u>HB 762</u> allows high school career diploma students to take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) or WorkKeys test in lieu of the ACT and allows non-career diploma students to take the same tests in addition to the ACT.

Dyslexia

- <u>SB 72</u> exempts students with dyslexia from literacy screeners and instead requires a test that assesses phonological skills and oral reading fluency.
- <u>SB 336</u> allows a student's parent or guardian to request subsequent dyslexia testing and a core assessment if a screening indicates a student is at risk for dyslexia.

School Choice

<u>SB 313</u> creates the Louisiana Giving All True Opportunity to Rise (LA GATOR) Scholarship Program, a universal education scholarship account program.

Education

<u>HB 121</u> prohibits school governing authorities from inquiring about a student or employee's pronouns and 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 the original birth certificate.

<u>HB 71</u> requires schools to display the Ten Commandments and allows for the display of the Mayflower Compact, the Declaration of Independence, and the Northwest Ordinance.



<u>SB 207</u> prohibits students from possessing any electronic telecommunications device during the instructional day unless addressed in their individualized education, accommodation, Section 504, or health plan.

<u>HB 122</u> prohibits a public school teacher, employee, or other presenter at a school from doing any of the following:

- 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.

<u>SB 205</u> requires compensating any teacher that is not afforded the minimum uninterrupted planning time at their effective hourly rate and requires each governing authority to develop a uniform supplemental salary schedule that specifically addresses compensation for duties performed by certified employees of the governing authority beyond the scope of their duties and responsibilities.

School Curricula

SB 508 redefines "accelerated instruction" as "high-dosage tutoring" and expands academic supports to students in kindergarten through fifth grade who either performed below grade level on a literacy or numeracy screener in the current academic year or failed to achieve mastery on statewide assessments in reading and math in the previous academic year.



HB 244 expands the Steve Carter Literacy Program to include educational services in math.

HB 264 adds computer science as a high school graduation requirement.

HB 267 requires the Department of Education to provide screeners measuring the development of foundational numeracy of students in kindergarten through third grade. Numeracy interventions and supports are required for students identified as having numeracy skills below grade level.

<u>HB 320</u> repeals statutes requiring student instruction on adoption awareness, breast and cervical exams, CPR and automated external defibrillators, child assault, dating violence, eating disorders, internet and cell phone safety, litter, mental health, organ donation, parenthood, safe haven laws, shaken baby syndrome, substance abuse, and water safety. It also repeals statutes concerning teacher training on bullying, adverse childhood experiences and trauma-informed education, first aid, classroom management, communicable disease and control, sudden cardiac arrest, and suicide prevention. The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education is directed to consider requiring the repealed topics be included in required student instruction and teacher training.

Children

<u>HB 577</u> protects children's internet data by barring social media companies from collecting and selling a minor's personal data or using this information to target minors with advertising based on the personal data collected.

<u>HB 335</u> clarifies procedures for specified individuals to report suspicions of child abuse or neglect to DCFS, local law enforcement, or a dual report to both. Also clarifies who qualifies as a mandatory reporter and the penalties for employers who prevent a report from being made.

<u>SB 246</u> extends the option to file a cause of action related to past sexual abuse of a minor for actions that had previously passed the prescription deadline.

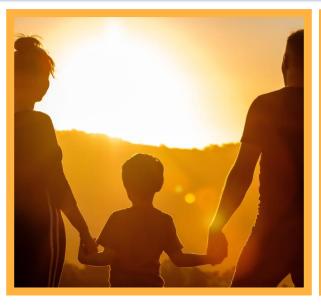
<u>SB 41</u> declares that one of the purposes of the Louisiana Children's Code's is to promote public safety.

<u>SB 414</u> authorizes installation of newborn safety devices for Safe Haven infant relinquishment in a continuously manned emergency care facility run 24/7.



Women and Families

"Uniform Collaborative Family Law Act" <u>SB 188</u> encourages alternative dispute resolution for parties seeking an early resolution of pending litigation through compromise and a peaceable resolution of disputes that might otherwise be heard in family court.



"Women's Safety and Protection Act"

HB 608 intends to clarify and reconcile the meaning of sex, male, female, and related terms in state law and to give protections to women and girls against sexual assault, harassment, and violence in traditionally female spaces.

"Adoption Awareness Act"

SB 312 promotes understanding of contemporary adoption practices and provides for marketing of and education and training for adoption information and resources. HB 236 details the procedures for a courtordered mental health evaluation or a courtordered custody evaluation during a custody or visitation proceeding. "Louisiana Pregnancy and Baby Care Initiative" SB 278 creates a statewide social service program for unplanned pregnancy support, including counseling or mentoring, resource referrals, skill classes, and material items.

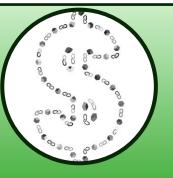
Labor

<u>HB 156</u>	Removes the mandatory 30-minute meal period for each 5-hour work period for minor employees aged 16 or older.
<u>HB 119</u>	Decreases the maximum number of weeks for regular unemployment benefits from 26 weeks to a sliding scale between 12-20 weeks that depends on state unemployment rates. Creates a program for extended unemployment benefits for certain individuals who are participating in an approved training program.
<u>HB 247</u>	Disqualifies individuals who knowingly accepted overpayment of unemployment benefits from future benefits until the fraudulent payments and any imposed penalties are repaid, or until 10 years have passed, and clarifies that overpayment of \$1000 or more is theft and should be referred to the local district attorney.
<u>HB 352</u>	Specifies that an employee's commission, incentive pay, or bonus is only considered an amount due for a final payment after termination if, at the time of separation, the compensation has been earned and not modified in accordance with a written policy.
<u>SB 293</u>	Aligns workforce development programs and funding under a single point of contact and tasks the Louisiana Workforce Commission with coordinating delivery of business workforce solutions through the various state workforce and educational agencies.

Currency



HB 339 Requires non-aviation vendors at airports, such as restaurants or shops, to accept cash payments for consumer purchases in addition to payment cards.



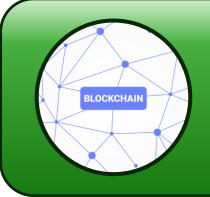
HB 357 Defines a "central bank digital currency" and excludes such currency from the definition of a deposit account.



SB 232 Recognizes any gold or silver coin, specie, or bullion issued by any state or the federal government as legal tender in Louisiana.



HB 5 Requires public colleges and universities to accept cash as a valid method of payment for goods sold at athletic and other public events.



HB 488

- Protects digital asset mining and the use of digital currency or assets.
- Prohibits governing authorities from requiring use, payment, or testing of a central bank digital currency.
- Defines prohibited foreign party and prohibits such parties from owning a digital asset mining business in the state.
- Extends the Virtual Currency Business Act to July 1, 2027.

International Affairs

<u>HB 238</u> restricts any foreign adversary or a 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.

<u>SB 355</u> enacts the "Transparency and Limitations on Foreign Third-Party Litigation Funding Act" that establishes limits on foreign third-party litigation funding.

"Foreign adversary" and "foreign country of concern" is defined 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.



<u>SB 388</u> creates the crime of unlawful entry or reentry into Louisiana by an alien.

SB 208 prohibits a state entity, law enforcement agency, or local governmental entity from adopting an illegal alien sanctuary policy.

<u>SB 133</u> specifies that no rule, regulation, fee, tax, policy, or mandate of any kind by the World Health Organization, United Nations, or the World Economic Forum shall be enforced or implemented by the state of Louisiana or any agency, department, board, commission, political subdivision, governmental entity of the state, parish, municipality, or any other political entity.

Agriculture



HB 670 requires the Department of Agriculture and Forestry to establish a financing program to increase healthy food access in underserved communities by providing funding to health food retailers.



HB 467 defines "raw milk" and establishes labeling, testing, and record-keeping requirements applicable to raw milk sold as animal feed. Allows the commissioner of agriculture and forestry to suspend the sale, distribution, or movement of raw milk that causes a disease outbreak.



HCR 42 requests the LSU and Southern Ag Centers to study and make recommendations on how sugarcane bagasse can be used to provide economic benefits to sugarcane producers through private sector investments.



HB 134 prohibits local governments from enacting regulations by that create differing standards for fuel used in agricultural machinery and fishery equipment from other fuels or machinery.

<u>HB 240</u> creates an inspection fee for commercial weighing and measuring devices for subsequent inspections under the Louisiana Weights and Measures Law. The commissioner of agriculture and forestry may assess a civil penalty that increases for repeated violations. The subsequent inspection fees are:

- Category 1- zero to 1,000 pounds capacity \$00.00;
- Category 2- over 1,000 to 10,000 pounds capacity \$135.00;
- Category 3– over 10,000 pounds capacity \$250.00;
- Mass Flow Meters \$250.00

Forestry

<u>SB 81</u> requires a non-certified prescribed burn manager to provide to the Office of Forestry the location, date, and time of the prescribed burn prior to conducting a prescribed burn. The information submission does not entitle the non-certified prescribed burn manager to a rebuttable presumption of non-negligence. Leaf piles, yard debris, or hand-piled natural vegetation burning does not require a permit.



<u>HB 327</u> requires any person who intends to cut five or more acres of timberland to have a written contract or agreement with the timberland owner, purchaser, or representative.

<u>SB 328</u> requires the state forester to establish a training program for volunteer firefighters regarding proper wildland fighting.

<u>SB 326</u> allows the state forester to establish an educational training program to address post-traumatic stress and to provide emotional support for wildland firefighters.

HB 346 requires the arboricultural and utility arboricultural examinations be compiled from questions submitted by the LSU Agricultural Center, the Southern Agricultural Center, and the Louisiana Arborist Association. Further authorizes the Arborist Association to administer the required continuing training seminar for license renewal.

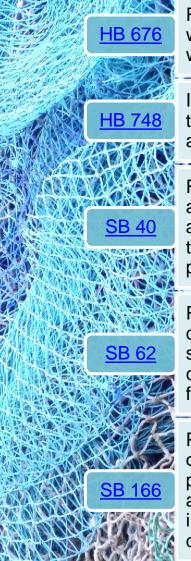
Wildlife & Fisheries

- <u>HB 854</u> adds an exemption to Wildlife Rehabilitation Program (WRP) rules that allows for limited possession of certain sick, injured, or orphaned wildlife that an individual is rehabilitating.
- <u>HCR 6</u> adds an exemption to WRP rules that allows for limited possession of certain sick, injured, or orphaned wildlife that an individual is rehabilitating. Expands WRP training programs by making them available online, and allows for inspection of WRP applicant facilities upon twenty four hour notice by Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF). Prohibits an individual operating under the WRP exemption from using the wildlife for the purposes of exploitation.
- <u>HB 653</u> creates the Commemorative Pet Stamp Program to support the spay and neuter programs of the Louisiana Pet Overpopulation Council.



- <u>HB 795</u> requires the LDWF be reimbursed from the state general fund for any revenue lost from discounted hunting or fishing licenses created by the legislature in the future.
- <u>HB 684</u> establishes a bear hunting license and a bear tag lottery. Dedicates all revenue received from the license sales and lottery application fees to the Black Bear Account.
- <u>HB 661</u> requires all charter captains to have commercial marine insurance coverage. Establishes a fine of at least \$1,000 for a first offense violation.
- <u>HB 540</u> allows charter guides to submit claims for reimbursement from the Fisherman's Gear Compensation and Underwater Obstruction Removal Dedicated Fund Account for commercial gear that is damaged by underwater obstructions.

Seafood



Requires any wholesale/retail or retail seafood dealers that sell imported seafood within the state to obtain an imported seafood license. 90% of the license fee revenue will be used for sampling and testing imported seafood.

Increases the imported seafood safety fee from seafood distributors and processors to \$300 in 2025, \$500 in 2026, \$750 in 2027, and \$1,000 in 2028 and every year after. The proceeds will be used for sampling and testing imported seafood.

Requires the Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism (DCRT) to administer a seafood program that includes the promotion and marketing of Louisiana seafood and the regulation of imported seafood to ensure health and safety. It also transfers the Seafood Safety Task Force to DCRT and specifies the membership, mission and purpose, and meeting requirements of the task force.

Requires DCRT to collect the imported seafood safety fee from processors and distributors and to contract with the Department of Agriculture and Forestry to sample, analyze, and test imported seafood. Also establishes authority for DCRT to collect information and impose fines related to imported seafood that is mislabeled or fails testing. All fines will be used for sampling and testing imported seafood.

Prohibits marketing products using any Louisiana related imagery, phrases, colors, or styles if the products are not genuinely linked to the state's cultural heritage and produced or landed within the state. The commissioner of agriculture shall issue fines and may confiscate products in violation. Requires all state agencies, state institutions, or local school districts operating food service facilities to only utilize domestic shrimp or crawfish.

Natural Resources

Environment

- <u>HB 474</u> requires wetland assimilation project permit holders to post warning signs near wetlands and at the entrances to wildlife management areas where wastewater is discharged. The signs must state "Warning: Treated Wastewater Discharge".
- <u>SB 503</u> creates the Community Air Monitoring Reliability Act to establish standards for monitoring programs to ensure public access to accurate air quality information. Requires community air programs to use the standards provided in federal law and current EPA-approved testing and monitoring methods.
 - Prohibits use of technology and data that is not in compliance with the required testing and monitoring methods for alleging a violation or noncompliance with the Clean Air Act or La. Environmental Quality Act. Requires that data produced by the federally approved programs alone shall not be sufficient to show a violation of the applicable law, and data from community air monitoring programs not in compliance with the federal standards shall not be used to issue a fine, penalty, violation, or for pursuing an enforcement action or proceeding.

Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority

HB 806 adds three at large members appointed by the governor and removes the secretaries of the Department of Transportation and Development and the Department of Economic Development, the commissioners of administration, agriculture, and insurance, and the director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.



Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)

- <u>HB 966</u> authorizes the commissioner of conservation to order unitization for CCS projects for a public and necessary purpose if 75% of the property owners within the area of the proposed unit have consented.
 - Establishes procedures for authorizing unitization, judicial review of unitization orders and terms, and modification of units.
 - Requires property owners within the unit receive just and equitable compensation.
 - Requires notice to all mineral interest owners when an application for a CCS injection well permit is completed.
 - Protects existing agreements from being altered by the unitization order.
 - Requires the commissioner to determine whether the area of review for a CCS project is within a 500 foot radius of a proposed drilling site.
 - Prohibits CCS wells in the unit from being within 500 feet of an inhabited dwelling.
- <u>HB 937</u> clarifies that surface and pore space owners are not liable for claims related to CCS projects just because they are property owners or because they allowed their property to be used for CCS projects.

- <u>HB 516</u> requires CCS operators to record maps of the CCS project in affected parishes.
 - Prohibits a CCS well within 500 feet of schools, inhabited dwellings that don't belong to the CCS operator, and health care facilities.
- Requires CCS operators to have emergency response plans that include continuing training programs and to provide copies of the plan to parish governments.
- Requires CCS operators conduct periodic ground water quality testing and monitoring above the stored CO2 and report to the office of conservation.
- <u>HB 492</u> requires a certificate of public necessity and convenience prior to the exercise of eminent domain for CCS facilities and pipelines, prohibits expropriation of underground storage rights.



HB 934 dedicates 30% of revenue received by the state for CCS projects on Department of Wildlife and Fisheries property to parish governments where the project are located and the remainder of revenue into the Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation Fund.

Energy

<u>HB 810</u>

- Creates three new offices within the Department of Energy and Natural Resources (DENR):
- •The Office of Energy will manage functions and programs related to alternative energy infrastructure and the unified energy data and information program.
- •The Office of Enforcement will inspect the regulated community and enforce laws and regulations within DENR's jurisdiction.
- •The Office of Land and Water will manage state lands and water bottoms, issue energy-related permits and leases on state lands and water bottoms, and manage surface waters of the state.
- Transfers the Office of the Oil Spill Coordinator from the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to DENR.
- Creates the Natural Resources Trust Authority within DENR to manage grants, investments, and financial obligations of the permitted community.
- Adds powers and duties for the secretary, including:
- The deployment and operation of energy infrastructure and an energy and natural resources data and information program.
- Reporting to the legislative oversight committees on whether to keep or terminate each board and commission within the department every four years.
- Removes the independent operation of the Office of Conservation.



HCR 18 urges and requests the Biden administration to end its pause on pending approvals of liquefied natural gas exports.

HCR 64 creates the Clean Hydrogen Task Force to study and make recommendations for growing the clean hydrogen industry in the state of Louisiana.

State Government



Gubernatorial Powers

- <u>SB 462</u> allows the governor to appoint the chairman or presiding member of each board and commission with a majority of gubernatorially-appointed members if the appointment is not prohibited by the Constitution.
- <u>SB 497</u> removes the nominating committee and increases the Board of Ethics membership to 9 gubernatorial appointments, 3 appointments by the Senate, and 3 appointments by the House of Representatives.
- <u>SB 357</u> specifies that either chamber of the legislature may terminate a part, subpart, or entire gubernatorially declared state of emergency by petition signed by a majority of the surviving members of that chamber.

Public Records

- <u>HB 669</u> limits access to judges' personal information.
- <u>HB 268</u> makes a public employee's personal information contained within his personnel records confidential and removes the time limit to hold confidential office of the governor records pertaining to the schedule of the governor, his spouse, or his child that include security details.
- <u>HB 767</u> authorizes a statewide elected official to hold confidential for 7 days records pertaining to the official's schedule that contain security details and limits public records requests of the office of the governor to persons who reside in Louisiana.

HB 971 creates the Ports and Waterways Investment Commission within the Department of Transportation and Development to serve as an advocate for all state ports. Requires a strategic plan and investment program, distinct from the port priority program, to include a list of projects designed to use ports to advance trade and to provide a cost analysis for each project.

HB 845 creates the invitation to negotiate as a method of procuring information technology systems, software, and services and establishes criteria for utilizing the method.

Office of Motor Vehicles (OMV)



Administration

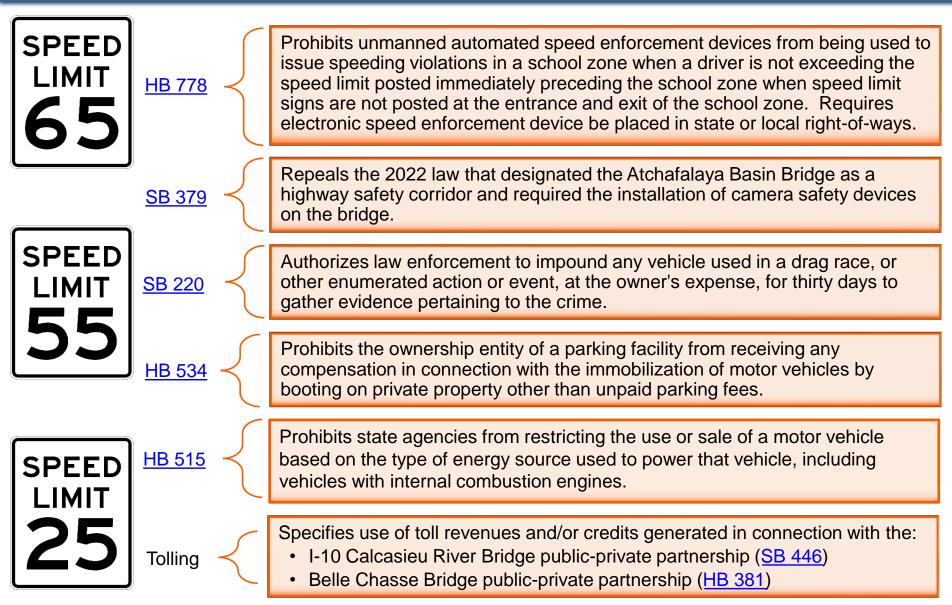
- •<u>HB 384</u> extends the grace period applicable to penalties for lapse of compulsory motor vehicle liability security from five to ten days before issuing a violation.
- •<u>HB 683</u> requires OMV to process reinstatements in person at all field locations, removes the mandate for OMV to refer final delinquent debt to the Office of Debt Recovery, and creates the reinstatement relief program.
- •<u>HB 923</u> requires the OMV Commissioner to establish the rules and regulations for the issuance, suspension, or revocation of private training and driving instructor schools.



Driver's Licenses and Special Identification Cards

- <u>HB 494</u> authorizes the issuance of special identification cards for children ages fourteen through sixteen years of age when accompanied by an adult with whom they live or an adult who works for an agency that assists children.
- <u>SB 236</u> establishes driver's license and special identification designations for persons with a seizure disorder.

Motor Vehicles



Military Affairs

- <u>SB 159</u> creates the Preserving Lawful Utilization of Services for Veterans Act that prohibits compensation for:
 - referring any individual to another person to advise or assist with any veterans' benefits matter;
 - services rendered in connection with a claim filed within the one-year presumptive period of active-duty release;
 - services rendered in connection with a claim for pension benefits.
- <u>SB 245</u> designates the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Veterans Memorial Park in Lake Charles as the "Louisiana Vietnam Veterans Memorial".
- <u>HB 140</u> adds disabled veteran identification cards to the proof of disability acceptable for airports to provide free parking to disabled veterans.
- <u>SB 253</u> specifies that receiving or qualifying for special education courses does not preclude children of military personnel from remote school registration or preliminary enrollment.
- <u>HB 61</u> updates the definition of "period of activation" to any period of state active duty ordered by the governor to receive death and disability benefits for Louisiana National Guardsmen or their beneficiaries.

Survivor Education Benefits

- <u>HB 385</u> decreases the residency requirement to 12 months prior to death to qualify for survivor education benefits and adds eligibility for veterans permanently assigned and reporting for duty to an active, National Guard, or Reserve installation or assignment in Louisiana.
- <u>HB 766</u> increases the yearly funds available to survivor beneficiaries for expenses from \$500 to \$1,000.





Retirement



MUNICIPAL POLICE Employees' Retirement System



• <u>HB 43</u>

- Increases the maximum Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) participation from three to five years.
- Requires the survivor benefits application be received before 120 days after the death of the retiree for the benefits to become effective on the day following the member's death.
- Requires all membership documents be provided to the system before an employee can opt out of MPERS.



Provides employees 30 days from date of employment to opt-out of system participation.

- Sets a three year window for any action or claim against an employer or member to recover delinquent payments, benefits, or damages.
- Requires a 2/3 vote of the board to submit a request to garnish monies available for distribution to a municipality and allows the board to approve delinquent payment plans for up to 15 years.
- Permits purchasing eligible service credit prior to June 30, 2021.
- <u>HB 963</u> decreases the suspended benefit period for reemployed retirees from 12 months to 90 days.

- <u>HB 31</u> provides a 5-year window for anyone who makes the election to participate in the Optional Retirement Plan (ORP) to re-elect to participate in the TRSL defined benefit plan (DBP), on a prospective basis only. The election to participate in the ORP or to move back to the DBP may only be made one time. Active members hired prior to August 1, 2020, participating in the ORP as of June 30, 2024, are allowed to make a one-time election to begin participating in the DBP through June 30, 2025.
- <u>HB 967</u> permits members who retired after July 1, 2020 to be reemployed without a 12-month waiting period or a suspension of benefits, if they are reemployed in a specified position with a critical shortage of properly certified candidates.

Public Employees



Firefighters

- <u>HB 253</u> requires that cancer screenings be provided to certain firefighters and fire service employees.
- <u>HB 413</u> provides for the financial security of surviving spouses and dependent children of firefighters who are Louisiana residents and employed by certain federal agencies.
- <u>HB 807</u> expands the eligibility for the length of service award program to include all qualified firefighters.

Civil Service

- <u>HB 739</u> provides that all officers, employees, and positions with primary duties that include wellness, mental health, or physical fitness are in the unclassified service of the fire and police civil service systems. Also requires the State Examiner to schedule testing and maintain a statewide eligibility list for the following positions: entrance jailer, secretary to the chief, departmental records clerk, and entrance classes for which the operation and maintenance of radio, alarm, or signal systems is the primary duty.
- <u>HB 563</u> and <u>SB 128</u> authorize housing authorities to adopt a resolution to provide that its employees shall not be included in the state civil service.

<u>HB 974</u> authorizes parish and municipal governing authorities to remove library boards of control members and authorizes library boards of control to hire a library director and establish qualifications for the position.

Local Government

- <u>HB 674</u> authorizes a local governing authority to adopt ordinances to address blighted property containing purported collector's automobiles.
- <u>HB 596</u> clarifies the procedures for establishing a home rule charter commission.
- <u>HB 688</u> authorizes mayors and members of governing authorities of certain municipalities to participate in training offered to local government officials.
- <u>HB 461</u> allows local governments to confidentially maintain certain information regarding active economic development negotiations.



- <u>HB 103</u> requires each school board, parish governing authority (of a parish with a population of 250,000 or more), and municipal governing authority (of a municipality with a population of 10,000 or more) to broadcast its public proceedings.
- <u>HB 555</u> authorizes parish and municipal governing authorities to grant exclusive contracts for the collection and disposal of residential garbage and trash throughout the entirety of the territorial jurisdiction.
- <u>SB 500</u> prohibits local sales and use tax on non-gaming incentives or inducements, including room stays, granted by a riverboat or slot machine licensee.

Water and Sewer Systems

• <u>SB 64</u> makes changes to the Water Sector Program, including:



- Mandating that funds deposited into the Water Sector Fund after July 1, 2024, be used solely for grants for repairs, improvements, and consolidation of community water and sewer systems.
- Establishing a detailed process for developing guidance, applications, ratings, and recommendations for new grants awarded after July 1, 2024.
- Requiring grant recipients to provide matching funds unless waived by the commission.
- <u>SB 73</u> Creates the Community Sewerage System Infrastructure Sustainability Act that enacts a community sewerage system accountability process that supports sewerage system infrastructure sustainability.

Utilities and Broadband



Utility Services

- <u>HB 913</u> allows tenants to request a housing provider supply a copy of the original bill for any utility supplied to the unit where the tenant resides.
- <u>HB 927</u> prohibits a parish or municipality from requiring a permit to continue electric services provided to a dwelling when the account holder transfers the account to another person.

Granting Unserved Municipalities Broadband Opportunities (GUMBO)

<u>HB 700</u> requires GUMBO grantees to report all known damage to underground utilities that occur during the construction or installation of broadband infrastructure. Grantees must also provide notice prior to construction activities to the relevant parish and/or municipality. Enacts provisions regarding reimbursement and failure to perform for GUMBO 2.0 grantees. Creates GUMBO 3.0 and GUMBO 4.0 programs in the event there are remaining 2.0 funds.

Cemeteries and Inheritance

Cemeteries

HB 772 grants the Cemetery Response Task Force certain emergency assistance and disaster relief powers, such as property access or rule-making, to direct the reinterment of human remains and mitigate risks to health and safety.

HB 808 authorizes municipal or parochial governments to devote local resources to abating the public health or safety risks of an abandoned cemetery within the jurisdiction of that governing body. Also authorizes the chief elected official of a jurisdiction to abate a public health or safety risk caused by a declared disaster in any local cemetery.

Inheritance

<u>SB 32</u> revises and clarifies the process of and eligibility for a small succession following the passing of a loved one.

<u>SB 49</u> revokes certain benefits payable to a former spouse if the parties were divorced after the beneficiary was designated, they remained divorced at the time of the decedent's passing, and the parties had no agreement in place to expressly provide otherwise.

<u>SB 137</u> allows banks and credit unions to provide an estate or succession representative access to a deceased customer's property or accounts based on a court order from another state.

Elections

HB 114 requires the Department of State to conduct an expanded annual canvass of registered voters.

HB 763 requires legislative notice before implementing federal election directives and/or funds.



HB 154 prohibits distributing any image, audio, or video created or intentionally manipulated to create a realistic but false image, audio, or video of a candidate or affiliate with the intent to deceive a voter or injure the reputation of a known candidate in an election.

<u>SB 255</u> redraws the Supreme Court districts and creates a second majority-minority district.

HB 581 establishes requirements for witnessing election documents.

<u>HB 906</u>

- Increases campaign contribution limits and allows for the attribution and allocation of excess contributions.
- Changes the Supervisory Committee's investigation procedures.
- Increases the daily fine for failure to file or timely file certain financial disclosures with the Board of Ethics.



<u>HB 506</u> requires individuals and entities intending to conduct a voter registration drive to register with the secretary of state.

<u>SCR 2</u> memorializes Congress to call for a convention of states to amend the United States Constitution to establish term limits for the members of congress.

Constitutional Amendments



November 5, 2024

<u>HB 300</u> requires the state to deposit federal revenues generated from Outer Continental Shelf alternative or renewable energy production into the Coastal Protection and Restoration Fund.

December 7, 2024

- <u>HB 48</u> requires the legislature wait at least forty eight hours prior to concurring in a conference committee report or amendments to a bill appropriating money.
- <u>HB 49</u> allows the legislature to extend a regular session in increments of two days up to a maximum of six days if necessary to pass a bill appropriating money.
- <u>SB 119</u> eliminates mandatory tax sales for nonpayment of property taxes and requires the legislature to provide for such procedures by law. It also limits the amount of penalty and interest on delinquent property taxes and allows for the postponement of property tax payments under certain circumstances.
- <u>SB 177</u> increases the membership of the Judiciary Commission, allows the Supreme Court to sanction a judge upon an investigation by the Judiciary Commission, and specifies that the recommended sanction be instituted by the Judiciary Commission or a majority of the Supreme Court.