



# LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

## HOUSE BILL 1

Shreya Kamath

Episcopal High School BR

Sarah Theriot

**TITLE:** Choice for Abortion

### **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

This bill's purpose is to allow women the choice to abort even after a fetal heartbeat is detected. In 2019, Governor Edwards signed the heartbeat bill into law. The law forbids abortion after a fetal heartbeat is detected. The law makes no exceptions for victims of rape or incest. Many women do not realize they are pregnant until five or six weeks into the pregnancy. A fetal heartbeat is detected five or six weeks after the baby is conceived. This means that many women, who are not planning to become pregnant, do not have a chance to abort the baby. The Public Religion Research Institute polled nearly a quarter of Louisiana residents, and they said that they oppose abortion even in rape and incest situations. About 34% of the residents surveyed said that abortion should be legal in most or all cases, while more than half of the residents said abortion should be illegal in most cases. In 2017, there were four clinics providing abortion in Louisiana. Nine thousand nine hundred twenty abortions were provided in Louisiana in 2017, which is a 2% decline from abortions provided in Louisiana in 2014. It should be a woman's choice on whether or not to abort their baby as it is the woman's life that is going to change forever, not someone else's life. Even if the woman is not the victim of a rape or incest pregnancy, she might not have been planning to get pregnant. The women might not have planned to get pregnant because even with precautions such as birth control, birth control is not 100% effective in preventing pregnancy. The point is that all women should have the choice of abortion regardless of what the case is. An important thing to note is that abortions will be banned after 13 weeks which is around the end of the first trimester.

### **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

If passed, this bill will take effect on January 1, 2022.

### **SECTION III: FUNDING**

This bill will not require any money to work as the bill is just giving women the choice to abort their baby. The women would have to pay for the procedure themselves or talk with their medical insurance company to see if the insurance company will pay for a percentage of the procedure since the procedure is technically a procedure requested by the patient.

### **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

If this bill is passed and becomes a law, there will be no consequences for breaking it as this bill gives women the choice to abort their baby. This bill does not force women to abort their babies, and if they choose to keep the baby, then that is up to them.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 2**

3 William Acosta

Lafayette High School

4  
5 **TITLE:** Sexual Health Act

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Allowing all under 21 to obtain condoms, IUDs, reversible vasectomies, birth control, sex therapy, and  
8 other health-related products and services free of charge in state-funded clinics and hospitals will  
9 improve Louisiana's alarming teen pregnancy and STI cases. Louisiana ranks 18 for teen pregnancy cases,  
10 and Baton Rouge is the epicentral city for HIV infections in the country. By creating awareness of sexual  
11 health, children will grow up without stigmatizing sex and be encouraged to learn what goes on in it and  
12 its effects on others.

13  
14 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

15 By implementing and offering sex education, sex therapy, and sexual health products in public clinics, the  
16 state government will educate children on consent, sexual health, and gender identity, thus helping  
17 sensitize children on sexual health and preventing std and STI transmission. This has been done before  
18 at a smaller scale. There was a study was done that proved by letting teenagers obtain free IUDs and  
19 sexual health products and services without parental consent in Colorado, the teen pregnancy rates and  
20 abortion rates fell more than half and freed the state budget of 28 million dollars that would have been  
21 put for child care for low-income families. STIs exist and target those most with the lack of resources and  
22 knowledge of infection and transmission. Thereon, collectively, we need to do better and protect the  
23 youth by providing them with the resources they need to have a healthy sex life.

24  
25 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

26 The funding will come from the existing Health Department budget.

27 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

28 There are no penalties to the benefactors of this bill.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 3**

3 Zoe Hearron            Caddo Magnet High School

4  
5 **TITLE:** The Golden Age Drivers Act

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 People over the age of 70 are automatically at an increased risk to experience symptoms of dementia,  
8 parkinsons, alzheimers, etc.

9 And as the law is now they have to have a physical check every 6 years but the symptoms can develop in  
10 the matter of months

11  
12 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

13 This law would take place starting in January of 2022. Everyone over 70 would have to go get their  
14 license renewed and they would legally have till March 31, 2022 to get their license renewed. They would  
15 have to go to the OMV where there would be a station set up specifically for ages 70 and older for them  
16 to have an eye exam. They would have to have a physical sheet from their doctor that is no older than a  
17 month prior to that date

18 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

19 The people would pay the regular 32.25 to renew their license which would take care of the expenses that  
20 having a specific space might cause. It would also be state funded as well

21 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

22 People caught with an expired license will have a \$250 fine and also have a 30 day license suspension on  
23 first offense. If it is a second offense 60 day license suspension also with a \$250 fine. Third offense is a  
24 license revocation



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 4**

3 Robert Spencer                      University Laboratory School

4 Holden Martin

5 **TITLE:** Medical Information on Drivers Licenses.

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 This bill is important because if a person gets into a car crash for example, and paramedics come. The  
8 patient might be allergic to a certain type of painkiller and have an allergic reaction to it. If there are  
9 disabilities/allergies on the patient's driver's license, then the paramedics have a higher chance of saving  
10 the patient.

11 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

12 The Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles (OMV) will offer an option to include blood type and/or disorders,  
13 diseases, allergies on issued drivers' licenses and identification cards.

14  
15 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

16 There is a small cost to each person getting a new ID. The cost is 10 cents per disability/license, as the  
17 card will need to be reformatted.

18  
19 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

20 There will be no penalty if someone decides not to put their information on the card, as this is optional,  
21 and is not required.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 5**

3 Justina Vo Caddo Magnet High School

4 Zoha Ibrahim

5 **TITLE:** Abolish the Louisiana Death Penalty

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 The Louisiana death penalty is state-sponsored murder that violates human dignity and the 8th  
8 amendment of the US constitution. Louisiana is the incarceration capital of the world, and has been so for  
9 over two decades. The state has executed a total of 28 people since 1976, however, there have been zero  
10 executions within the current decade. This ten year execution hiatus is proof of an unnecessary  
11 punishment that has been rejected due to high costs and popular opinion. By continuing the inherently  
12 torturous practice of capital punishment, the state of Louisiana perpetuates moral disengagement and  
13 disregards the basis of human life. To legitimize this lawful punishment means that the current 65 death  
14 penalty prisoners of the state can be executed due to false confessions, prosecutorial misconduct, and  
15 lack of substantial evidence. Louisiana should set an example of leadership by prioritizing ethics and  
16 reinforcing the idea that every human life has value.

17  
18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 This law would be implemented effective immediately. Current death row prisoners would be resentenced.  
20 Punishment will be decided on a thorough case by case basis, but those who have committed high crimes  
21 of first degree murder, treason, terrorism, or rape will be sentenced to life without parole or probation.  
22 The Louisiana government will cease all new and future purchases of pentobarbital and other execution  
23 drugs.

24  
25 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

26 The costly amount of tax money used for each potential execution will instead be used for the alternative  
27 punishment and reallocation. The death penalty is costliest form of punishment and costs the state a  
28 minimum of approximately \$15.6 million dollars per year.

29  
30  
31 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

32 If there are future unlawful executions, the families of each victim will be compensated the exact amount  
33 of money it took to execute the victim. Furthermore, companies that continue to sell pentobarbital and  
34 other execution drugs in Louisiana will be fined and be at risk for pharmacy licensure revocation.

35



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 6**

3 Arjun Desai                    Caddo Parish Magnet High School

4  
5 **TITLE:** End Food Waste in Attempts to Aid the Environment

6  
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Throughout the great state of Louisiana and around the country, there has been a massive amount of  
9 food waste. Studies show that 40% of the food produced in the New Orleans restaurant industry was  
10 wasted. At the state level, the Louisiana Department of Health estimates that nearly 50% of all food  
11 produced in industries is wasted. Through this bill, we propose that restaurants and schools must end the  
12 massive wasting of food by composting it like done in many other major cities. By composting everything  
13 that can be, we are doing our part in order to limit the release of harmful greenhouse gases, reduce the  
14 strain on the landfill system, and protect the ozone layer. All of this wasted food will be put to good use  
15 in efforts to save the environment. Composted food will be distributed to the Louisiana Department of  
16 Environmental Quality, where the Secretary will determine the allocations of the food compost. The  
17 composted food will be used in order to improve water quality, improve soil quality, and cultivate the  
18 ground for the next set of crops. By doing this, we can end food waste and save the environment in our  
19 great state.

20  
21 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

22 For this bill to effectively take place, first, the distribution of small bins similar to trash bins to every  
23 restaurant and school will occur. Next, a system similar to trash pickup will be implemented and overseen  
24 by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. Finally, all of the compostable material will be  
25 taken to an area of land for composting. If passed, this bill will take effect at the beginning of the 2023  
26 calendar year with distribution and set up starting at the beginning of July of the 2022 calendar year.  
27 Compost pickups at restaurants and schools will take place every Monday.

28  
29 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

30 The implementation of this bill should cost no more than 500,000 dollars at a yearly rate. This only makes  
31 up 0.005% of Louisiana's estimated budget, and is enough to account for transportation, labor wages,  
32 and land use.

33  
34 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

35 No penalties are required for the implementation of this bill.



# LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

## HOUSE BILL 7

Skyler Vandiver Caddo Magnet High School

**TITLE:** Louisiana drivers need to have proof of insurance before starting their car.

### **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

The state of Louisiana needs to enact a law that by 2030 all new cars must have the option to insert a card into the car console that is connected to insurance in order to start the car. Each car will have a place to insert a tiny card similar to that of a credit or debit card that is connected to their insurance so when they insert it into the car the car will start without it it will not. In 2019 it was estimated by the IRC (insurance research council) that 11.7% (iii.org) of drivers were uninsured in Louisiana. This means that if you are involved in a wreck you have an 11.7% chance of being involved with an uninsured driver. This causes many problems as now if you get in a wreck with an uninsured driver there is a chance you don't get compensation. The uninsured driver has the opportunity to be sued but there is a high chance they don't have the money to pay and the insured driver will spend more on a lawyer than they get from the case. This leaves the insured driver to go to your insurance but they can deny claims and leave the insured driver with barely any money to help pay for the wreck not caused by them. The price of insurance is also a big problem and this bill will help solve it by having more people with insurance. According to wallethub.com this is a driving factor in high insurance costs. Overall this bill will reduce any chances of getting in a wreck with an uninsured driver. Finally It will drive down insurance costs which as of now is the highest in the country with average premiums at \$2839 according to insure.com.

### **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

For this bill to take effect the Louisiana government will need to work with private car companies to design a new way of starting your car. Insurance companies would also need to partner with car companies so they know how to design something that shows proof of insurance to the car and the item you use will need to be sent to the user after every insurance renewal. The law would take place by simply having all new cars that are manufactured after 2030 need to have a way to show proof of insurance to start the car. However you are not required to have one of these cars but with time these will be integrated into society ,because all car companies make their items this way, making it the new normal.

### **SECTION III: FUNDING**

There is no money needed from the government to outgo this law because it is not the government's job to design new cars and sell them. The private car companies would integrate this into their cars not involving state money.

### **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

If passed the penalty for not showing any proof of insurance would be that you cannot start your car. There is also no law saying you have to own this type of car, the law only requires the car companies to make this type of car. If Car companies refuse to adjust to this then they just won't be able to sell that specific type of car in Louisiana. If a civilian doesn't have the card there is no punishment by the state but their new car will not function until they get one.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 8**

3 Emma Stone            LSU Laboratory School

4 Sophia Ray

5 **TITLE:** Clear Bag Policy in Public Schools

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Over the past three years, 82 school shootings have taken place in America. Among those shootings,  
8 forty-two people have been killed or injured, including a police officer in a New Orleans school who was  
9 shot and killed at a high school basketball game. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, school shootings have  
10 been on the decline. However, due to the infiltration of students and faculty returning to school, school  
11 shootings have been on the rise with twenty-four taking place in 2021 and sixteen since August 1, 2021.  
12 Since 1970, 1,316 school shootings have occurred. A clear bag policy would reduce the number of people  
13 bringing concealed guns into schools and school events, henceforth reducing the chances of a school  
14 shooting taking place.

15  
16 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

17 Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, all public schools must enforce a clear bag policy for students,  
18 faculty, staff, and visiting members for all school days and school-related events. Small bags and clutches  
19 that do not exceed four by six inches do not have to be clear.

20  
21 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

22 No funding will be needed.

23  
24 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

25 If schools fail to enforce the clear bag policy, then 25% of state funding will be cut until the policy is  
26 enforced.





1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 9**

3 Adriana Albares

Dutchtown High School

4  
5 **TITLE:** The Right to Die

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 According to the American Cancer Society, there are currently 27,880 cancer cases in Louisiana in 2021,  
8 with over 9,380 deaths having occurred. The Alzheimer's Association reports that there are over 92,000  
9 Louisiana citizens (ages 65 and over) that suffer from Alzheimer's. Along with these illnesses, many  
10 Louisianans suffer at the hands of diseases like Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, Parkinson's, and Multiple  
11 Sclerosis. These illnesses often bring pain and suffering, emotional distress, and economic struggle.  
12 Terminal illnesses greatly decrease the quality of life for the afflicted. The thousands upon thousands of  
13 Louisiana citizens dying of illness deserve more options than just suffering. Physician-assisted death  
14 allows for a quick, painless passing. If the patient chooses physician-assisted death, they are provided  
15 with a prescription for barbiturates. The patient has no requirement to take the drugs, but, if they so  
16 choose, they may take them wherever and whenever they want. They are able to pass in the comfort of  
17 their own home, surrounded by their loved ones. The last thing that the patient will remember is falling  
18 asleep. It happens without the suffering and torment that would have likely occurred if they had chosen to  
19 continue. Their families can still remember them as active and independent. They can make the absolute  
20 most of their time with their family before their chosen passing time. Their hospital bills won't pile up, and  
21 they won't have to leave their family in debt. They can pass while they are still physically strong and  
22 mentally stable. Physician assisted-suicide provides the opportunity for peace where there would have  
23 been a pain. Sometimes a better quality of death can lead to a better quality of life.

24  
25 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

26 It is optional for physicians to participate in physician-assisted death. Providers that choose to  
27 participate must be fully educated in the procedure. Patients must be at least eighteen years old,  
28 expected to die within six months as a result of a terminal illness, capable of making personal medical  
29 decisions, and capable of taking medications unassisted. At least two physicians must affirm that these  
30 requirements are met by the patient. The patient is given a prescription, and they receive the medication  
31 on their own.

32  
33 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

34 The bill requires very little additional funding. The patient/their family pays for the procedure, whether it  
35 be paid out-of-pocket or through insurance.

36 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

37 Participation in physician-assisted death by providers is optional, so there are no penalties.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 10**

3 Divanny Arvizu

Caddo Parish Magnet Highschool

4  
5 **TITLE:** Louisiana public schools should not be allowed to use corporal punishment against students.

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Currently in Louisiana, school administrators are allowed to use physical punishment against students as  
8 an alternative for disciplining them. There have been numerous times where psychologists have proven  
9 that resolving an incident by using physical violence towards a child is associated with an increase in  
10 aggression, lower intellectual achievement, antisocial behavior, and much more. Also, school  
11 administrators hitting children causes the child to feel a sense of humiliation and also weakens their  
12 overall confidence and sense of security. Corporal punishment should never be used as an alternative to  
13 solve a behavioral issue. Violence should never be used as a last resort to discipline a child. Corporal  
14 punishment harms the student more than it benefits them.

15 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

16 This law will be enforced starting January 15, 2024. A new school program will not be necessary. The  
17 disciplinary actions that the schools enforce will be revised. If corporal punishment were to be included in  
18 these disciplinary actions, it would be quickly removed.

19 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

20 No funding is required for this act.

21 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

22 School administrators/teachers who violate this act will be suspended from teaching. Also, depending on  
23 the severity of the situation the teacher will possibly be fired from the school.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 11**

3 Patrick Day Catholic High School

4 Lex Landreneau

5 **TITLE:** Huey P Long State Holiday

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Former Governor Huey P Long advanced Louisiana at an unprecedented rate constructing roads, bridges,  
8 hospitals, schools, and state buildings such as the Capitol Building. He increased paved highways in  
9 Louisiana from 331 to 2,301 miles, constructed 2,816 miles of gravel roads, and built 111 bridges.  
10 Louisiana had more highway workers than anyone during the depression. He expanded LSU's buildings,  
11 doubled the size of Tiger Stadium and added the lakes to the campus. Long also created night schools that  
12 taught an estimated 100,000 adults to read. Long also established Louisiana's first rehabilitation program  
13 for penitentiary inmates. Huey P Long shaped much of what Louisiana is today through his devotion to the  
14 state and to its people. For these actions, he is deserving of the eternal respect of the citizens of  
15 Louisiana. To honor this man, we feel it is right to create a state holiday for Huey P Long.

16 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

17 Each year, on the third Monday of June, the governor will make a public announcement to inform the  
18 citizens of Louisiana about the celebration of the Huey P Long Holiday. All nonessential jobs will be  
19 allowed a day of rest to remind themselves of the monumental achievements of the state of Louisiana  
20 under the guidance of Huey P. Long.

21 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

22 There will be no funding required for this bill.

23 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

24 There are no penalties for not participating in Huey P Long Day.

2 HOUSE BILL 12

3 Anderson Krupala University Laboratory School

4 TITLE: The Inclusion of "Specific Groups" under Louisiana Anti-Bullying laws and/or regulations in state-  
5 funded schools.

6 SECTION I: BACKGROUND

7 For the purpose of this bill, "specific groups" will be defined as race, national origin, color, sex (including  
8 sexual orientation and gender identity), age, disability, or religion.

9 Louisiana anti-bullying laws include the following definitions of bullying and cyberbullying:

10 "Bullying" means:

11 (1) A pattern of any one or more of the following:

12 (a) Gestures, including but not limited to obscene gestures and making faces.

13 (b) Written, electronic, or verbal communications, including but not limited to calling names,  
14 threatening harm, taunting, malicious teasing, or spreading untrue rumors. Electronic communication  
15 includes but is not limited to a communication or image transmitted by email, instant message, text  
16 message, blog, or social networking website through the use of a telephone, mobile phone, pager,  
17 computer, or other electronic device.

18 (c) Physical acts, including but not limited to hitting, kicking, pushing, tripping, choking, damaging  
19 personal property, or unauthorized use of personal property.

20 (d) Repeatedly and purposefully shunning or excluding from activities.

21 (2) (a) Where the pattern of behavior as provided in Paragraph (1) is exhibited toward a student, more  
22 than once, by another student or group of students and occurs, or is received by, a student while on  
23 school property, at a school-sponsored or school-related function or activity, in any school bus or van, at  
24 any designated school bus stop, in any other school or private vehicle used to transport students to and  
25 from schools, or any school-sponsored activity or event.

26 (b) The pattern of behavior as provided in Paragraph (1) must have the effect of physically harming a  
27 student, placing the student in reasonable fear of physical harm, damaging a student's property, placing  
28 the student in reasonable fear of damage to the student's property, or must be sufficiently severe,  
29 persistent, and pervasive enough to either create an intimidating or threatening educational environment,  
30 have the effect of substantially interfering with a student's performance in school, or have the effect of  
31 substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

32 "Cyberbullying" is the transmission of any electronic textual, visual, written, or oral communication with  
33 the malicious and willful intent to coerce, abuse, torment, or intimidate a person under the age of  
34 eighteen. La. R.S. I 17:416.13 (2017) <https://www.stopbullying.gov/resources/laws/louisiana>

35 SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

36 The above listed "specific groups" will be protected under Louisiana anti-bullying laws and/or regulations  
37 in state funded schools.

38 SECTION III: FUNDING

39 This bill does not require any funding.

40 SECTION IV: PENALTIES

41 The person who has taken part in these "bullying" will receive a suspension or detention depending on the  
42 severity of the act.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 13**

3 Shiv Banga                   Lafayette High School

4 Evan Patton

5 **TITLE:** Mandate Driving Schools to Provide Stickers Indicating a Beginner Driver

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 In Louisiana, 20% of all crashes involving 15-17 year olds have been fatal. These car crashes can be  
8 caused because of experienced drivers exhibiting road rage, drinking and driving, or just because of the  
9 teenagers' inexperience. Our bill will mandate the driving school to provide a sticker on the back of a  
10 beginner driver's car to ensure their safety and wellbeing. If someone has a learner's permit, they will have  
11 the choice to put the sticker on their vehicle. After viewing the sticker, people will behave cautiously.

12  
13 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

14 This bill will be enacted on January 1, 2022. It will mandate all driving schools to provide stickers that say  
15 "Beginner Driver" on it. It is still up to the parents/family of the driver to decide whether or not they want  
16 to use it. If the family does decide they want the sticker, it will be provided by the driving school. The  
17 sticker will be put on the back of their car ensuring the driver's safety.

18  
19 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

20 The fees for driver's education, as most of us know, are very expensive. Therefore, this bill will not be  
21 charging the beginner driver. The driving school will buy the stickers and distribute them to the drivers.  
22 The driving school may raise fees by \$5 at the most.

23  
24 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

25 If the driving school doesn't provide stickers, they will be charged a fee of \$250. The driver will not be  
26 charged if they don't use the sticker as, for them, this is an opt-in program.



# LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

## HOUSE BILL 14

Shelby Irwin Haynes Academy For Advanced Studies

**TITLE:** Eliminating The Production Of Pennies

### **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

Overtime, the value of the penny has become less and less. Our society has almost completely converted to a system of online payments and card usage. It is common for those in the modern workplace to not know how to count change or deal with cash. Other countries such as New Zealand and Sweden have eliminated the one cent coin. Pennies have gradually been made with smaller amounts of copper and now are only 3% actual copper, the other 97% of the small coin consisting of zinc. The process in which it takes to refine these metals is not only wasteful, but toxic for the environment and humans. The refining process releases toxins such as sulfur dioxide, lead, and zinc into the environment. Along with being bad for the environment, the value of the penny has declined significantly over time. As of 2020, it costs the U.S. Mint \$1.76 to create and distribute pennies, meaning that a penny costs more to be made than it is worth. The solution: demonetizing the penny and stopping the production of pennies in the U.S. Mint.

### **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

This plan will be implemented over the span of 6 months. The first step will be announcing the elimination of both the production and usage of pennies. This may cause some disagreements, as all cash payments will end in 0 or 5, meaning there is a possibility of a slight tax increase on some products. However there is also a chance of the prices of some items going down due to this as well. All card payments will be able to be paid in single cents, a beneficial factor in the online payment system that has taken over our society. Second, the production of the penny will be stopped. The U.S. Mint will announce a day in which the production ends and no pennies will be made from that day on. After the production has come to a stop, people will be given 3 months to exchange their existing banknotes and coins to U.S. banks. In the final month of the process, the U.S. penny will be officially demonetized and pulled from circulation. This plan will cater to the modern forms of currency transactions and eliminate the declining value of the one cent coin, in time also lessening the amount of toxins released into our environment.

### **SECTION III: FUNDING**

No funding is necessary for this bill, as it will actually save the U.S. up to \$85 Million annually.

### **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

No penalties will be implemented, however pennies will not be accepted as a form of payment or currency.



# LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

## HOUSE BILL 15

Riley Posey                    Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

**TITLE:** Look out for Louisiana

### **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

This bill will enforce a “first come” right in government–run shelters for all Louisiana residents who are homeless, victims of domestic violence, or who need a safe place to go. With having no place to go and no job, new immigrants to the state use the resources located for Louisiana’s homeless and less fortunate population. There are 194 pantries and 73 homeless housing programs in Louisiana, this may seem like a large number of shelters, but is limited. These places are very limited with supplies, beds, and basic necessities, making it harder to supply more people the things they need. While you can volunteer to work at these establishments, they are not all run solely off of volunteer organizations, they go through certain organizations which are run through the state and U.S. government. Food banks are running out of supplies quicker, soup kitchens cannot feed all who need it, and shelters are running out of beds. Louisianans are being deprived of their right to go to these shelters and places, which Louisiana tax dollars fund.

If a resident of Louisiana were to need to go to a shelter, they now do not have the assurance that they can stay in a shelter and either have to go back to an already bad situation or or try to find somewhere else to go. Louisiana residents need to be prioritized and be able to still have the reassurance that they can go to a shelter, or food bank, or soup kitchen and be provided what they need before a new resident, like refugees, comes into Louisiana taking up that space.

### **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

This bill, at the earliest, should be set into place starting January 1st, 2022. This gives a start to the building and managing of shelters, soup kitchens, and food banks. This will also allow for these places to be up and running smoothly by May of 2022. Shelters will have to uphold a 70-30 system. With only allowing 30% of their beds to hold incoming immigrants and the remaining 70% going to Louisiana residents, as they are the ones who we are prioritizing.

### **SECTION III: FUNDING**

Funding will be needed to make sure that shelters not only remain intact but are also able to have additions built if needed. This funding can be obtained from the current money these shelters get from the state or local governments and the non–profit organizations, like mission poverty which works to fund and find shelters for the homeless. With the help of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), this helps to increase the amount of shelters, and people, which are able to have a bed to sleep in. Also, the portion of tax payers dollars that go toward these shelters will be used in order to maintain and add to them.

### **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

If the percentage of immigrants exceeds the 30% all who came to stay after the 30% mark was hit must be turned away and given recommended shelters that have the space for them. If a Louisiana needs to stay in a shelter they will be allowed to take the bed of an incoming immigrant who has stayed in the shelter for three consecutive nights.



# LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

## HOUSE BILL 16

Spencer McNeely                      Episcopal School of Acadiana

**TITLE:** Yacht Anti-Hoarding Obligatory Ordinance (YAHOO!)

### **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

With the fiscal imbalance caused by massive spending on the federal level and supply-chain difficulties in the year, Louisiana is at risk of a budget deficit and it is necessary to encourage people to invest their money back into the economy so that the state may prosper from increased cash flow. In 2020, the GDP of Louisiana dropped by 5.5%—over fifteen billion dollars. With many wealthy Louisianans and out-of-state investors hesitant to invest, Louisiana needs to attract economic growth from within the state. To do so, Louisiana must foster an economic environment where it is mathematically more advantageous to invest one's money than keep it liquidated. With inflation at risk of decreasing individuals' purchasing power, it makes sense for the wealthiest Louisianans to lead the charge in using their money to generate more value, more goods, more businesses, more services, and more contributions to our economy. With the wealthiest Louisianans being incentivized to use (as opposed to hoard) their money for the public good, Louisiana as a whole will prosper. This bill is a matter of increasing productivity and discouraging Louisianans from being entrepreneurially apathetic. Instead of purchasing yachts and paintings of yachts, the wealthiest Louisianans can invest in or create businesses.

### **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

- Individuals with a net worth—including trusts and limited-liability corporations—of over \$7,500,000 will be subjected to a tax on liquid assets (cash, marketable securities, etc.). For every liquid dollar above the 10,000,000th dollar, these individuals are to be taxed 0.5% per annum. This tax, per net worth distribution approximations in 2021, will affect around 23,000 people. In total, this will garner the state \$540,000,000 per year. There are several exceptions to this tax rate listed in the following parameters.
- Any asset above the 10,000,000th dollar that is invested in the following will be tax-exempt: commercial real estate, manufacturing equipment, unaffiliated private equity, small business (as defined by Acts 2006, No. 434, I1.), agricultural production, commercial construction, infrastructure development, and scientific research.
- All new small businesses incorporated after the passage of this bill will have an initial period of two fiscal years in which they are exempt from all state and local commercial taxes. This tax cut will cost the state approximately \$150,000,000 per year, leaving this bill with a net gain of \$390,000,000 per year. Shell companies and trusts do not fall under this category.

### **SECTION III: FUNDING**

The execution of this bill will be under the jurisdiction of the Louisiana Department of the Treasury and the Office of Planning and Budget. The Louisiana Department of Revenue will handle the collection of these taxes as done for all other taxes.

### **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

Any violation of this bill will result in state prosecution under existing guidelines for tax fraud and evasion.





# LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

## HOUSE BILL 17

Kathy Hu                    Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

Sophia Horridge

**TITLE:** Different Streams of Revenue to Fund Public Schools

### **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

Louisiana is ranked 48th in the United States for its public education system, a placing that continues to undermine Louisiana's national status and slow our economic growth. In efforts to improve Louisiana's education, this bill focuses on implementing different revenue streams to fund public schools. Compared to most states, Louisiana does not have an effective system in place for funding education. Because of this, the state's public schools are not equipped with the necessary resources to provide students with the appropriate education to thrive in high school and beyond. In fact, 15% of seniors did not graduate high school last year.

Around the country, funding for public schools mainly comes from property taxes. For instance, in New York, around 62.2% of the property taxes are allocated toward schools. In Louisiana, around 43% of funding comes from local property taxes and sales. While some states successfully manage funding schools through property taxes, if not sufficient or distributed ineffectively, those taxes can easily create a cycle of underperforming schools and students. For example, if one district is made up of low-income residents, who most likely rent or lease low-value houses, there is little funding for the schools in the area. Due to the low property taxes, students of that region would not receive as good of an education as students in wealthier neighborhoods.

Instead of only raising property taxes, which could harm all residents, including low-income ones, this bill aims to implement a three-step solution to supply public schools with more funding. The first step is to make alterations to the Homestead Exemption, which is a tax exemption for the first \$75,000 of a home's value. The second step is to slightly raise property taxes while lowering Louisiana's high income and sales taxes, and the third step is to increase funds from the Louisiana lottery to be designated for education.

### **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

This bill consists of a three-step approach that will be enacted beginning January 1, 2022.

Step one is to modify the Homestead Exemption, which, as mentioned before, is a tax exemption for all homeowners. Through the Homestead Exemption, a resident who buys a home in Louisiana is not required to pay property taxes on up to \$75,000 of their home price. Instead of getting rid of the exemption, this bill proposes a solution that protects owners of low-value homes. If a home is worth more than \$200,000, the Homestead Exemption will be eliminated for those homeowners. The revenue collected will be divided among public school districts that have a rating of C or lower.

The second step to this solution is to marginally increase property taxes in all districts while lowering both the sales and income taxes in order to create a more balanced tax system in Louisiana. This will stabilize Louisiana's tax system and provide another stream of revenue for education. Currently, the average homeowner in Louisiana pays \$243 a year or 0.18% of their home's value in property taxes, which is considerably low compared to the rest of the country. With a small rise in property taxes and a

1 modest decrease in sales and income taxes, the difference will not be a major concern for taxpayers. This  
2 way, residents will be paying relatively the same amount of taxes overall, but schools will benefit from the  
3 increase in property taxes.

4 The final step in this bill's plan is to increase the amount of revenue from the Louisiana lottery that is  
5 set aside for public education and regulate the use of the funds more strictly. So far, around 35% of the  
6 lottery's profit is directed towards the Louisiana treasury and the Minimum Foundation Program, which  
7 determines how much money is given to individual school districts. According to state law, schools must  
8 use those funds they receive through MFP for "educational purposes." There are many different uses that  
9 could be classified as educational, such as instruction, facilities, and teacher salaries. This bill will raise  
10 the amount of lottery revenue that will be allocated to schools to 50%. Furthermore, the Louisiana  
11 government will strictly regulate that the money received from lottery profits must be used for additional  
12 educational funding and instruction rather than regular education costs. Oftentimes, schools would use  
13 the money to pay for expenses that schools would have to pay without the increase in money instead of  
14 utilizing the new funds as means to expand school curriculum and education.

### 15 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

16 No funding is necessary for this bill as this bill is reforming the taxes in Louisiana and lottery revenue to  
17 better support the education system.

### 18 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

19 There are no penalties for this bill.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 18**

3 Brennan Coco Catholic High School

4 Jackson Whitlow

5 **TITLE:** Tow and Tell

6  
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Tow trucks haul vehicles, such as those illegally parked on private and public properties. While this system  
9 is a great way to remove illegally parked vehicles, Louisiana is one of thirteen states which aren't required  
10 to notify the vehicle owners about their towed vehicles. Many problems can arise from this, such as the  
11 owner not knowing the whereabouts of their vehicle and possessions. It can also lead to a higher fine to  
12 pay for storage (due to time spent locating the car). Notices must be obligatory to avoid  
13 miscommunication, higher costs, and other issues.

14  
15 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

16 All legally registered cars have license plates. These license plates connect to a database under the  
17 LaOMV (Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles). The only thing required to implement this bill is to grant tow  
18 truck companies access to the LaOMV's license plate database, as this will allow the tow truck company  
19 easy access to a driver's mailing address. Tow truck companies will be required to mail a notice of towing  
20 to the mailing address under the license plate within seven business days of towing the vehicle; failure to  
21 do so will result in a fine. In addition, if the tow truck company fails to send a notice, all fines charged to  
22 the driver would be waived.

23  
24 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

25 The implementation of this bill does not require funding.

26  
27 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

28 Failing to comply with this bill will result in a fine of \$1,000 to the tow companies. For each additional  
29 violation, \$1,000 would be added to the fine.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 19**

3 Hayden Smith                      Catholic High School

4 George Hebert

5 **TITLE:** Homestead Exemption Increase

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 The purpose of this bill is to increase the homestead exemption to \$150,000. A homestead exemption is  
8 when the government reduces how much you have to pay for your property. We need to increase the  
9 exemption because of the rising property value in Louisiana. For example from September 2020 to  
10 September 2021 the property value in Louisiana has increased 9.4%. The increase in the exemption will  
11 allow the working middle-class family to invest more in the housing market, and it will save them money in  
12 the long run that they would need for other expenses. Since the exemption would decrease how much the  
13 government would make a year from property taxes, it would be countered by an increase in how many  
14 people buy properties because it would be cheaper to own them.

15 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

16 To implement this new law, we first need to adjust the old exemption to fit the new values. This would be  
17 very simple to do because it is just adjusting the values to fit what Louisiana needs in 2021.

18 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

19 None

20 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

21 None



# LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

## HOUSE BILL 20

Zoe Bouillion            Lafayette High School

Evy Lecky

**TITLE:** Joining the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact

### **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

The electoral college, as it exists today, fosters undemocratic practices in the election process. It allows candidates to win elections regardless of the will of the people as a candidate can lose the popular vote but still win the election by the electoral vote, which has happened five times in our nation's brief history. In addition, the current practices of the electoral college encourage candidates to focus more on larger swing states than smaller states that reliably vote democrat or republican. This unequal value of votes based on the state in which the voter resides is dangerous as it encourages candidates to prioritize the desires of voters in swing states more than those of others. Statistically, battleground states receive seven percent more of federal grants than spectator states, twice as many presidential disaster declarations, and more exemptions from federal laws or funding initiatives. The desires of each voter should be prioritized equally by candidates which is virtually impossible if the winner-take-all system of the electoral college continues. If passed, our bill would take steps to eliminate the undemocratic practices of the electoral college by joining a compact that has already been entered into by several states, the national popular vote interstate commerce compact. The national popular vote interstate commerce compact is an official agreement between states to award all electoral votes to the popular vote candidate. Essentially, it would ensure that once the majority of electoral votes are held by states in the compact, the popular vote candidate would always win. By implementing this bill, the "middle man", being the electoral college, would be eliminated allowing the people to directly choose who they wish to be president.

### **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

The NPVIC is being entered by states nationwide and this bill proposes that Louisiana, as a state, joins the other states in the compact. Once the bill is passed, Louisiana will be legally obligated to award the entirety of its electoral votes to the candidate that receives the majority of the popular vote. The agreement will only take effect once the majority of electoral votes belong to states who have entered the compact. In addition, even once the bill is passed it is still possible to exit the compact although there are a few restrictions as to when a state would be able to exit. A state is unable to exit the compact within six or less months of the end of a president's term. If a state chooses to withdraw from the compact within this time period, they would not be officially withdrawn until the election ended and the new president and vice president had been elected. The states would still be required to give their electoral votes to the popular vote candidate if they choose to withdraw within six months of the end of a president's term.

### **SECTION III: FUNDING**

There would be no funding required for this bill as it would continue the current system of the electoral college and simply change the way Louisiana's electoral votes would be allocated.

1 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

2 If an elector violated the NPVIC and cast their vote inconsistently with the terms of the agreement, they  
3 would receive the same penalties as electors who violate the faithless elector laws passed by some states.  
4 If an elector violated the terms of the agreement, their votes would be void and the respective electors  
5 would be replaced.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 21**

3 Elliott Eagleton

Catholic High School, BRLA

4  
5 **TITLE:** Further Funding and Establishment For Homeless Shelters

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 The goal for this bill is to further shelter the homeless under the belief of shelter being a basic right and  
8 necessity for all people to prosper. The percentage of homeless residents in the state that are  
9 unsheltered is around 63%, nearly two thirds of the homeless population. Without an increase in the  
10 homeless shelters we have in the state and size and quality of the shelters, this number will not lower,  
11 and without help the homeless won't recover from their poverty.

12 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

13 When the cost of building or buying a property for the homeless shelter is met from our funding, the  
14 property will be built upon or bought. The property to buy or build upon will be decided by unsheltered  
15 homeless population density, with higher population densities having larger and more numerous shelters  
16 and lower population density areas having smaller or less numerous shelters.

17 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

18 This bill will get funding from an increase in income tax from all those with an annual taxable income  
19 higher than \$215,950. Anyone these tax categories would have their income tax raised to be 4% higher  
20 for their income amount over \$215,950.

21 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

22 The penalties of not following this bill will be the same for any form of tax fraud, such as fines up to  
23 \$100,000, up to 5 years in prison, and prosecution costs.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 22**

3 Corbin Nguyen                      Baton Rouge Magnet High School

4 William Barber

5 **TITLE:** To Ban Pretrial Detention

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Louisiana imprisons an alarmingly high percentage of its citizens, holding the highest percentage of its  
8 citizens in prison than any other democracy in the world. This is obviously an issue that means either  
9 Louisiana is a breeding ground for criminals or that it unjustly imprisons a concerning number of people.  
10 Louisiana also has the highest inmate death rate in the nation. This would allow for Louisiana's jails to be  
11 a lot less crowded since 0.5% of all Louisiana citizens are in jail awaiting trial, spending about  
12 \$300,000,000 on pretrial detainees alone. Those eligible for bail would automatically not be held in jail  
13 but would be allowed to go about their daily life before trial. This stays in account with the idea of being  
14 innocent until proven guilty since jail and prison are reserved for those who are supposed to be guilty. It  
15 also would remove the advantage of those who can afford bail over those who cannot. With no pretrial  
16 detention, there is no bail since no one is being held before trial. This bill is to give more humane  
17 treatment to the citizens of Louisiana and uphold innocence until proven guilty.

18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 This bill would go into effect immediately, with all pretrial detainees that are currently being held being  
20 released as soon as possible. Those who would have had to pay bail will now be given a court date on  
21 their day of accusation and then are allowed to go on with their lives until the indicated court date.

22 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

23 This bill requires no funding.

24 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

25 Those prisons and jails that do not abide by this law are to have no additional prisoners or detainees sent  
26 to them and all funding should be reduced.





# LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

## HOUSE BILL 23

Bailey Van Hoogstraten

University Lab School

**TITLE:** Instate a Program Enforcing Mandatory Swim Lessons in Elementary Schools

### **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

Each year approximately 800 children die due to either drowning or a water related death. According to a Red Cross Survey, 61% of kids in the United States are not able to show and perform basic swim safety skills. By not being able to perform these basic skills needed for survival, more and more children will end up dying due to drowning. Louisiana has a number of kids each year that die due to drowning. The last few years have seen an increase in the number of drownings by 60%, from 15 in 2019 to 24 in 2020. By teaching kids to learn how to swim these deaths can be prevented.

### **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

This program will be field tested in a number of school districts across the state. The program will expand to all school districts within the next 5 years. This program will be modeled after the Pools iN SchoolZ program located in New Zealand. A pop-up pool will be delivered and will rotate between four schools throughout the early fall and spring semesters. Pools can also be used during the summertime for schools to provide additional lessons. All swimming instructors will be licensed and certified by the YMCA.

### **SECTION III: FUNDING**

This program will be financed with the help of a federal community development grant aid for schools. State dollars will help supplement. A portion of fees collected from boating and recreation can also be used to help fund these swim pools and pay for swim instructors. There are approximately 317,711 boats registered to licensed boaters in Louisiana. The average fee one has to pay in order to get a boating license is around \$30. If 7% of every boating license is taken from the cost and put forth in place of the program, that money can go to help the funding of this program.

### **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

For schools who do not wish to partake in the swim lesson program, they will have to pay a fee of 200\$ per semester they do not wish to participate in. These fees will end up going towards the funding of this program.



# LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

## HOUSE BILL 24

Lillian Mack                    Lafayette High School

Rumaan Baloch

**TITLE:** Ensure Student Success in Society

### **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

The state of Louisiana has two options for graduation pathways. The TOPS University program, which prepares students to enroll in a 4-year college or university, has certain required credits in order to graduate under the program, one which being 1.5 credits of Physical Education, or a Physical Education equivalent, such as Marching Band, Cheerleading, or other athletics, and 0.5 credits of health education. The JUMPSTART, or TOPS Tech program provides a pathway that leads to better preparation for technical schools or immediate entrance into the workforce. The TOPS tech program also requires 1.5 credits of Physical education or its equivalent and 0.5 credits of health education. If a student following either pathway does not complete these credits, they are not allowed to graduate. These general physical education classes, in a lot of cases, consist of students sitting up against the gym walls on their phones. The health classes on the other hand mostly include discussions of fatal diseases and extreme scenarios, but not much information regarding common occurrences or effective ways to deal with mental or physical illnesses. Those same classes are often taught by teachers who aren't well versed in the curriculum, leading to even more information not being covered adequately. The current format of our health and physical education classes rarely provides any lasting information to the students that they are applied to. The youth of our state, in comparison to other states, are not nearly as adequately prepared to enter the workforce and function as contributing members of society. Through the passage of this bill, perhaps our state will produce more self-sufficient and economically literate individuals.

### **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

With the implementation of this bill, PE coaches that are already involved in the schools will simply undergo training to better equip them to teach children essential life skills. The cost of this funding will be covered by the state government, while the cost of any learning resources, such as books and other materials, will be included as part of each district's material funding. Each district will have the ability to utilize their own choice of curriculum, as long as specific key points are addressed, which will be determined by the Louisiana Department of Education following the passage of this bill. The expected period of implementation would likely be over a span of 2 to 3 years, as each district slowly begins to shift their curriculum. Throughout this process, representatives from the state will be available to guide districts to implement this program effectively and efficiently. Essential parts that must be included are Explanation of taxes, budgeting, family planning, home owning, resume writing, and professional appearances. The goal of this program is to foster the growth of Louisiana's future through teaching the youth important information for success in society.

### **SECTION III: FUNDING**

There will be no need to hire new teachers, since current PE coaches will simply be teaching a new curriculum. The only thing that needs to be funded is the implementation of a Life Skills curriculum, which can be allocated from other areas of funding, such as surplus materials and resources such as health

1 books. Because the current health curriculum is severely outdated and lacking crucial information, the  
2 creation of a Life Skills curriculum for all public school systems will address these points, with very  
3 minimal funding outside of the funding that is already apportioned to Health and Physical Education  
4 classes. If there is a need for additional funding, a small tax could be proposed or reapportionment from  
5 other areas will be considered in the future.

#### 6 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

7 If a district chooses not to implement these required classes, the state will schedule a district observation  
8 to see what exactly the district needs in order to successfully implement these courses. The district will  
9 allocate what the schools need in order to better implement this program, and if the district still isn't  
10 implementing the courses, then a fine of \$75,000-\$100,000 will be applied to the district, depending on  
11 the district's socioeconomic status. Not only will these material consequences fall upon schools, but  
12 students will not receive the life skills that they need to succeed in society. If school districts choose not  
13 to implement this program, not only will they have to pay a fine, but the future of their parish will fall  
14 behind in crucial skills.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 25**

3 Paul Pittman Woodlawn High School

4  
5 **TITLE: It's Just Forced Community Service**

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Louisiana is the 6th most crime ridden state in the country, this is a problem, we need to clean up our  
8 cities and instill a good work ethic to discourage further crime. If we gave another option aside from  
9 standard confinement we could put another barrier between gang connections, which often occur in  
10 prison.

11 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

12 In addition to the normal sentencing for violent crimes, another option could be presented to the judge  
13 similar to community service, though gang membership or charges of organized crime would make it  
14 mandatory. The criminal would be processed through jail before being assigned to a work team in their  
15 city. The criminals would be housed in the prison they are processed through at night, but during the day  
16 they would be required to work on sectors of infrastructure or economy chosen by a popular vote, with a  
17 new vote occurring every year. This work could range from disaster relief, construction, agrarian fields, or  
18 road maintenance. For greater efficiency foreman would be chosen from the criminals based on another  
19 community vote, occurring every 6 months. To prevent the convicts from escaping their sentence or  
20 misusing their time additional police officers would be assigned to enforce the sentence. The sentences  
21 for this work would be the average of the minimum and maximum prison sentence halved.

22 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

23 The money for this program would be diverted from the funds for our prison system proportional to the  
24 ratio of working inmates to those serving regular sentences.

25 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

26 Any attempt at escape would result in an year being added to the sentence, any minor misdemeanors  
27 would increase the sentence by 2 weeks. Major misdemeanors would result in 1 month being added to the  
28 sentence.

29



# LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

## HOUSE BILL 26

Faiza Filali Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies

**TITLE:** An Act to Broaden the Mindsets of Louisiana Students through a Reimagined Curriculum

### SECTION I: BACKGROUND

As of July of 2021, the national list ranking the quality of education in public schools by state places the state of Louisiana at fiftieth. With nearly a quarter of high school students failing to graduate, a national ranking of 49th in percentage of college graduates, and lack of education spending, it can clearly be established that the focus necessary for improving the status of our education is lacking and the effects of this are growing exponentially present in our communities. The products of this same system are also subject to a 38.1% rate of obesity, 21.9 % smoking rate, and 11% premature death rate, and are likely aggravated by being subject to the nation's highest poverty rate (19%).

When polled over these statistics, one common sentiment arose: how would people be responsible for fixing any of these if they were never taught about it? This legislation proposes that there is an introduction of mandated courses tailored to education on the local, regional, national, and international crises we face into the high school curriculum to allow for this generation to be given both more time and resources to understand the herculean task they face.

### SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This legislation would have both state and regional (parish) education legislatures meet together prior to the beginning of a new school season, and evaluate the global, national, state-level, and regional problems we face. The problems chosen should both reflect on problems discussed at the United Nations General Assembly, Congressional meetings, and local and regional elections held to address what matters are most important to the citizens in order to provide Louisiana students with access to a less limited worldview. The results of these pursuits will then be manipulated and formatted to match what matters are most pressing in that specific area. Though this program is aimed at mainly public schools, all other schools and districts are more than welcome to implement similar opportunities.

The next step, implementation in schools, will require division of time between traditional courses and these newer ones. In terms of timing and rescheduling school days, those decisions will be subject to the jurisdiction of each individual school. Students will pursue a traditional high school education till their sophomore or secondary year of high school and then be offered the choice of pursuing this path. All students will be mandated to take the more general aspects of this course in order to maintain a global standard of education. Students who favor this path or find success in it will be given the opportunity to pursue either a specific set of studies in this path or simply a more devoted education path to it. Schools will also offer clubs and societies devoted to students who show peak interest in these challenges. Field trips will be scheduled for all students to experience their education in more realistic situations.

### SECTION III: FUNDING

There will be a 1.75% tax increase in order to initially fund the development of a curriculum for this program. Parishes are welcome to raise funding for their respective Departments of Education in order to reduce the drasticity of this tax increase. Funding in general for this bill will initially vary based on the

1 amount of money already allocated to education in that region. It does deserve to be noted that the  
2 funding necessary for this program will decrease as time passes. This is a reflection of the fact that the  
3 heightened initial cost takes into account the creation of the curriculum and it's facilities and it's  
4 implementation into every school. As the years progress, the cost will only reflect yearly maintenance of  
5 the programs and administering updates to the program every five years.

#### 6 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

7 Parishes that fail to participate in either the development or the implementation of these educational  
8 decrees will be mandated to donate 4.5% of their annual income to a charity benefiting one of these  
9 dilemmas every year until they comply with the program.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 27**

3 Kaci Cook                    Haynes Academy

4  
5 **TITLE:** Amending the Sex Offender Registry

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Trigger Warning: This bill contains mentions of rape and sexual violence.

8 According to current Louisiana law, people convicted of aggravated and forcible rape are required to  
9 register as sex offenders. Those that are convicted of simple rape or sexual battery however, are only  
10 required to register in the most extreme of circumstances. Although it is called "simple" rape, it refers to  
11 non-consensual intercourse when the victim is intoxicated. Currently, all people who have been convicted  
12 of a sex crime against a minor must register. This means that those who are 18 or older do not have  
13 knowledge of all possible attackers. On top of that, only those that meet these requirements after 1997  
14 must register. Meaning that if someone was convicted of a sex crime that meets these requirements in  
15 1996 they would not be on the registry.

16 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

17 This bill would change the sex offender registry to include anyone in the state who has been convicted of  
18 any sort of sex crime at any time in their life. All offenders will be required to register no more than a  
19 week after their conviction, and they must re-register every year on the anniversary of this conviction.  
20 The punishment for failing to do so will be handled in the penalties section of this bill.

21 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

22 This bill requires no funding.

23 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

24 Penalties for not registering will be handled by the Louisiana Department of Justice. As before, they will be  
25 fined no more than one thousand dollars, and be imprisoned with hard labor for no more than two years.  
26 There will be no benefit of parole, probation, or suspension of sentence. These penalties will not change.  
27  
28



1 LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

2 HOUSE BILL 28

3 Lafayette High School

4  
5 **TITLE:** Return Schools to a Hybrid Schedule for Grades 9 and Above.

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 It is a well known fact in the state of Louisiana that we are ranked last in education in The United States  
8 of America. Due to the threat of Covid-19, high schools in Lafayette Parish and other parishes were put  
9 on a hybrid Schedule where students would go to school 2 days out of the week, with alternating Fridays.  
10 Going back to a hybrid schedule allows more flexibility than in person class, which allows students to  
11 pursue beneficial activities on virtual days. It gives high school students more preparation for college,  
12 because in college most work is not done inside the classroom, but instead outside of school. This  
13 curriculum provides deeper learning to students, because virtual learning requires students to learn  
14 outside the classroom and on their own time.

15 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

16 This bill would go into effect during the upcoming 2022/2023 school year. School will continue its normal  
17 course on Monday, Wednesday, and every other Friday for all students that attend high school. Tuesdays  
18 and Thursdays will be virtual learning days for students, teachers will be required to assign at least one  
19 assignment during each of the virtual days and have a minimum of 6 office hours. This allows students to  
20 have a flexible schedule for their school week.

21 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

22 Funding will be needed for Chromebooks and internet for students that need them for virtual learning  
23 days. Furthermore, financial assistance will be given for students who can not afford lunch on both virtual  
24 and school days.

25 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

26 Standard penalties for absences will apply for both virtual and in-person learning days. Parents will receive  
27 normal fines for not ensuring the child gets to school on these days.





1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 29**

3 Charles Swan            Neville High School

4  
5 **TITLE:** Removal of the Statute of Limitations regarding Sexual Assault.

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 The objective of this bill is to put into effect the removal of the statute of limitations on all sexual assault  
8 crimes, which is currently ten years in the state of Louisiana. This will remove the limit of time on any  
9 sexual assault case, therefore preventing the case from being rushed. It would also allow more time to get  
10 evidence for the alleged sexual assault, and would ensure justice for either the victim or the accused, (in  
11 case of false accusations).

12 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

13 For this bill to be implemented, as soon as it [the bill] is approved, all sexual assault cases closed on  
14 account of the time limit running out will be reopened if the victim is interested in still pursuing. If not the  
15 case will stay closed. Any cases after the bill is approved, will be pursued until either 1. The victim decides  
16 not to pursue charges anymore or 2. The investigation decides they have enough evidence to go into legal  
17 procedures. This bill will go into effect on the 1st January, 2022.

18 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

19 This bill doesn't require any funding.

20 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

21 If any detective/officer is found intentionally rushing the case to get it over with, IA (Internal Affairs) will  
22 start an investigation in that specific police department and it will be up to them from that point to find  
23 adequate punishment. If any alleged victim is proven to have falsely accused the accused, he/she will be  
24 subject to fines up to one thousand dollars, or jail time decided by the judge.

25



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 30**

3 Linden Justus            Neville High School

4  
5 **TITLE:** Reform Mandatory Minimum Sentences for Nonviolent Drug Crimes

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 The Proposed bill aims to reform mandatory minimum sentencing in Louisiana, specifically in the area of  
8 nonviolent drug offences without intent to distribute. A mandatory minimum sentence is a required  
9 amount of time for individuals facing certain charges to serve in prison set by congress and not by the  
10 judge presiding over the case. According to the United States government 55.7 percent of all incarcerated  
11 individuals within the United States prison system are serving mandatory minimum sentences. Most of  
12 these are due to non-violent drug abuses. Unfortunately according to the Bureau of Justice over two  
13 thirds of individuals arrested for drug crimes are arrested again within three years of being released. This  
14 bill aims to send people arrested for non-violent drug offences without intent to distribute to rehab  
15 instead of prison to combat the issue of overcrowding in our prisons. Each inmate costs 16,251\$ to  
16 house per year while it would only take roughly 14,000\$ to put an inmate in rehab for a 60 day program.

17 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

18 We need to reform the congressional order to make it so charged individuals are sent to mandatory rehab  
19 instead of being sent to prison to stop overcrowding. The bill should come into effect on January 1st  
20 2022

21 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

22 For a 60 day program it would cost roughly 14,000\$ to send one person to rehab

23 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

24 There are no applicable penalties.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 31**

3 Aniya Iseah                    Neville High School

4  
5 **TITLE:** Require all Louisiana colleges admissions to remove application fees.

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 I want all Louisiana colleges to omit application fees. People pay money to apply when they don't even  
8 know if they will get in or not. If you are already pay \$75 for an application fee what is that \$75 going to  
9 do if there's tuition? To put this in context, suppose you are applying to five different schools. If three  
10 have \$50 application fees and two have \$75 application fees, you'll be spending \$300 on applications  
11 alone. (And that doesn't include the cost of any ACT or SAT scores you might send as well.) That's not  
12 small change for most people, so application fees are something you might take into account in your  
13 college search process.(NAACP)

14 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

15 I would like this bill to take effect January 1,2022

16 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

17 There's no funding needed.

18 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

19 The consequences for breaking this law, if passed, would be the person that is over the applications for  
20 the certain major would get a warning for the first time then they would get  
21 Removed from their position.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 32**

3 Henry Hackenberg                    university laboratory school

4 Dayton Wanaka

5 **TITLE:** Mental Health Security and Firearms Safety Act

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 This bill provides for new requirements for purchasing firearms and legal ownership of firearms, provides  
8 methods for determining the mental health of a firearm owner, provides for the creation or modification  
9 of a state registry, provides for a new tax for those refusing to participate in mental health screening,  
10 and provides for the enforcement of local gun dealers compliance.

11 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

12 This bill applies to both any transfer of gun ownership amongst private parties and new purchases of  
13 firearms from a licensed gun dealer, manufacturer, or importer.

14 It shall be unlawful for any person who is not a licensed importer, licensed manufacturer, or licensed  
15 dealer to transfer a firearm to any other person who is not so licensed, unless a licensed importer,  
16 licensed manufacturer, or licensed dealer has first taken possession of the firearm for the purpose of  
17 complying with this law.

18 No person should take ownership through transfer or purchase without first either

19 Paying a tax of 75% or higher, or

20 Obtaining a valid mental health exam from a licensed and unrelated certified Board Certified Psychiatrist.

21 The Louisiana Department of Health shall implement regulations defining the minimum gun ownership  
22 mental health requirements.

23 The Louisiana Department of Health shall implement a statewide system of registering those who have  
24 completed the firearm health screening

25 The records of the individual's screening results shall be maintained for 10 years or upon customer  
26 request, destroyed after purchase.

27 This statewide system must pass the most strictly available security procedures to prevent unauthorized  
28 access.

29 The Louisiana Department of Health shall promulgate regulations and procedures for random checks or  
30 businesses including undercover agents that purchase firearms to check compliance.

31 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

32 gun tax, fines and penalties.

33 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

34 Unauthorized access to the mental health database can result in a minimum of 7 years in prison.

35 Any licensed gun dealer, manufacturer, or importer who fails to comply with this law will be revoked of  
36 their business license and fined 100,000 USD per violation.

37 Any individual who knowingly transfers a firearm to another private party in violation of this law will be  
38 subject to firearm seizure and possible retrieval if the laws regulations are followed along with a  
39 5,000USD fine.

- 1 Any willful falsification of the firearm mental health exam will result in immediate license termination of
- 2 the psychiatrist who issued it.



# LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

## HOUSE BILL 33

Landri Domingue

Dutchtown High School

**TITLE:** Increased Wage Transparency to Ensure Equal Pay in Louisiana

### **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

In the last few decades women's labor force participation has grown significantly. Women are working longer hours and pursuing higher level education in greater numbers. However, even through these changes the gender pay gap remains the same. The gender pay gap refers to the change in earnings between full time working women and full time working men. Nationwide, full time working women only make 81 cents for every dollar full time working men make. Louisiana, however, has the highest gender pay gap in the entire nation. In Louisiana, full time working women only make 69 cents for every dollar a full time working man makes. Although women are claimed to be equal in the workplace, the pay gap has only closed by 4 cents in the last decade. It is estimated at this rate equal pay regardless of gender will not be obtained until 2059. 39 years may not sound like long, but women have been promised not to be discriminated against in the workplace based on gender for 57 years. The Equal Pay Act of 1963 made pay discriminations in the same workplace for similar jobs illegal based on gender. Although this law was passed 57 years ago there is still a gender pay gap present. The Equal Rights Act of 1964 banned pay discrimination due to race, color, religion, gender, or national origin. This bill will not only fight gender based pay inequality, but also racial based pay inequality, ethnicity based pay inequality, and all forms of pay inequality. Employees know they are entitled to a fair wage regardless of their gender, race, or ethnicity, the question, however, remains, how do I know I'm getting paid the same? One of the main reasons there is still a pay gap is that it is near to impossible to know you are getting paid less. This bill will require companies and corporations to disclose to employees pay statics. Currently companies can disclose wages as it is part of their freedom of speech, however it is currently up to the company to do this and many do not. By making it required that companies show how much they pay for jobs and a general range of pay, ensuring no one gets paid more or less based solely on outside factors is possible. The purpose of this bill is to increase wage transparency to ensure pay equality regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, and national origin, among other factors.

### **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

This bill will be enacted on January 1st, 2021. All employees of a company or cooperation along with anyone offered a job at said company/cooperation is entitled to the knowledge of pay range of that particular job or title. The pay statics information will follow this outline: Job Position, Years of Experience, Years at Company, and Annual Salary. The employers must present employees with the pay statics but can not give out any further information, including but not limited to name, gender, age, and any person information.

### **SECTION III: FUNDING**

There is no funding necessary for this bill.

### **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

Any company or corporation that does not make pay statics available to workers will result in a warning

1 the first offense with a deadline for the company to implement the bill. The US Census Bureau classified  
2 any company with less than 500 workers a small company and any company with more than 500 workers  
3 a large company. The second offense will be a fine of \$50,000 for a small company and \$100,000 for a  
4 large company. A third offense will be a fine of \$100,000 for a small company and \$200,000 for a large  
5 company and/or further legal action. Additional penalties can be given if individual names are disclosed  
6 without the consent of the employee. Penalties include a fine ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000 depending  
7 on severity of disclosures.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 34**

3 Brianna Martin                      Neville High School

4 Sophia Bonin

5 **TITLE:** To allow Mental Health Days in school

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Mental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well being

8 The rise of mental health problems rises mostly in students ranging from the ages of 14-17. Mental  
9 health has been a cause of dropping grades and less productivity. Our bill is aimed at helping students  
10 who suffer from many mental health problems such as deep depression or others who may suffer from  
11 severe anxiety, Our. bill is to get people who do suffer days off from school because school tends to only  
12 add on to the things that may be going on with a certain person. . "World Health Organization, According  
13 to the World Health Organization "An estimated 10-20% of adolescents globally experience mental health  
14 conditions,

15 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

16 This law should be implemented in the 2022-2023 school year.

17 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

18 No funding needed

19 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

20 There are no penalties needed





1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 35**

3 Sydney Davis            Neville High School

4  
5 **TITLE:** to make false accusations of a crime have a harsher punishment.

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 False accusations are allegations of wrongdoing that are not true. An estimated 1 percent of the US  
8 prisons population, approximately 20,000 people, are falsely convicted. In fact, since the late 1980s  
9 there have been as many as 850 exonerations nationwide according University of Michigan law professor  
10 Samuel Gross, a leading researcher in the field. Exonerations are the action of officially absolving from  
11 blame; vindication. My bill comes from the problem of people falsely accusing others of something they  
12 didn't do. Some of those people who are falsely accused face jail time. It's not common for them to face  
13 jail time but it's also not rare. That's the problem. Meanwhile, the false accusers rarely face a significant  
14 punishment, sometimes they don't face any punishments. That's not right. I believe that false accusers  
15 should face harsher punishments, since these people they are accusing of a crime could sometimes (if  
16 declared guilty) face life in prison.

17 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

18 This bill will be enacted upon successful submission on January 1, 2022.

19 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

20 No funding is needed. Prison is a revolving circle.

21 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

22 There would be no penalties.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 36**

3 Arianna Lee            Neville High School

4  
5 **TITLE:** Schools need to re-implement cursive writing in their curriculum.

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Cursive writing is a form or an art of writing that we all need to know how to use. It has become less and  
8 less common. The word "Cursive" means written with the characters joined. The problem that I would like  
9 my bill to solve is not knowing how to legally write in cursive and also not knowing how to write  
10 professionally in cursive. Many signatures by doctors, lawyers, and other important people are scribbled  
11 because they don't know how to properly write their signature. Common Core dropped the requirement for  
12 it to be taught in public elementary schools in 2010 (The NYTimes Emily S. Reub April 13, 2019). This bill  
13 can change the way people write for better understanding. In 2010 the state of Louisiana took cursive  
14 writing out of the curriculum because it was considered "a waste of time" In 2016 Louisiana passed a law  
15 to bring cursive writing back into the curriculum, but it was not implemented. In 2017 Governor John B.  
16 Edwards formed a law that required Louisiana public schools to teach cursive starting in grades 4 through  
17 12. It has not yet been implemented.

18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 For this bill to take effect the Legislature of Louisiana would have to say that it is necessary. The  
20 percentage of people in Louisiana that feel cursive is important and should be introduced back into the  
21 curriculum should take a vote. It could be used as support to passing the law or not passing the law. The  
22 law could take place the following school year and when teachers include cursive in their lesson plans.  
23 Teachers of Louisiana are required to have objectives when teaching their classes. Teachers in Louisiana  
24 go through observations and when these observations are in place this needs to be one of the things  
25 looked at.

26 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

27 Most states that have a bill for cursive writing don't provide the funding to help implement the bill. The  
28 state of Louisiana will not need funding to implement this bill.

29 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

30 There aren't any penalties for this bill not being followed. It is more of a required thing that teachers will  
31 have to use.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 37**

3 Glynnes Hill Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

4 Isabella Civello

5 **TITLE:** Banning aspartame

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Aspartame will be banned in food products made in Louisiana. Aspartame is a low-calorie sugar  
8 substitute, and it is used in many "sugar-free" products, including sodas, candies, gum, and sugar  
9 substitutes such as "Equal". Aspartame has been previously banned by the FDA and is currently banned in  
10 Japan. New Mexico, Hawai'i, and the Philippines have all made attempts to ban aspartame as well.  
11 Scientific studies connect aspartame to seizures, depression, Alzheimer's disease, and cancer, among  
12 other health issues. Because of its negative effects, removing the manufacturing of foods with aspartame  
13 will positively impact the Louisiana community and any other communities to which these foods are sent  
14 to.

15 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

16 5 years will be given to Louisiana-based food manufacturers to discontinue the use of aspartame in their  
17 products and foods.

18 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

19 This bill will require no funding.

20 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

21 Any company that refuses to comply will be fined 5% of their product's income per month until they  
22 comply with this bill.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 38**

3 Kaenan Marquette

Lakeshore High School

4  
5 **TITLE: What Is An Essential Service?**

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 During the COVID-19 pandemic, many businesses closed down as a result of quarantines and lockdown.  
8 Not among these businesses were hospitals, homeless shelters, grocery stores, pharmacies, etc. But what  
9 qualifies as an essential service? That answer would vary from person to person, but the general  
10 consensus is something necessary. But who decides what is necessary? To those with faith, following  
11 their religion is a way of life they cannot live without, especially during a pandemic, where the escape  
12 from the dangerous outside world could be found in faith.

13 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

14 Should this bill pass, churches will be added to the list of essential services allowed to stay open during a  
15 pandemic. This means, in the event of another pandemic or a COVID-19 resurgence, churches would be  
16 allowed to stay open, just like hospitals, grocery stores, etc. Churches will be allowed to close should they  
17 decide to, but the option will be given if this bill were to pass. However, churches will not be required to  
18 close as they were during COVID-19.

19 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

20 There would be no need for funding, as the individual church would continue being supplemented by  
21 donations, as usual. If church funds decrease due to less visitors, it will be up to the individual church to  
22 decide what to do.

23 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

24 If a state, county, parish, city, etc. refuse to give individual churches the right to decide whether they  
25 close or remain open, they will be fined up to 500,000 dollars and the matter may be taken to court.



# LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

## HOUSE BILL 39

Julie Russell Woodlawn High School

Holden Schneider

**TITLE:** Sex Ed for Dummies

### **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

The state of Louisiana is currently ranked 3rd highest in the country for teen pregnancy with 27.8 pregnancies per 1,000 teens (aged 15-19). Another significant problem facing teens today is the frequency of sexual assault. 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys will be sexually assaulted before the age of 18. 46.3% of these girls and over 35% of these boys report being sexually assaulted by a peer.

Building community awareness surrounding sexual health-- both physical and emotional-- is the first step in preventing self-harming behavior and dating violence, delaying sexual initiation, and reducing teen pregnancy and the transmission of STIs.

The state of Louisiana does not currently require sex education instruction in schools. In states like Vermont and New Hampshire, where sexual health education is a requirement, the teen pregnancy rate is less than 8 per 1,000 teens. These states also work to prioritize inclusivity and emotional health in the sex ed curriculum. Not requiring public schools to offer sex education does teenagers a disservice by making them less capable of making healthy and safe sexual decisions.

Wouldn't you rather know that your child is capable of setting healthy relationship boundaries and practicing safe sex than watch them grapple with the emotional and physical consequences of unsafe sex?

### **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

Starting with the 2022-2023 school year, Louisiana public schools will be required to integrate a new, comprehensive sexual health education curriculum into pre-existing health courses. The information/resources provided by this implementation will include:

- the option for parents to opt their children out (with documentation of a valid reason)
- counseling for LGBT students as well as students who have been affected by sexual assault or relationship violence
- extensive, evidence based sexual health education that includes:
  - ALL types of medically accurate sexual anatomy (biologically male & female, intersex, transitioned male & female, etc.)
  - mechanics of ALL types of sexual behavior (heterosexual sex, homosexual sex, oral sex, sexual violence/abuse, etc.)
  - preventing unsafe sex AND practicing healthy, safe sex
  - sexually transmitted infections/diseases
  - emotional aspects of teenage relationships and sexual behavior
  - discussion based learning

### **SECTION III: FUNDING**

1 This program is intended to replace aspects of pre-existing health education courses. Funding should  
2 therefore be available by reallocating funds from the old curriculum to the new.

3 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

4 n/a



# LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

## HOUSE BILL 40

Vaishnavi Kumbala Haynes Academy

**TITLE:** Implement Daily Mental Health Support In Public Schools

### **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

As Louisiana begins to recover after COVID-19 and numerous hurricanes, it has become increasingly evident that mental health disorders are becoming more common among the state's youth. High schools are often a breeding ground for stress, feelings of inadequacy, and mental health disorders, since deadlines, tests, and expectations of attending a prestigious university only cause anxiety in adolescents to spike further. A study from Yale University found that 75% of students that participated in the study had negative feelings towards school. While some public schools have guidance counselors, students may not seek help out of fear that they will be judged, miss class, or there may be a low counselor-to-student ratio, making it harder for them to receive help. For example, data from the National Association of College Counseling shows that the rate of students-to-counselors has been declining in Louisiana. Providing time during the school day for students to prioritize their mental health will create a safer, more welcoming environment for students. Additionally, many students in public schools are not taught valuable life skills and techniques that help them manage their workload and anxiety. A report from the World Government Summit shows that positive education programs implemented in schools in Bhutan, Peru, Australia, and Mexico have been linked to significantly improved test scores and well-being among students; research from the Harvard Graduate School of Education proves that the happier individuals are, the better their performance. This bill's implementation in Louisiana would help students boost their mental health and test scores, which have both dipped after school closures last year. Data from the State Department of Education shows that the number of students scoring an unsatisfactory, the lowest level of scores, has increased by 5%.

### **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

Starting with the 2022-2023 school year, public schools in Louisiana will be required to implement daily 30 minute sessions targeted towards improving student morale and mental health. Students will be able to relax during a busy school day, and there is no time allotted in many Louisiana public schools for students to simply manage their stress. This program will have various components.

1. Counselors and teachers will undergo training that will prepare them to teach students skills that will help them reduce stress in the future, such as seminars on organization and growth mindset. These workshops will be taught three days a week, and each one will meet one of the six standards: managing stress and emotions, effective communication, mindfulness, empathy, creativity, and creating a school-life balance.
2. For the other two days of the week, students will be encouraged to participate in calming activities such as breathing exercises, meditations, group therapy, and reflection sessions, and they will be able to visit their guidance counselor. Students may also engage in other relaxing screen-free activities of their choice.

### **SECTION III: FUNDING**

1 A nominal, one-time cost will be needed to produce and distribute pre-recorded video training for staff.  
2 Video training will greatly reduce the cost, as it will be much cheaper than in-person. The videos will be  
3 produced by licensed mental health professionals. Since this is a low-cost program, funds will be taken  
4 from the Louisiana Department of Education's yearly budget. Because research data shows that better  
5 mental health boosts academic performance, this will be a positive investment in the education and  
6 wellbeing of the state's students.

#### 7 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

8 Any public school that does not comply will receive a warning and be subject to a \$2,000 fine that will go  
9 towards training staff for the program. After three successive violations, government funding for school  
10 programs will be cut by \$10,000 a year.





# LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

## HOUSE BILL 41

Riley Gulino                    Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies

**TITLE:** Make Wednesday a “Break Day” For Jobs and Schools

### **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

America’s system of working and studying until you can’t anymore is incredibly flawed. This bill strives to do something no state has ever done before by giving everyone more time to live and really destress. Currently, Louisiana is ranked number 50 in the United States for education. In order to get higher than the states at the top, doing something completely different is incredibly important. This doesn’t mean reforming the entire system, but making a small change that would help children in school and their parents.

Students are spending 6 to 8 hours a day in schools, usually not getting anymore than an hour or two a day to take their minds off of the work they have to do. They start their days getting ready for school that normally starts around 7am to 8am. Many of our students do not live close enough to their school to just get up and drive or walk over, so they are forced to wake up maybe an hour earlier than others to get dressed, get bags packed, and catch the bus. Now at school, these children are put through constant streams of information, some schools like Haynes Academy in Jefferson Parish and Midland High in Acadia Parish only giving students 30 minutes to eat their food and maybe get a small conversation in with their peers. This does not even account for the students that may have clubs or need to wait in lunch lines or even who need to do make-up work that just do not get time to rest. When school finally does end, there are also the extracurricular activities like soccer or football that take up another few hours. These children get home exhausted but still have pounds of homework waiting to be done, a meal waiting to be eaten, and showers or baths that need to be taken care of. All of these activities are scheduled in every child’s head while keeping in mind what time they need to wake up for the next day of school. Many times, kids stop worrying about their own physical and mental health and delay self-care in order to get all of these things done. If the kids don’t delay their own health, instead, they don’t do their work, the work begins to pile up, and then it takes their small lunches or school breaks, inevitably making them have to delay self-care. After one day, there’s another day, after one week, there’s another week, after one month, there’s another month. There is a reason that everyone likes the summer: because it’s the only time they have to truly rest.

The way the work week is set up, kids and adults go through 5 whole days of a similar cycle and get two days a week, usually Saturday and Sunday, to finally worry about themselves. This simply is not enough. No one’s brains are getting used to not having to work until they have to wake up early the next day.

### **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

In order to give everyone more time to be human, Wednesdays will be treated as weeknds for public schools and the Fair Labor Standards Act will be amended to have 32 hours become the most an employee can work without being paid overtime. Because of the similar system in many jobs and schools, having extra time for the people working and the people learning in the state of Louisiana will be appreciated. Wednesday is simply the best day to have a break as it cuts the week in half. Wednesday allows for brains

1 to recharge, almost to full, in order to get through the next two days of the week, leaving the weekend to  
2 do what it was intended to do and allow for a full recharge. Wednesday is, as explained, the ideal day to  
3 have this "break day" but the day given to employees is up to the employer's discretion as long as the 32  
4 hour rule is followed. Having a complete reformation of the work system people have been living off of for  
5 decades would become too much of a challenge to get used to, making this small change better than a  
6 bigger one. The idea of giving people more time comes from Finland's education system where students  
7 are given multiple 20 minute breaks during the school day and are only put through 9 years of compulsory  
8 schooling in comparison to America's 12 years. This bill strives to give people their time to be people as  
9 Finland is giving kids time to be kids. Another thing that Finland does is keep school going until mid-June  
10 and having it start again in mid-August, only ending a month later than American schools. This will also be  
11 used in Louisiana schools. Having a good work to recharge ratio will allow for students and adults to go  
12 on longer without feeling completely drained.

### 13 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

14 This bill requires no funding.

### 15 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

16 Louisiana parishes will be fined 200\$ for each student currently enrolled in their public schools if  
17 Wednesday is not counted as an "off day." Any overtime done by employees will be paid for as stated in  
18 the Fair Labor Standards Act.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 42**

3 Keller Roberson

Central High School

4  
5 **TITLE:** The Ranked Choice Voting for Louisiana State and Local Elections Act

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 This system would institute ranked choice voting otherwise known as instant runoff voting in all Louisiana  
8 state-wide(including federal) elections. Ranked choice voting allows for voters to rank the candidates  
9 presented on the ballot; therefore, widening the scope beyond just the first choice. This would eliminate  
10 the need for a voter to cast a ballot for `the lesser of two evils` and instead are able to rank candidates.  
11 This would also encourage the inclusion of third parties on the process as the spoiler effect would be  
12 eliminated.

13 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

14 This system would be similar to that of Maine, Alaska, and several municipal elections across the United  
15 States . This consists of voters being able to rank their preferred candidates on the ballot all the way from  
16 favorite to least favorite. The votes are then tallied and the candidate with the least first preference  
17 votes would be eliminated. The voters for this candidate's second preference would then be taken into  
18 account. This process of eliminating candidates and bringing second preference , third preference, fourth  
19 preference, etc. would continue until a candidate has won an outright majority.

20 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

21 none required

22 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

23 N/A



# LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

## HOUSE BILL 43

Ryleigh Shullaw

Lafayette High School

Madison Bui

**TITLE:** Allow Trans, Intersex, Gender Non-Conforming, and Non-binary People To Be Housed in a Prison Best Suited for the Individual

### **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

In interviews with 39 transgender people, it was found that the rate of sexual assault was 13 times higher for transgender people, with 59% of people reporting such encounters. In another study, the 2015 Transgender Survey, 98% of the respondents who reported experiencing 4 or more experiences of violence that year had thoughts of suicide, while 51% of them actually attempted. Allowing transgender, intersex, and non-binary people to request access to transfer to the appropriate prison of their choice would allow for a safer and more comfortable setting for these people. New Jersey, California, Massachusetts, and Connecticut have already passed similar bills after hundreds of people have spoken up about their own experiences, or others experiences, hoping to be heard.

### **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

Once a convict is sentenced to serve time in prison, that inmate may request to transfer to a different facility based on their gender identity. When someone would request transfer access, the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections would begin to evaluate the submitted request. With the new law, all new and current inmates will be asked upon admission about their gender identity, their pronouns, whether they prefer the female or male search policy, and if they want to be housed in an institution that aligns with their gender identity. People who have already had genital configuration surgery would be considered first to speed up this process. To consider a person a certain gender, will include having the family or close friends of the person who submitted the request be questioned about if they may be lying about their gender identity or are giving any false information in order to be submitted to another prison.

### **SECTION III: FUNDING**

This bill requires no funding.

### **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

If someone was found lying about any information, they may receive up to a 5 years extension of their sentence and a fine up to \$800 that will be decided by their judge. However, if a prison were to knowingly and malevolently send an inmate to a prison that violates their transfer request after already being approved, the case can be brought to court where the legal system will take over and handle the case. Possible outcomes include the firings of high ranking officials, a cut in funding from the state, or even in extreme cases, the shutdown of that entire prison.



# LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

## HOUSE BILL 44

Noah Robert            LSU Laboratory School

Molly Bush

**TITLE:** Workers Bill of Rights

### **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

In 2017, 1669 total discrimination in the workplace charges were filed. Those claims that were settled before trial often don't even enough for the defendants needs. Workers in the state have been mistreated and underpaid by their employers and it is far past time to pass legislation protecting their rights in the work place. Many other states throughout the country have already passed similar laws and the effects can speak for themselves because rights like these finally give workers a voice and protect the most vulnerable groups.

### **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

I. Right to Paid Safe and Sick Leave: This would protect the rights of workers to use sick leave for care and treatment forcing employers who have five or more employees to receive paid safe and sick leave. In addition, it would be illegal for employers to retaliate against their employees for requesting or using safe and sick leave.

II. Right to Organize: This would protect the right of all workers to organize in a range of activities regarding work activity including unionizing while also making it illegal for employers to retaliate against, threaten, or otherwise take action for organizing or discussing work related topics with your fellow workers.

III. Right to a Discrimination Free Workplace: This provision would prohibit discrimination on the basis of a worker's: Age, Citizenship Status, Race, Pregnancy, Disability, Sex Gender or Gender Identity, National Origin, Religion, Arrest or Conviction Record. This would also protect the right of workers to sue their employers over discrimination charges.

IV. Right to Overtime Pay: If you work more than 40 hours a week, your employer must pay at least 1.5 times your regular rate of pay for hours worked over 40.

V. Right to Minimum Wage: This provision would end the loophole allowing businesses to pay workers below the minimum wage for seasonal or otherwise temporary work providing all workers the right to the minimum wage.

VI. Right to a Break: This would protect the right of workers working over 8 hours in one day to receive at least two 15 minutes breaks regardless of the job in question.

All businesses will have until 2023 to implement these changes or face penalties.

### **SECTION III: FUNDING**

There is no funding needed for this bill.

### **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

For employers with 15-100 employees, the limit is \$50,000. For employers with 101-200 employees, the limit is \$100,000. \$200,000 if the employer has 201 to 500 employees; and. \$300,000 if the employer has more than 500 employees.



# LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

## HOUSE BILL 45

Teagan Pethe

Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies

**TITLE:** Implement a More Historically Accurate History Curriculum in Public Schools

### **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

The history we learn in schools is often altered, leaving out important historical details pertaining to underrepresented and marginalized communities. As of the 2019-20 school year, approximately 73% of public school teachers in Louisiana are white. On the contrary, approximately 43.9% of public school students are white. Having a majority of white teachers compared to the minority of white students may create stigma when it comes to historical education. To elaborate, many events that took place in the past are not seen as “palatable” to some educators. For example, the way that the colonization of America is taught in schools ignores a lot of the negatives. We were told that Columbus came with his men, made friends with the Natives, and had a big “Thanksgiving feast” with them. The curriculum completely ignores the war and massacre. The way the Louisiana curriculum portrays this situation, along with many others, paints the white man to be the hero, even if that isn’t the case. There are a plethora of other major historical events we weren’t taught about. These include the actions of Elizabeth Jennings Graham, who was one of the first black women to ride a “whites only” streetcar in the mid 1800’s, the Zoot Suit Riots of 1943 where white servicemen attacked and stripped Latinos in Los Angeles, California, and the Indian Relocation Act of 1956, which took away federal funding from Indigenous reservations’ hospitals, schools, etc., which pushed them out of the reservations. These are just a few examples, though. Looking through the current curriculum and conducting even brief historical research will show just how much information is left out.

### **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

The Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) will hold a series of committee meetings to receive input from educators and parents on a new history curriculum. While creating this new curriculum, input from historians will also be received. The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) will evaluate curriculum resources through the Instructional Materials Review process to ensure alignment with the new history curriculum. They’ll also develop a history scope and sequence to help districts determine which standards to teach and when. Once the new curriculum is passed, the LDOE will give guidance to school districts on how to implement the curriculum. In addition, the LDOE will conduct professional development sessions on how to teach the new curriculum. Each district will implement the new history curriculum as instructed to do so. Every 10 years, the history curriculum will be reviewed to assure that it is still historically accurate.

### **SECTION III: FUNDING**

The funding would come from existing dollars for curriculum and textbook resources provided by the state. If more funding is needed, each individual school district will use the funding allotted to them through local taxes. Each district is responsible for providing curriculum resources for their teachers with this money.

### **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

1 If a public school district does not implement the new history curriculum, the LDOE will require the school  
2 district to develop a corrective action plan in order to implement it. The LDOE will monitor the  
3 implementation of the new history curriculum through the corrective action plan. If the school district is  
4 still non-compliant, the LDOE will fine the district \$10,000.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 46**

3 Sarah Thomas

Baton Rouge Magnet High School

4  
5 **TITLE:** To Account for Inflation and Rising Costs

6  
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 In Louisiana, school funding varies greatly based on the economic standing of the parish. Considering  
9 Louisiana has some of the highest poverty in the nation, the current ratio of state to local education  
10 funds keeps schools in poor areas poor. If schools cannot get funding for up-to-date textbooks and  
11 materials or higher wages for teachers the quality of education suffers. The Minimum Foundation Program  
12 (MFP) was created to address this. It uses a formula with a baseline per-pupil spending of \$4,015, and  
13 extra funds for special needs. Prior to 2008 the MFP also increased per-pupil spending by 2.75%  
14 annually. However, since then per-pupil spending has only increased twice. From 2008 to the present the  
15 average annual inflation rate has been nearly 2%. This paired with the rising importance and costs of  
16 technology in schools means state funding is falling behind. Individual school districts are being put under  
17 strain to make up these funds, increasing discrepancies between quality of education in the richest and  
18 poorest parishes.

19 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

20 Beginning with the next school year, 2022-2023, the 2.75% annual per-pupil spending increases will be  
21 reinstated, while the rest of the Minimum Foundation Program remains unchanged. This will decrease the  
22 stress on local governments and the out-of-pocket costs of teachers. In turn, schools in the state will  
23 have more equal access to resources and a higher baseline quality of education.

24 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

25 Funding will be taken equally from the different departments of the state government so that no single  
26 department is significantly affected.

27 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

28 Misadministration of funds will lead to conviction, as it does now.





1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 47**

3 Elizabeth Heneghan                      Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

4  
5 **TITLE: Ubers for the Homeless**

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Homeless people cause traffic accidents because drivers--despite recently placed signs with a specific  
8 message: "Your generosity could lead to a fatality"--stop to give them handouts. Solution: have  
9 specialized ubers with trained drivers to escort homeless people to shelters. If they leave the shelter and  
10 illegally panhandle, or ask for handouts, again, the Ubers will escort them to a different shelter. Homeless  
11 people can indicate which shelter they prefer to go to.

12 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

13 Money from the funding will be used to hire a private uber service for homeless and get them to a shelter  
14 where food, beds, showers, and clothes can be provided. Also counselors for mental disabilities and  
15 substance abuse will have offices at these shelters.

16 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

17 Funding will come from a tax on alcohol and cigarette purchases in Louisiana.

18 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

19 After a third escort, no more Uber services will be available to the person and they will be subject to  
20 community service and fines.



# LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

## HOUSE BILL 48

Cemaje' Barnes

Neviile High School

**TITLE:** To require a Proactive Renter Inspection (PRI) program to be implemented across the state of Louisiana

### **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

34% of housed Louisiana residents are renters With 1-bedroom houses/apartments renting at a market price of \$769/mo, renters who make the average wage can nearly afford to rent a 1-bedroom unit. Not only will this situation put a strain on their finances, but possibly their health. If a home is not inspected properly, or at all, issues like mold, dirty pipes, and faulty electrical wiring can all become a potential threat to the tenant. Even when a property is inspected by a landlord, which is all that is required in the state of Louisiana, there is no guarantee that their inspections will be thorough. Many landlords are not professionally trained, and therefore not qualified, to conduct home inspections. A PRI program, however, could prevent these issues. Not only will it alleviate the burden of carrying out inspections from landlords, but it will also help tenants feel more secure and safe in their homes, with routine professional inspections occurring to ensure their comfort and safety.

### **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

Property owners would be required to register all of their properties that they are renting or intending to rent to the Public Housing Agency so that they can know when and where to send inspectors for an initial inspection. Property owners would also be required to submit a copy of all of their current leases so that routine inspections can be scheduled. The time in between inspections would differ depending on the term of the lease, type of building, and age of the building. For example, a lease on a newly built 2- bedroom apartment would be inspected every 6 months. Older and larger buildings will have to be inspected more frequently, such as every 3 months. Older buildings may also have to be renovated and updated according to the Louisiana Housing Code. All buildings will have to be inspected annually. If an unscheduled inspection is to occur, landlords are required to notify the tenant at least 30 days in advance. If it is found that a rented property is not inspected, tenants may file a complaint to a program official and an officer will be notified and sent to assess the situation. Officers will be trained on soft skills to help them cooperatively work with tenants and landlords, and information that can assist tenants, such as loan repair programs and relocation services.

### **SECTION III: FUNDING**

Funding would come from fees placed on the property owner. Property owners are required to pay annual taxes on each of their properties. Additional fees can also be placed on the landlord for properties they plan on renting out. Landlords could also be required to obtain a renters license before renting out a property, on which a fee could be placed. This money could be put towards funding home inspectors and officer training. If it is found that an altercation with the property is at the fault of the tenant and not the state of the property, then said tenant could be liable to being charged for inspections/repairs in regards to the altercation. The Louisiana State government could also provide funding through a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The federal government, more specifically the U.S. Department of

1 Housing and Urban Development, decides on whether or not activities are eligible for support through  
2 CDBG funds.

3 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

4 There are no penalties for this bill.



# LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

## HOUSE BILL 49

Miniya Malone

Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

Savanna Baker

**TITLE:** Decrease Oil Production

### **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

The purpose of this bill is to reduce Louisiana's economic dependence on oil. The oil and gas industry makes up approximately 25% of Louisiana's total GDP. As oil production increases, the limited supply of this non-renewable resource is decreasing. If Louisiana continues to produce oil at the rate it is now, then a major economic crash could occur if the state exhausts its oil supply or the price of oil decreases. By gradually decreasing the amount of oil produced in Louisiana, the effects of a potential economic crash could be lessened.

Supporting renewable energy sources, especially solar power, serves as both a job and an energy alternative to the oil industry. The number of peak sun hours received per year creates immense solar potential in Louisiana. This is a safer and more sustainable alternative to fossil fuels.

### **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

This bill is designed to gradually decrease the amount of oil production in Louisiana by requiring oil refineries to reduce their annual production of oil based on their previous average annual production in Louisiana. Oil refineries will be required to decrease their average annual oil production by 2%, and this will be reevaluated each decade. Oil refineries will also be required to report the number of barrels of crude oil they produce monthly. Failure to limit production or report production amounts will result in a fine.

In addition to reducing oil production in Louisiana, this bill will also increase state support in the solar industry. The state of Louisiana will be required to increase its total investment in the solar industry by 5% every decade. While the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources will have full control over how this investment is distributed, examples include subsidizing homeowner solar panels, giving grants to businesses, and producing more solar panels in the state. Fines collected from oil refineries will also go into supporting the solar industry. The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources will be tasked with providing administrative oversight for issuing fines and distributing state funding for solar energy.

### **SECTION III: FUNDING**

This bill will be funded by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources.

### **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

1st Offense: \$100 million

2nd Offense: \$500 million

3rd Offense: \$1 billion

4th Offense: \$2 billion

5th Offense: \$5 billion

After the 5th offense, each offense will result in a fine of \$10 billion.

These fines will be reallocated to support solar energy in Louisiana.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 50**

3 Sophie Yeon            Haynes Academy

4  
5 **TITLE:** Stop the Spread of Medical Misinformation

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Medical misinformation, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, is a rampant problem leading  
8 to dangerous consequences. Medical misinformation can be classified as information that is scientifically  
9 incorrect and harmful to the public. Inaccurate claims have circled throughout the internet and will only  
10 continue to grow, but a report named four U.S physicians among the twelve people who produced about  
11 65% of the misleading information about COVID-19. Doctors and physicians, people who have sworn to  
12 protect their patients and save lives to the best of their ability. They are not following this by spreading  
13 false information and leading patients to believe what is simply not true, preventing other doctors from  
14 properly treating and advising them. The title of a doctor is given with trust placed into it, a certain  
15 degree of confidence and respect for their experience that what they are saying is the truth. To violate  
16 this is to violate a patient's health and ruin the faith we put into health care workers. In late July of 2021  
17 the Federation of State Medical Boards, the group which handles the licensing of doctors and discipline  
18 measures, recommended states to suspend or revoke the medical licenses of doctors who share false  
19 claims. This bill will follow the recommendations and penalize doctors for spreading incorrect accusations,  
20 and when done repeatedly have their medical license in Louisiana removed permanently.

21 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

22 This bill will be enacted on January 1st, 2022. It will follow the established steps for filing a  
23 complaint/investigation on the website for the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners. The complaint  
24 will be written and explained with all evidence and documentation to be sent to the Board's physician  
25 Investigating Officer. This person will review the complaint and send a copy of it to the physician in  
26 question to provide an explanation. If deemed unacceptable the physician will be issued a penalty.

27 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

28 There is no funding required for this bill.

29 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

30 After the first complaint filed against a physician which can be immediately substantiated, they will be  
31 suspended for 30 days. After a second complaint the physician will be further investigated and suspended  
32 for 90 days. After a third complaint the physician will have their Louisiana license revoked permanently.  
33 The panel of judges which reviewed the complaint will then issue an appropriate response for the  
34 physician to make a public statement, correcting their medical misinformation and formally repent.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 51**

3 Hannah Deshotel

St. Joseph's Academy

4  
5 **TITLE:** Establishing a Permanent Office of Special Prosecutors for Police Violence Cases

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 From 2013 to 2020, police have killed more than 9,000 people, Louisiana contributed 172 of these  
8 killings, and in 98.3% of those killings the officer was not charged of a crime. These statistics have raised  
9 significant questions about the ability of local prosecutors to remain unbiased in cases that involve police  
10 misconduct. Local prosecutors rely on police officers to make arrests, investigate cases, interrogate  
11 suspects, and testify a trial; police officers rely on prosecutors to convert their arrests into convictions  
12 and assist with investigations. Both, police officers and prosecutors, rely on each other, making the  
13 possibility of a biased decision even more likely. Local prosecutors are far too biased when it comes to the  
14 protection and justification of the actions of local law enforcement, this has caused a lack of trust  
15 between law enforcement and local communities. A special prosecutor is a prosecutor who is independent  
16 of an office that would normally exercise jurisdiction in a criminal investigation, they are used to avoid  
17 potential conflicts of interest in an investigation. The establishment of a special prosecutor's office would  
18 build back the trust that was lost. The Special Prosecutor's Office would prosecute all cases of police  
19 misconduct and cases requested by the governor.

20 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

21 The members of the Special Prosecutor's Office would be appointed by the governor and there would be  
22 five members. The five members include the following: three public members, one county or city attorney  
23 with experience in prosecuting criminal offenses, and one peace officer. Each member of the Special  
24 Prosecutor's Office would serve a term of two years; if a member should resign, the governor would  
25 appoint a new member to fill their position.

26 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

27 \$600,000 from the general fund for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, would fund this bill. This  
28 money would be used as salary for the members of the Special Prosecutors Office and would be used to  
29 provide supplies.

30 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

31 There are no penalties for this bill.

32



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 52**

3 Ella Robichaux

St. Joseph's Academy

4 Eva Robichaux

5 **TITLE:** Biodegradable Supermarket Bags in Convenience Stores

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Plastic bags are made from fossil fuels and end up as deadly waste to our environment. The production of  
8 the bags increases global warming little by little. Since global warming is growing worse every day,  
9 citizens should take action to try and slow it down to preserve our atmosphere. Furthermore, plastic bags  
10 also affect animal habitats, degrading the survival rates of animals. Studies show that animals in  
11 Louisiana, like turtles who live in marshes and swamps, mistake the bags for food, causing bowel disease  
12 or even death. This affects our atmosphere as we need those animals to keep the marshes and swamps  
13 alive. Also, plastic bags produce even more fossil fuels to make. Plastic bags are deteriorating the  
14 atmosphere. They are made from small plastic pellets, also known as polyethylene, that are compressed at  
15 a high heat and liquified to then cut and shape the plastic bags. The biodegradable ones will be made of  
16 cotton, sugarcane, and bamboo. Therefore, creating and using biodegradable bags would reduce the  
17 number of fossil fuels put into the atmosphere and would save the risk of wildlife dying.

18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 Louisiana convenience stores will be supplied with the bags about a week before the bill is enacted. When  
20 people are to buy groceries without bringing their own bags to carry, they will pay for the biodegradable  
21 ones.

22 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

23 Since the supplies are local, it will only cost 15 cents to make the bags. At convenience stores, we will sell  
24 them for 25 cents. The profit from the selling of the bags will go to the production of more biodegradable  
25 bags. The Belmark company, located in Wisconsin will be the individuals responsible for making these bags  
26 since they are one of the largest biodegradable-packaging companies in the U.S.

27 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

28 If any grocery store fails to provide biodegradable bags to the public by January 1st of 2022, they will be  
29 issued a warning and then reprimanded with a fine of \$500.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 53**

3 Collin Carmouche Catholic High School

4 Jacob Grissom

5 **TITLE:** Shifting the Louisiana Legislature from Annual to Biennial

6  
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Currently the Louisiana Legislature meets once every year to hold their sessions in which they discuss  
9 bills, and solve issues that have arisen since last meeting. Meeting annually is unnecessary for several  
10 reasons including, but not limited to: time constraints, money, knee-jerk legislation, etc. Meeting once a  
11 year creates an unnecessary pressure on legislators to make minor changes simply just because they are  
12 in session, in turn leaving the public confused as to what the new laws being implemented are. This is  
13 known as knee-jerk legislation. For example, On average, while in session legislators are paid around  
14 \$161 a day in addition to a certain amount for travel costs which is normally around 58 cents per mile.  
15 While this may not seem like anything to be worried about, this adds up fairly quickly. While money is not  
16 the main issue it certainly plays a role in creating a downside to an annual legislature. Meeting only every  
17 two years however would allow more time for the legislature to come better prepared for their session,  
18 having had more time to study bills, and prevent quick decisions on laws. This would also allow for them  
19 to have more time with constituents and to campaign for their next election. Legislators are reelected  
20 every 4 years, therefore meeting biennially would also prevent the overuse of power by legislatures and  
21 lead to a better representation of the citizens at the time. In order for the legislature to have a proper  
22 session changing the legislature to biennially it will increase efficiency giving the legislators more time to  
23 create a balanced budget and study all the data that needs to be looked over, therefore providing more  
24 certainty for government programs.

25 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

26 The Louisiana Legislature will meet once every two years instead of meeting annually.

27 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

28 This bill requires no extra funding.

29 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

30 There will be no penalties in regard to this bill.





# LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

## HOUSE BILL 54

Kearra Grisby

St. Joseph's Academy

Kali Baker

**TITLE:** Make possession of small amounts of drugs and drug paraphernalia a non-criminal violation or misdemeanor.

### **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

Louisiana is known to be the "prison capitol of the world" with an incarceration rate of 1,094 people 100,00 people. Out of the estimated 400 arrests per 100,000 people made each year 10 of those arrest is made for drug related crimes (1.25 million people). Last year Oregon became the first state to pass a law stating that possession of small amounts of drugs and or drug paraphernalia is no longer a felony but a misdemeanor or non- criminal violation (under certain circumstances). Instead of arresting and charging a person with a felony, a person found in possession of small amounts of drugs or drug paraphernalia will instead face a fine of \$100(per the Oregon bill) or agree to a health assessment. The health assessment would be necessary to see if the person found in possession of drugs is using or if they purely have drugs on or around their person. When a person mis charged with possession it can also include "possession with intent to distribute" which is why the health assessment is necessary. In many cases a person with such a small amount of drugs on or around their person is most likely not distributing because there is almost no value to such a small amount of drugs. The bill helps also helps fund public rehab facilities as well as prisons and jails. Rehab centers have been proven to help those addicted to drugs "making them feel good without the use of drugs" and continuing to care for the person even when they are no longer in the rehab facilities. Jails and prisons in Louisiana are underfunded and this bill would help some necessary money go to the jails/ prisons. The current penalty for possession of a small amount of marijuana in Louisiana is two weeks, a felony or misdemeanor, and \$300 fine. The current penalty for small amounts of heroin is a minimum of 4 years in prison with hard labor and \$300+ fines. Small amounts of drugs for a non-criminal violation include less than one gram of heroin, less than one gram of marijuana, less than one gram/ less than 5 pills of MDMA, less than 2 grams of methamphetamines, less than 40 units of LSD, less than 12 grams of psilocybin, less than 40 units of methadone, less than 2 grams of cocaine. Small amounts of drugs for a misdemeanor include 1-3 grams of marijuana, 1-3 grams of heroin, 1-4 grams of MDMA, 2-8 grams of methamphetamines, 2-8 grams of cocaine. Drug paraphernalia include (per Baton Louisiana law) testing kits, isomerization devices, adulterants, diluents, sifters, separation gins, blenders, mixing equipment, bowls, containers, capsules, envelopes, hypodermic syringes, and needles. It does not matter the material of the paraphernalia if it can be proven to introduce controlled substances into the human body. Louisiana is known to have some of the strictest drug laws. This bill is aiming to lower Louisiana's incarceration rate while also helping people get the help they need. Different rules apply for those, making or distributing drugs.

### **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

If police were to find drugs or paraphernalia on or around a person instead of immediately charging them with a misdemeanor or felony, they would give the person a non-criminal violation. If the police were to find any drug paraphernalia as well, they would give the person a non-criminal violation versus arresting

1 them. Different rules apply for repeated offenders, those selling drugs, or making drugs.

2 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

3 The savings from arresting less people will go to public rehab centers and prisons. The state will create a  
4 specific account for all money saved in result of this bill. All money from this account can only be put into  
5 public rehab centers and prisons.

6 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

7 If someone were to be given a felony or misdemeanor for small amounts of drugs or drug paraphernalia,  
8 they would no longer have the felony or misdemeanor on their record. Instead, they would be given a non-  
9 criminal violation.



# LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

## HOUSE BILL 55

Andi Hayes St. Joseph's Academy

Hannah Champagne

**TITLE:** Limiting Qualified Immunity

### **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

Qualified immunity is a legal defense that shields cops from accountability for breaking the law. It's no surprise that after years of constant police brutality and abuse of power that a law that allows them to slip by without a fair assessment of their wrongdoing has been used time and time again by bad police to keep their oppressive jobs.

Police reform is important everywhere, there are always things that can be done better. In the 2021 session of the Louisiana State Legislature, the Police Training, Screening, and De-Escalation Task Force brought many important progressive bills to the table. This task force is a bipartisan effort lead by representatives, police union members, and experts across many fields. The bills they brought included everything from new training requirements to changes in the officers' "bill of rights" and even a bill similar to this one. The majority of them passed, except for the bill limiting qualified immunity.

To understand just why having these rules is such a problem, there needs to be an understanding of qualified immunity. Qualified immunity, as stated earlier, is a legal defense that public employees can use in civil cases though it is almost exclusively used by police officers. To use qualified immunity as a valid defense there are two things that must be proven by the prosecution. First, the officer must have clearly violated the law or done something unconstitutional. Secondly, the unreasonable or unconstitutional behavior must match specifically with a case that has happened previously. People intent on keeping qualified immunity as is argue that its in place to protect from frivolous lawsuits. But instead of doing that, all qualified immunity for serious cases does is reward cops who happen to creative in the way they violate citizen's rights.

Qualified Immunity, especially in the case of physical injury, death, and significant damages or loss of property is an outdated shield used to protect and keep bad cops on the street. It promotes an acting before thinking mentality and hold them from being accountable. Worst of all it places police officers above the law claiming that as long as they can be creative when hurting you and violating your rights, then they'll be fine.

### **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

This bill will limit the situations in which police officers and other public employees can use the legal defense qualified immunity. It will replace the current policy and make it to when public employees physically injure, kill, or cause other significant damages to a person and are charged in civil court they will be held accountable for their actions and will not be able to make claims based on qualified immunity. For the purposes of this bill, 'significant damages' refers to the loss or damage of personal property.

### **SECTION III: FUNDING**

1 This bill requires no funding.

2 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

3 Courts that allow this defense will be fined \$250



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 56**

3 Anna Skerrett

Lafayette High School

4  
5 **TITLE:** Reduce Litter in Urban Areas

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Louisiana spends approximately 40 million dollars on litter (removal, education, etc. ) each year. Despite  
8 these efforts, the state’s urban areas continue to be littered. This impacts both the general well-being of  
9 the people in these areas as well as the animals who unknowingly consume plastics left on the ground.  
10 The substances littering our urban areas have a negative impact on our environment. This bill “Reduce  
11 Litter in Urban Areas” gives local governments within the state of Louisiana the ability to submit a form to  
12 request funding for trash collection, such as permanent trash cans, routinely collected by waste  
13 management in urban areas.

14 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

15 Local governments in the state of Louisiana will be given the opportunity to submit a form created by the  
16 Department of Environmental Quality in order to be granted funding to set up an appropriate amount of  
17 trash collection sites in their local urban area. The aforementioned “appropriate amount” will be  
18 determined based on the amount of litter in the area, the amount of people and businesses often in the  
19 area, and any other characteristic the Department of Environmental Quality deems significant. After the  
20 initial funding given to local governments to install trash collection, the local government is required to  
21 resubmit the form each year in order to continue having the trash routinely collected and will not be re-  
22 granted the money for the installation of the collection sites unless it is specified why they need more; in  
23 which case, the local government will go through the same process as the other areas to deem how many,  
24 if any, more sites the area needs. This bill will be implemented starting December 1st, 2022.

25 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

26 Funding will be derived from the current Department of Environmental Quality’s budget. It is estimated to  
27 cost 1,008,000 dollars for the first year of which up to 3000 new collection sites are installed and  
28 150,000 dollars per year in the future.

29 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

30 There are no penalties because this an opt-in bill.



# LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

## HOUSE BILL 57

Jemma Wood Saint Joseph's Academy

Amelia Brooks

**TITLE:** Protect Louisiana Youth from Systemic Abuse

### **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

Conversion therapy, also known as sexual reorientation efforts or ex-gay ministry, is a set of psychological and physical treatments administered to members of the LGBTQ+ community with the purpose of converting their sexual orientation to heterosexual. Mainstream psychologists and scientific research studies have consistently rejected the practice of reparative therapy, but due to discrimination, societal bias, and outdated religious beliefs, some practitioners continue to conduct conversion therapy. Minors are especially vulnerable, and the dangerous processes lead to depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, addictive and compulsive behavior, homelessness, and suicide. The American Psychological Association has reported that, "it is unlikely that individuals will be able to reduce same-sex attractions or increase other-sex sexual attractions through SOCE" (Sexual orientation change efforts). Additionally, the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service's Administration states "conversion therapy . . . is a practice that is not supported by credible evidence and has been disavowed by behavioral health experts and associations. . . [m]ost importantly, it may put young people at risk of serious harm." Louisiana has no statewide nondiscrimination laws protecting people based on sexual orientation or gender identity. This act calls for the criminalization of the voluntary and involuntary subjection of a minor to a service for the purpose of reversing his, her, or their sexual orientation.

### **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

This act seeks to amend the Louisiana Laws Children's Code 603, specifically number 16: "Institutional abuse or neglect", which includes any case of child abuse or neglect that occurs in any public or private facility that provides residential child-care, treatment, or education. This revision would add the qualification of harmful reparative therapy, or conversion therapy, under the terms of institutional abuse or neglect. Thus, giving Louisiana the ability to indict any suspected offenders.

### **SECTION III: FUNDING**

No funding is necessary outside of that which is responsible for the enforcement of the law.

### **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

Should a legal adult subject a minor to any form of reparative therapy, the punishments will be administered as outlined in subsection-D of RS 14:39: a fine no more than a thousand dollars or imprisonment with or without hard labor not exceeding ten years; the legal custodian will be charged with child endangerment and/or child abuse.



# LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

## HOUSE BILL 58

Grace Dube Saint Joseph's Academy

**TITLE:** Cats for the Incarcerated

### **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

Louisiana's shelters rescue anywhere from 4,000 to 5,000 animals each year which has led to major overpopulation within local pounds. Unfortunately, many of these animals, especially cats, do not get adopted before they are euthanized. However, there is a way to ensure proper care, affection, and shelter for these innocent possible pets. By creating a home within prisons modeled after the F.O.R.W.A.R.D. (Felines and Offenders Rehabilitation with Affection, Reformation and Dedication) program in Indiana, prisoners will learn responsibility and the cats will be safe from what would be certain death. The program will allow two groups of prisoners ranging from 10-15 people to take care of 20 cats every other day. Like other prison jobs, the incarcerated will earn a small amount of money for the supervision of the animals and learn how to care for something other than themselves. Each participant will spend at least two hours with the cats to feed them, change their litter box, and enjoy time with their furry companions. The facilities will be affiliated with local shelters and pounds.

### **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

This program will be done on a trial basis starting off in a minimal security prison. If it proves effective, it will be implemented in more prisons with higher security requirements. There will also be guards and at least one professional caretaker present provided by the shelters to ensure safety for prisoners and cats alike. The facility must also have a place for other prisoners to view the animals periodically.

To get accepted into the program, prisoners must pass a mental evaluation, have guard recommendations, no domestic or animal abuse charges, and have at least one year of good behavior. For a cat to be entered into the facility, it must be vaccinated, neutered/spayed, and deemed adoptable by a vet or other shelter official. Prisoners will have one year to plan for the addition and another six months to select the caretakers. The most populated pounds get to choose the cats placed in the facilities.

To determine which prison can implement the program first, there will be an application and selection process. The prison must first send in an application, go through an inspection, pick a location for the new facility, and get the location approved. Whichever prison has the most potential will be selected. Only minimal security prisons can apply at first, but if this program proves effective, medium-security prisons may apply too. If no prisons apply, the Department of Public Safety and Corrections will call on any prison that fits the criteria.

### **SECTION III: FUNDING**

The funding will be a combination of private donations, monthly funds from local shelters, and grants from APSCA. The monthly funds from pounds will be used for food, water, and necessary medicine that would have been used if the cat were staying in the shelter.

### **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

1 If a prison takes the funds meant for the facility and does not use it for its construction or benefit, they  
2 will be fined 5,000 dollars every six months construction is delayed.  
3





# LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

## HOUSE BILL 59

Anil Cacodcar

Episcopal School of Acadiana

**TITLE:** THICC (Transportation and Habitat Initiative for Cordgrass Canals)

### SECTION I: BACKGROUND

During the peak of Louisiana’s oil boom in the 1960s and 70s, offshore drilling and shipping corporations sponsored the development of irresponsibly-constructed canals across Louisiana wetlands. In 1942, the Intracoastal Waterway was extended from New Orleans to Corpus Christi. In the following decades, industrial canals branched off this primary canal, destroying marshland ecosystems and accelerating the recession of Louisiana’s coastline. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recklessly approved these projects so that petrochemical companies could profit off Louisiana’s environment for a brief period. Now, the overwhelming majority of these canals—constructed over half a century ago—remain vacant. These dormant canals, which span thousands of miles, accelerate Louisiana’s coastal erosion and render south Louisiana exponentially more vulnerable to hurricanes and storm surge. Easily visible on Google Maps, these crisscrossing canals prevent naturally-occurring sediment deposition and recklessly disrupt the habitats of aquatic and amphibious organisms. These unused canals threaten Louisiana’s natural beauty, biodiversity, and climate resilience. For cities like New Iberia, New Orleans, Morgan City, Mandeville, Baton Rouge to economically prosper in the coming decades, these wetlands must be restored. Restoring wetlands now will save Louisiana billions of dollars in the coming decades on disaster mitigation and lost economic production.

### SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

- Subsection 1: Whereas, the Louisiana State Legislature will establish a Committee on Transportation and Habitat Initiative for Cordgrass Canals (THICC), comprised of 10 members consisting of at least one appointee from each of the following: the Governor, the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate, the House Chair on Natural Resources and Environment, and the Senate Chair on Natural Resources. The remaining 5 members will be appointed at the discretion of the state legislature, consisting of at least two environmental engineers, one professional ecologist, and one indigenous representative.
- Subsection 2: Whereas, the state legislature will contract wetland restoration projects to plug over 900 miles of unused industrial canals designated by the Committee on THICC. These contracts will use cordgrass, a resilient marshland plant that helps mitigate the effects of erosion. Over a period of ten years, the Committee on THICC will monitor these plugs as the canals within them drain. As these canals drain (over an average period of ten years), contractors will continue fertilizing the dried ground beneath them so that the soil elevation rises and cordgrass seedlings can propagate.
- Subsection 3: Whereas, the further construction of industrial canals in coastal wetlands, as defined by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, will be prohibited. Existing canals that are currently not classified as

1 vacant—such as the Intracoastal Waterway—will be permitted to remain in operation, with operational  
2 oversight to include the input of the Committee on THICC.

3  
4 • Subsection 4: Whereas, the land reclaimed during the cordgrass renewal shall be considered protected  
5 areas of environmental concern and fall under the conservational jurisdiction of the state.

### 6 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

7 Whereas, the cost of contracting these cordgrass renewal projects across over 900 miles of unused  
8 industrial canals shall be \$130,000,000. This funding will be allocated over a period of five years  
9 (\$26,000,000/annum) from the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority's annual budget of  
10 \$180,000,000.

### 11 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

12 Whereas, violations of Section 2, Subsection 3 will fall under the state's preexisting penalties for  
13 infringing upon the protections afforded to designated wetland areas. Any entity that constructs an  
14 industrial canal in the designated wetland areas will be prosecuted by the state for a supplementary  
15 penalty of no more than \$100,000,000 but not less than \$1,000,000. The state will not approve any  
16 requests for building canals on protected wetlands. Furthermore, doing so without the state's  
17 permission—which it shall not grant—constitutes a violation of the Wetland Reserve Program's guidelines  
18 on appropriate land use.

19  
20 Whereas, violations of Section 2, Subsection 4 will fall under protections afforded by the Wetland Reserve  
21 Program. Any entity that violates the state's ownership of reclaimed law will also be prosecuted for a  
22 penalty of no more than \$20,000,000 but not less than \$500,000. Any individual found in violation of the  
23 state's jurisdiction over reclaimed land (established in Section 2, Subsection 2) will face a criminal penalty  
24 of no less than 6 months in prison.



# LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

## HOUSE BILL 60

Davis Eglin                      Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

**TITLE:** PRO (Protect, Respect, Open) Voting Act

### **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

In the 2020 election, 70% of voters turned out, a record high in Louisiana. In the 2020 election, there was expanded access for absentee (mail-in ballots) with expanded excuses like the pandemic while also requiring a witness signature. There was also a 2-week period of early voting, excluding Sundays, and a state-wide holiday for the election, but many businesses remained open, and workers were not guaranteed pay if they left to go vote. We need to protect what worked and also expand early voting opportunities and ensure everyone has a chance to vote without financial repercussions.

### **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

This bill extends absentee voting but without requiring an excuse. Many people find voting by absentee to be easier and safer, as shown with a poll by a Harvard CAPS-Harris Poll of 2020 where 70% of respondents were in favor of mail-in ballots. The witness signature step will remain in place, ensuring the integrity of elections. This bill also expands the early voting window to 3 weeks, again excluding Sundays. About 50% of voters chose the early voting option in the 2020 election, so we need to protect and expand this early voting option. Lastly, this bill mandates that all employers allow employees two hours of paid leave during the existing state-wide Tuesday elections if the employee provides a sufficient reason to the employer. The employer cannot retaliate or deny if a valid excuse is provided. Examples of valid excuses are childcare commitments, insufficient time before/after work, a distant polling location, etc. If an employer violates this mandate, the employee can report the employer to the existing Louisiana State Board of Election Supervisors. The board will conduct a hearing and decide on appropriate action. This paid leave requirement does not impact Saturday elections. Maintaining but bolstering the election holiday encourages civil participation among both eligible voters and the youth. This bill will be enacted on January 1st, 2022.

### **SECTION III: FUNDING**

There is no additional funding needed, as there is already a significant budget for elections and various funding sources (local, state, and federal).

### **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

There are no penalties.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 61**

3 Arun Cacodcar                      Episcopal School of Acadiana

4  
5 **TITLE: Banning Corporal Punishment**

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Corporal punishment is defined as disciplining a student by use of physical force. This includes hitting,  
8 paddling, striking, spanking, and slapping with or without the use of an object. Twenty-seven Louisiana  
9 school districts still routinely use corporal punishment in both elementary and secondary school settings.  
10 Corporal punishment should be banned in Louisiana schools. Once hailed as a practice to discipline  
11 problematic children, corporal punishment has no place in modern society. It is extremely outdated, and  
12 research has shown that while corporal punishment may work to subdue students in the immediate short-  
13 term, it produces negative long-term effects, both physically and mentally. Research published in the  
14 Canadian Medical Association Journal shows that corporal punishment leads to developmental  
15 consequences, such as antisocial behavior, increased aggressiveness, lower intellectual achievement, and  
16 mental health issues. Louisiana schools, responsible for nurturing our state's youth and next generation,  
17 should help students grow and not cause problems like the ones mentioned before.

18  
19 There are many more alternatives for resolving such short-term disciplinary issues, such as removal of  
20 privileges and positive reinforcement. We must ban the use of corporal punishment in Louisiana to keep  
21 our state up-to-date with the national scientific and moral consensus.

22 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

23 Corporal punishment—including the hitting, paddling, striking, spanking, and slapping with or without the  
24 use of an object—with or without parental consent by school administrators or staff will be rendered  
25 illegal.

26 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

27 No funding is required for the implementation of this bill.

28 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

29 Failure to comply with this law will result in administrative investigation on the basis of professional  
30 misconduct and temporary unpaid leave of the staff involved until the state can investigate the matter  
31 entirely and issue a penalty.



# LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

## HOUSE BILL 62

Lola Avery Saint Joseph's Academy

Raygan Irvin

**TITLE:** Provide Free Youth Psychologists for Public High Schools to Assist the Victims of Eating Disorders

### **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

In the United States, it is estimated that over 30 million Americans suffer from an eating disorder; 20 million being female and 10 million being male. "The mortality rate associated with anorexia nervosa alone, is 12 times higher than that of ALL causes of death for females 15 – 24 years old," recorded a statistic from the South Carolina Department of Mental Health, and the National Association for Males with Disordered Eating, recorded that 25-30% of people with eating disorders are male. Eating disorders, the most common ones being anorexia nervosa, binge eating, and bulimia, are responsible for one death every 52 minutes, and yet only 1 in 10 people with an eating disorder are in proximity to therapy of any kind.

### **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

Eating disorders are found to affect over 13 million adolescents in America, both male, and female, yet only 38% of public schools in the United States advocate for any mental health and provide treatment for those affected. This bill provides each of the 426 public high schools in the state of Louisiana with a certified Youth Psychologist. The need for mental health therapy in schools is apparent as the majority of those affected by eating disorders are minors between the ages of 15-17. Every public high school within Louisiana will be provided with a psychological therapist whom students can turn to, free of charge. Although this bill is steered toward eating disorder awareness, seeing as several other mental health disorders are more represented, therapy is available to any student in any mental state. This bill hopes to increase eating disorder awareness in Louisiana and provide therapy to assist victims in coping. Eating disorders are extremely underrepresented in society, and yet are responsible for most deaths of females between the ages of 15 and 24. In-school psychologic therapy cannot and will not fix the issues battled by Louisiana's youth, however, allowing for closer proximity to therapy is the first step on the road to recovery.

### **SECTION III: FUNDING**

The funding of this bill requires pay for 426 full-time psychologists, one for every public high school in Louisiana. To allow for the implementation of this bill, the state of Louisiana will reallocate a determined portion of money from our state's designated public education fund. The median pay for a high school teacher in Louisiana averaged with the median pay of a licensed youth psychologist is a salary of just under \$70,000. Louisiana's state education funding totals approximately \$37 billion, according to The Advocate. This budget allocated a raise of \$800 to public school teachers (an average addition of just \$60 a month), and this bill proposes that we lower the raise to \$200 resulting in just about \$28 million usable dollars in our education budget. With these statistics in mind, there is more than enough money in our state's allotted public education budget to designate a psychologist to every public high school, without raising taxes or seeking outside funding.

1 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

2 No penalties are required for this bill.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 63**

3 Caroline Roussel

Saint Joseph's Academy

4  
5 **TITLE:** Lowering the squatter's law by ten years

6  
7  
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 When you think of a squatter, no it's not the squat you do in the gym or during a workout, a squatter is a  
10 homeless person who takes refuge in an abandoned home. Currently, the Louisiana law for squatters  
11 states that if a squatter retires to a vacant home for 30 years, then the home legally belongs to them.  
12 Well, my bill is here to change that. If you are living in a home for even 20 years; that home should legally  
13 be yours. Think about it, 20 years is a long time to live in one place. If the house shows no signs of the  
14 owners ever returning, then the homeless man, woman, child, or family, deserves the right to own that  
15 dwelling after a 20 year time period. I am simply asking to wage ten years off of this 30-year law to make  
16 it a 20-year law.

17 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

18 Squatters are used to being quick on their toes and ready to move around. If someone is coming after  
19 them for whatever reason, they need to get themselves out of harms way. Homelessness is a real problem,  
20 especially in Louisiana. As of 2015, 18,393 children under the age of 6 were homeless. As of 2021, there  
21 are only 73 homeless housing programs in our state of Louisiana. In Alexandria alone, there is 120  
22 homeless families. Most of these families include 3-6 children along with 1-2 parents and 2-5  
23 grandparents or other relatives with them. I suggest that we build more homeless shelters which can be  
24 built by criminals as community service work. A possible obstacle in this plan is that the homeless settle in  
25 a residence for x years and the homeowner shows up after the 20-year time period has passed. At this  
26 point. The home will belong to the homeless and the homeowner will be able to make out a deal with the  
27 homeless if they are willing.

28 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

29 There is no funding required for this bill.

30 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

31 A penalty of this bill is that if squatters are found in homes that are inhabited by a current owner, then  
32 the squatter is removed from the dwelling



# LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

## HOUSE BILL 64

Kamar Hachem

Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies

**TITLE:** Money Laundering and How to Alleviate the Issue

### **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

Money laundering has regularly been an issue in the United States, and it is not any better in the state of Louisiana where crime is already at a high. Money laundering involves sequences of transactions to hide the illegal origin of money so it can look clean or "laundered." That being said, it is one of the most common types of fraud and has severe consequences to the economy, such as macroeconomic instability, loss of revenue, and risk of privatization efforts. What makes it even worse is that it is done through criminal activity: drug trafficking, human trafficking, and gambling. For example, a drug dealer who earns a large sum of money through an illegal drug transaction would do a smurfing tactic in which he deposits small amounts of money throughout time so suspicion would not occur. This dirty money is usually spent at casinos and hotels since those places attract criminals to spend their laundered money. Louisiana has always been at high risk for money laundering as it is a hotspot for criminal tourists, who often go to these casinos and hotels. Also, most hotels, restaurants, and casinos with money laundering activity use cash in many of their transactions since cash purchases are much harder to trace. The criminals can even use fake names when making these purchases, making it nearly impossible to track the purchase. This shows how serious this issue is; being something so difficult to catch, action needs to be taken as soon as possible. Even a former Louisiana mayor, Ray Nagin, was convicted of such an act. This bill proposes a solution which will require hotels/restaurants/casinos and any other place susceptible to enforce stricter policies in hopes of alleviating financial fraud in our state.

### **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

The Anti-Money Laundering policies already put in place will be expanded on in the State of Louisiana since they currently only recover 0.1% of criminal funds. Anti-Money Laundering training in Louisiana will now have to be completed every 6 months instead of every 24. Businesses will have to sign statements confirming that ALL of their employees completed the training and the assessment given at the end. This assessment must be passed with a score of at least 90%. Additionally, purchases over \$500 in all hotels, restaurants, and casinos will not be accepted in cash. Memberships will also be required for such purchases with the customer (even if they are a tourist) consenting to Customer Due Diligence, which is a measure that assesses a customer's identity and risk. It collects personal information, such as the customer's address, name, photograph, birth certification, etc, leaving little room for suspicious activity. All transactions within the membership will be monitored accordingly.

### **SECTION III: FUNDING**

No funding is required for this bill

### **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

Companies will be fined \$500 each week they delay their semi-annual Anti-Money Laundering training. For every customer companies allow to make purchases over \$500 without a membership, they will be fined \$100. Same goes for each customer that makes cash purchases over \$500.





# LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

## HOUSE BILL 65

Donald Scully Catholic High School

NA NA

**TITLE:** The Louisiana New Teacher Incentive Program

### **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

According to the Louisiana Federation of Teachers' October 2021 newsletter, Louisiana is still lacking in qualified teachers. While one would assume state schools such as LSU would encourage an education major due to this ever-worsening issue, recent studies show that student enrollment at LSU's School of Education has plunged 57% in the past decade. Meanwhile, TRSL (Teacher Retirement System of Louisiana) also reports that K-12 retirements in the years 2020 and 2021 have increased 25%, while the Louisiana Department of Education reports that the 61% of teachers leave the state within their first 10 years. All of this highlights the state's issues retaining qualified teachers. This is the purpose of the Educator Incentive Program. The Educator Incentive Program provides interested students financial incentives to pursue an elementary or secondary education degree. Administered through the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA), which also administers other financial aid programs such as Taylor Opportunity Programs for Student (TOPS), would provide an allowance for housing and meals based on this public institution's Cost of Attendance once all university fees are paid. Excess funds after the university/college charges will be provided to the student and can be used to cover other living expenses. In exchange for this financial benefit, after graduating, the new teacher will have a three-year commitment to Louisiana's public schools. This program would be limited to 50 students per class per public university or college. The students would be selected based GPA and extracurriculars where they demonstrate clear examples of leadership.

### **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

Administered through the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA), which also administers other financial aid programs such as Taylor Opportunity Programs for Student (TOPS), would provide an allowance for housing and meals based on this public institution's Cost of Attendance once all university fees are paid. Excess funds after the university/college charges will be provided to the student and can be used to cover other living expenses. After graduating, the new teacher will have a three-year commitment to Louisiana's public schools in exchange for this financial benefit. This program would be limited to 50 students per class per public university or college. The students would be selected based GPA and extracurriculars where they demonstrate clear examples of leadership. Throughout this process, taxes will not be raised.

### **SECTION III: FUNDING**

Designated from the Louisiana Lottery Corporation's earnings to fund this program.

### **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

If the Educator Incentive Program recipient does not fulfill his/her commitment, the money will be reimbursed 100% and will take on the form of a loan to the student and or recent graduate.



# LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

## HOUSE BILL 66

Taylor Albert Woodlawn High School

Tatiana Butler

**TITLE:** Jobs for Felons

### **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

The crime rate in 2020 in Louisiana went up by 16.4% and the main cause of this was former felons not being able to secure steady jobs and When former felons can't find a good and steady job after release they turn back to crime as an answer. 49% of former felons will be reconvicted within 5 years upon release. 639 people out of 100,00 people are more likely to be convicted of a crime. The average annual cost of an inmate is about \$20,000. All of these things have made Louisiana known as the prison capital because of the doubling of crime in the last twenty years.

### **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

This bill would be passed on November 16, 2024, and will introduce four new positions in the Louisiana Department of Corrections. When this bill is passed it will create a sub-branch in the Louisiana Department of Corrections that would be a job search program for inmates in their last 18 months of confinement to help them secure steady jobs immediately after release. The hiring process for the new four-position will be up to the Louisiana Department of Corrections. Currently, this would only be available to non-violent offenders and those that aren't in prison for life or on death row without parole. Working capabilities will be determined by job search employees and correctional officers at the prisons where the inmates are coming. The hired employees would help expand the current services that the Louisiana Department of Corrections offers, these things being; resume writing, mock interviews, and mock job fairs. These employees would be responsible for making resumes and other application materials available to candidate companies and securing virtual interviews for the inmates. Since most state prisons have computers capable of downloading free video chat services such as skype it will not be hard to host virtual visits. If the prison doesn't have the equipment available to perform a virtual interview then the Louisiana Department of Corrections will provide that prison with the materials needed. This bill only applies to the 9 state penitentiaries in Louisiana.

### **SECTION III: FUNDING**

The funding for the implementation of this bill will be provided by the Louisiana Department of Corrections budget. \$275,000 will be allocated from the probation and parole budget. The probation and parole subdepartment has an annual budget of 53.19 million dollars and this budget was increased by merely 5 million dollars in 2018.

### **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

None



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 67**

3 Reed Moise                    Catholic High BR

4 Reed Moise

5 **TITLE:** Ban the Harvest of Cypress Trees in Wetlands

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Cypress trees are currently being harvested and used as Cypress Mulch as the end product in big box  
8 stores. Currently it is illegal to bring excavators into a wetland area to harvest cypress trees. However,  
9 helicopters, boats and traditional saws are being used to harvest and transport cypress trees out of  
10 wetland areas, which is not illegal at this time. Cypress trees are hundreds of years old that are being  
11 harvested. These cypress trees being harvested aid in preventing erosion, filter carbon in the environment  
12 and aids in clean water shed. The cypress trees are vital to Louisiana wetlands and sustaining and  
13 supporting coastal protection and waterways.

14 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

15 State and Federal Wildlife and Fisheries, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Army Corp of  
16 Engineers will enforce on both State and Federal criminal charges under the Clean Waters Act and Rivers  
17 and Harbors Act.

18 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

19 State and Federal Wildlife and Fisheries, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Army Corp of  
20 Engineers will be the enforcement agencies which is currently operated by State and Federal funding and  
21 programs budgeted. The penalties generated will support conservation effort programs.

22 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

23 Penalties will be enforced at \$100,000 minimum fine or two years imprisonment minimum per acre of  
24 wetlands violation of the illegal removal of cypress and not to exceed \$1,000,000 fine and imprisonment  
25 not to exceed 10 years.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 68**

3 Siyeon Joo                    Episcopal School of Acadiana

4  
5 **TITLE:** Establishing Greenery in Schools

6  
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 At the start of the pandemic, many people began sprouting gardens. Garden growing from cheap materials  
9 and the use of recycling gave some a state of rebounding and calmness. My move to a unique and  
10 incredibly outdoors-based high school made me realize how beneficial greenspace and garden growing  
11 was to various ages. Everyone enjoys spending some time in nature, whether for the fresh air or a hobby,  
12 we almost always return indoors feeling refreshed and fruitful. Studies from Texas A&M and the American  
13 Psychological Association have proven that spending time outdoors decreases stress levels, improves  
14 attention spans, and improves perceptions of satisfaction. However, with Louisiana students' busy lives,  
15 we need an outdoor practice that is effective, efficient, and communal. Although trees also include many  
16 benefits, they require many years to grow compared to a garden that takes much less time and supplies  
17 similar psychological results. Thus, together as a community, schools can provide a quick and highly  
18 engaging task (like gardening) that could cripple boredom and spark fresh mindsets. Implementing  
19 greenery programs in schools has a proven positive effect on students' academic performance and overall  
20 well-being.

21 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

22 Under this bill, the state government will sponsor the introduction of green spaces in schools. This bill  
23 creates the Subcommittee on School Greenery, which will outlay funding to pilot programs across the  
24 state for gardening in schools. This bill aims to sponsor gardening initiatives for public high schools over  
25 a trial period of five years. If a positive psychological and academic benefit is not apparent or if negative  
26 progress is displayed, this initiative will be terminated. However, hopefully, those living in stressful home  
27 environments may find a passion for gardening or a potential love in STEM fields like biology. The  
28 implementation process depends on the situation and resources of the school. The Subcommittee on  
29 School Greenery will identify target schools for this program and allocate the appropriate resources and  
30 funding.

31  
32 For urban schools especially, green spaces may need to be constructed or renovated, or even integrated  
33 indoors.

34  
35 But for more outdoors or spacious schools, schools could hypothetically divide plots for homeroom  
36 classes to work on, and within the class, they can decide what to buy, bring, and how to manage the  
37 things they grow. In return, the state will see an increase in student well-being and academic  
38 performance.

39

1 During students' free periods and times after school, they will be able to relieve their minds before  
2 returning to class or home. These gardens will serve as a positive environment and addition, even outside  
3 of school. Kids can choose to garden during breaks, tutorials/study halls/advisories, or free periods.

#### 4 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

5 This bill will allocate \$100,000 per year from the State Activities section of the Department of  
6 Education's Budget to a set of pilot programs designated by the Subcommittee on School Greenery. After  
7 the trial period of five years, the legislature will reevaluate whether to expand this program to all schools.  
8 A four-by-eight garden bed is roughly \$100, but even beds can be constructed with pieces of wood or  
9 cardboard. Also, if available, compost can be brought in and broken down from anyone's home. The total  
10 cost of soil, seeds, watering, and materials will fall under the grant issued to the school. And once  
11 planted, intact materials can be repeatedly used, especially seeds.

12  
13 Some alternatives to include schools with less natural and open space include using pots instead of beds,  
14 which can be lined up on a window, rehabilitating areas that could be transformed with the help of  
15 students, maintaining flower gardens in front of schools, and adding more greenery to cemented paths or  
16 open lawns. Green walls are also potential solutions. The specific guidelines of these grants will be  
17 established by the Subcommittee on School Greenery.

#### 18 19 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

20 Penalties involved with creating school greenery spaces will be left to the discretion of individual schools.  
21 For instance, some possible penalties might relate to the introduction of invasive species or willful  
22 destruction of another space. In this case, then schools can determine the severity of the punishment.  
23 Pilot program charters will outline specific consequences for the introduction of invasive species.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 70**

3 Mason Osborn

Lafayette High School

4  
5 **TITLE:** Inactive Well Reduction Compliance

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Wells that are abandoned by defunct companies are considered orphan wells and it becomes the state's  
8 responsibility to plug them which creates environmental liabilities and consumes limited resources. This  
9 legislation would reduce the potential environmental pollution and reduce economic liability on the state  
10 of Louisiana.

11 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

12 Office of Conservation of Natural Resources would be tasked with enforcing this law.

13 This bill will be enacted on January 1st, 2022

14 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

15 No funding would be required

16 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

17 Losing operating license from the state or pay a well to the orphan well program.



# LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

## HOUSE BILL 71

Aima Shahid Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies

**TITLE:** Initiating Universal Income in Louisiana for the Low-Income

### **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

It's no secret that Louisiana's economy is not the best; in general, our state has multiple issues from constant hurricane threats to managing COVID-19 procedures. However, this should not deter the attempts of the Louisiana government to seek solutions to poverty and homelessness. Louisiana has a poverty rate of 19% being the second highest in the United States; this mostly affects women, children, and people of color. More importantly Louisiana ranks second highest in child poverty with an astounding 26.8% or 285,000 children. Louisiana is also fourth highest in income inequality mainly due to the high accumulation of poverty in the state. Separately, households can get assistance from the national government in the form of welfare (TANF), food stamps (SNAP), EITC (earned income tax credit), rental assistance, LIHEAP (low-income home energy assistance program), and Medicaid. These programs, however, are not a permanent fix for necessities. In Louisiana, 578,000 adults reported that they had difficulty affording enough to eat. Before 2020 and 2021, 12% of Louisiana households were on the brink of falling below the poverty line, it has only worsened since. Furthermore, 28% of Louisiana's population is homeless, ranked 10th in the nation. Jefferson and Orleans parish alone have about 302 homeless people -- enough to fill up a small public school-- per 100,000 people as of 2018, this amount has substantially increased since the start of the pandemic. At the same time, homelessness does result from a number of reasons; these can be unemployment or simple irresponsibility, from gambling or addictions. Louisiana's employment rate is tremendously low to begin with.

### **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

The solution is to provide universal income to Louisianians monthly. This is not only applied to those under the poverty line; the amount of money attained will vary on the number of residents in a household and the annual income. Generally households that make less than \$40,000 annually would receive this stipend. This form of assistance should be given to these low-income citizens to be spent on their necessities, whether its rent, groceries, mortgage, child-support, or the electricity bill. Similarly, UBI or Universal Basic Income is a governmental program where every citizen receives a set amount of money on a consistent time frame. The goal of UBI is to attenuate poverty and eliminate any need for other assistance programs. Countries like Canada, Belgium, and Australia have used UBI to help their citizens. A report of the effect of UBI in Canada shows that UBI can become a tenable investment for Canada improving their economy by 80 billion dollars per year, supporting businesses, assuaging poverty, and creating hundred of thousands of job opportunities for the unemployed. The implementation of this bill will be done over time to ensure it is executed properly. It should require no more than four months to estimate the amount of Louisiana citizens requiring this payment, including those that are homeless. In the first month, it should be determined through IRS tax forms how many citizens below the poverty line require assistance. The following month, the number of homeless citizens per parish should be counted,

1 each given a \$1,300 stipend (this is a set stipend for those that are strictly homeless to cover the cost of  
2 rent for an apartment, food, and transportation). During the third month, households that are making  
3 below \$40,000 annually should be sought out through their tax forms and payment shall be determined.  
4 During the last month, the values for each household should be determined from a scale of \$300-\$1500.

5  
6 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

7 Funding of this will come from corporate taxes. Corporate taxes will be raised by 3% and the proceeds will  
8 go to the completion of this bill. A portion will also be reserved from the federal government's state  
9 funding.

10  
11 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

12 The IRS will remain cautious to ensure that citizens don't falsify their tax reports. Citizens that do falsify  
13 their tax papers to show reduced income to qualify will be fined triple the amount they received, and face  
14 the penalties of tax fraud.





# LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

## HOUSE BILL 72

Julien Alissa                      Haynes Academy

**TITLE:** Require all Louisiana public schools to teach critical race theory

### **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

Critical race theory is the understanding that America's social institutions have a long history of being racist, and many people are still affected by it. Critical race theory aims to teach us that our history was not black and white, and what we can do to make it better. Many of the issues we have regarding race are people not understanding the struggles certain minorities still have to face. Critical race theory is not currently banned in Louisiana, however it is also not mandated. And with the new legislature trying to ban the teaching of critical race theory, it is more important than ever to mandate it. Currently, there is a large divide in our state and country. But by requiring the teaching of our differences, and how these differences still affect people today, we can help bridge the gap. By requiring the teaching of critical race theory, it will implore people to view themselves not as a part of the racist system, but as part of the solution. We as a state and country cannot ignore our racist past, but we also can't become blind to our future. The current social institutions of n place were created in a different time, and we as a current people must learn to separate ourselves from the system to fix the issues. Idaho, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Iowa, and South Carolina have all passed legislation banning the teaching of critical race theory. However states like Mississippi and Virginia have no such proposed bills. States that teach critical race theory tend to have lower racially based crimes (keeping in mind the different climates of the areas). By requiring the teaching of critical race theory we can help our teachers answer the hard questions, and help better prepare our children for the real world. All majorities are not oppressors, and all minorities are not hopeless. We need the teaching of critical race theory to bring the two together to understand each other. By teaching critical race theory we would be actively teaching understanding, lessening the likelihood of hate crimes. When we teach tolerance, respect, and understanding from a young age we can have a brighter future. We cannot teach a colorblind history in a colorful country. We all love Louisiana, so we should want it to have the best and brightest future.

### **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

Requiring the teaching of critical race theory will have a bit of a learning curve for teachers. While teaching it has been an option before, it has never been mandatory. There will be mandatory critical race theory concepts and lesson plan workshops. There will also be 2 continuing education days. The Louisiana board of education will set the curriculum and standards for the professional developments. All extra work teachers do for lesson plans, and continuing education will be paid. It is extremely important to reward the teachers' flexibility and willingness to help us build a better Louisiana. Critical race theory will be taught along with the rest of the curriculum. By incorporating it with what is already being taught it will be less of a drastic change for teachers and students.

### **SECTION III: FUNDING**

Louisiana will divert some of the crime prevention budget to the critical race theory program and training. The estimated cost to add to the existing curriculum, \$5,000,000. This is only about 25 cents for each

1 Louisiana residence. For funding we will divert money from the police department because, with the new  
2 generations' education on race and systematic inequalities, these students will now have the correct  
3 education to avoid conflict . THis new education will help aid the police department in hate crime  
4 prevention.

5 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

6 Any schools that are reported to not be implementing critical race theory into their curriculum will be  
7 required to send their employees/teachers to 2 additional continuing education courses. Further  
8 transgressions could result in a deduction of salary, or loss of job. If a school is found to not be  
9 implementing the curriculum , or sending their employees to professional developments they will be  
10 penalized through the louisiana board of education.



# LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

## HOUSE BILL 73

Anashe Gaseller

Haynes Academy For Advanced Studies

Neal Tandon

**TITLE:** Expansion of Public Transportation

### SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Much of Louisiana's land is overtaken by suburban sprawl, areas that consist of miles and miles of housing and nothing else. Citizens must purchase a car in order to interact with the rest of the city and access other places like malls, stores, and work. All of these cars entering and exiting suburban areas produce a lot of traffic congestion on the roads. This is the primary reason why 33.3% of Louisiana residents have a 30 minute or longer commute to work. This is not only inconvenient for commuters but also dangerous due to car accidents. In Louisiana, 71,000 people were injured in car accidents in 2019. Furthermore, all these cars pollute the environment and emit CO2. In Louisiana about 20% of pollution is contributed from transportation. Buses per passenger mile emit about 33% less greenhouse gases than a single occupancy car. Buses accident fatality rate is about 5 times less than that of single occupancy cars. Buses reduce traffic and road congestion. It is clear that in Louisiana a more accessible and robust public transportation system would significantly reduce the traffic on the roads, CO2 emissions into the environment, and the likelihood of an accident.

### SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

A fleet of public transit buses would be established and incorporated into the existing system to be more accessible, particularly to large suburban housing areas. More bus stops will be added to more urban and suburban locations, allowing for transportation in these neighborhoods while reducing the strong dependence of cars. Suburban and urban areas will be able to access the city without the need to use cars. The buses will charge \$1.75 but the price can vary between regions. The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development will oversee this project. The bus systems will first be expanded in the St. Tammany and Orleans parish, as these parishes have large suburban areas and are highly populated. The parishes will serve as models for how the bus systems all throughout Louisiana would operate and the impact they would have. If these bus systems prove to be successful in the St. Tammany and Orleans parishes, the system will be expanded all throughout Louisiana.

### SECTION III: FUNDING

This bill would cost around \$582 million to implement completely across Louisiana. A slight tax increase for gas, 3/10 of a cent per gallon, will be implemented during the first phase. Money from the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development will be used to fund the project as well, depending on the amount of money needed during the first and second stages. and the revenue brought in from the buses themselves can maintain the system and also bring in additional revenue overtime.

### SECTION IV: PENALTIES

There are no penalties for this bill.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 75**

3 Michelle Edavettal                      Lafayette High School

4  
5 **TITLE:** Pay Disabled People Minimum Wage

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Companies have been allowed to pay disabled people less than minimum wage to make up for any loss of  
8 productivity. However, companies have abused this exemption and exploited their disabled employees.  
9 Some workers earn as little as 4 cents per hour. This is clearly discrimination against people with  
10 disabilities.

11 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

12 I propose that companies will be required to pay their disabled employees the minimum wage of \$7.25.

13 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

14 No additional funding is required.

15 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

16 If a company is found to be paying an employee less than the state minimum wage, they will be fined  
17 \$10,000.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 76**

3 Unmesh Chakravarty

Haynes Academy

4  
5 **TITLE:** Pencils' Ends (Not Erasers) Needed Soon (PENS)

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 In this day of coming age, pencils have paled in the face of the superior utensil, the pen. Although pencils  
8 may be cheaper to the consumer, the average single \$0.10 pencil costs about \$50 for its manufacturing  
9 and distribution. The pen, however, has a much broader spectrum when it comes to labor and materials  
10 costs which can go as low as \$0.04 while still maintaining function. Not only do pens have a greater price  
11 range, they offer greater range in ink quality and exterior design. Pens have largely been used over pencils  
12 for maintaining professionalism. Erasable pens have also come to existence, creating the same  
13 possibilities as pencils while offering the permanence of regular ink with standard pens. Pencils may be  
14 slightly more eco-friendly, but the only renewable resource that goes towards its manufacturing is wood  
15 which comes at the expense of trees. Many pencil companies also manufacture, sell, and distribute pens  
16 of their own, so there will be minimal impact on their part. Regardless of how great pens are, pencils are  
17 also valued for their aesthetics largely applicable in art; thus, any action taken in this bill will only be  
18 applicable to pencils that are at a consumer cost of less than \$2 each.

19 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

20 A 50 percent tax increase will be placed on the sale of pencils that cost below \$2, individually, effective  
21 December 1, 2023.

22 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

23 No funding is needed.

24 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

25 No penalties are applicable.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 77**

3 Alexander Hollier

Lafayette High School

4  
5 **TITLE:** Decriminalization of Drunk Driving in the State of Louisiana

6  
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 In 2010, the government of British Columbia passed a law that gave officers the right to decide whether  
9 or not to press charges against drunk drivers. This law allowed for the officers to impose administrative  
10 sanctions against the drivers directly which bypassed the justice system and gave more direct  
11 repercussions to the drivers as well as the option for enrollment in a "responsible driver program." After  
12 the implementation of the law, a 50% decrease in alcohol-related car wreck deaths was reported. As  
13 drunk driving cases continue to clog up the justice system, drivers may not face punishment as quickly as  
14 needed which would allow for them to continue to put people at risk. Decriminalization of drunk driving  
15 would allow for police officers to impose administrative punishment immediately which would take the  
16 driver off of the road and subject them to harsher punishment and/or a rehabilitation program. Mothers  
17 Against Drunk Driving (MADD), an organization that seeks to prevent drunk driving, is a strong proponent  
18 of drunk driving decriminalization and believes it to be an important way to help offenders seek  
19 rehabilitation instead of subjecting them to standard punishment.

20 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

21 The proposed bill would allow for police officers to decide whether or not to press charges or instead  
22 impose administrative punishment including a 90 day license suspension, \$500 fine, and a 30 day vehicle  
23 impound. The officer may also enroll the driver in a rehabilitation program that seeks to educate the  
24 driver on the dangers of drunk driving and provide them with the ability to seek help for their problems  
25 with alcohol. The rehabilitation program will be funded by the fines collected from drunk driving offenders  
26 and will be managed by the state government. Drunk drivers who are enrolled in the program must  
27 complete a 16 hour course which teaches the driver how to separate their substance abuse from their  
28 driving. New jobs must be created in order to provide workers for the rehabilitation program, the salary  
29 for these jobs will be provided by fines taken from drunk drivers. The bill would only apply to first time  
30 offenders and repeat offenders would instead be subject to normal criminal charges.

31 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

32 Funding for the rehabilitation program will be funneled from the fines collected from drunk drivers.

33 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

34 No penalties will be applied to officers who choose to press criminal charges.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 78**

3 Gabriel Juarez

Lafayette High School

4  
5 **TITLE:** End Law Enforcement Cooperation with Immigration Authorities

6  
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Immigrants, both documented and undocumented, make up an important part of Louisiana's economy,  
9 industry, communities and culture and therefore the protection of their well-being is important to the  
10 well-being of the State of Louisiana. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and  
11 Border Patrol routinely target, detain and deport immigrant members of our community who do not pose  
12 any threat to their fellow Louisianians or do any harm. Immigration Authorities have separated families,  
13 imprisoned children and overseen detention centers which contain multiple human rights violations.  
14 Undocumented Immigration is not a crime but a civil violation and the undocumented immigrants in our  
15 communities deserve to be safe and secure. Thus this bill will ban law enforcement, and other  
16 organizations, from cooperating with Immigration Authorities except for those immigrants guilty of most  
17 felonies and other exceptions listed below.

18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 State and local law enforcement agencies, including school, police and security departments shall not use  
20 money or personnel to investigate, interrogate, detain, detect or arrest persons for immigrations  
21 enforcement purposes. Law enforcement shall not contact Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or  
22 Border Patrol and shall not share non-public information with them. Law enforcement shall not provide  
23 office space to ICE or contact with the federal government to house individuals as federal detainees.  
24 These restrictions will not apply if the detainee in question has, in the last 10 years, been convicted of a  
25 felony (Except for a third DWI charge) or is identified by the United States Department of Homeland  
26 Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement as the subject of an outstanding federal felony arrest  
27 warrant. However in no case shall cooperation occur for individuals arrested, detained, or convicted of  
28 misdemeanors that were previously felonies. The Attorney General will be required to publish model  
29 policies limiting assistance with immigration enforcement to the fullest extent possible for public schools,  
30 public libraries, public health facilities and courthouses. These entities would be required to adopt this  
31 policy or an equivalent policy. Law enforcement agencies will also be required to publish annual reports  
32 regarding transfers to immigration authorities.

33 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

34 No funding is necessary for this bill

35 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

36 Law Enforcement Officers who refuse to comply with these new restrictions for the first time will be put  
37 on 6 months unpaid leave, a second refusal to comply will result in the individual being fired.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 79**

3 James Harmony

Neville High School

4  
5 **TITLE:** TO: Require schools in Louisiana to have gender-neutral restrooms

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 People in the LGBTQ community can sometimes feel anxiety when deciding on going into a gendered-  
8 labeled room. Those who identify as neither male nor female sometimes feel as though it is not right for  
9 them to have to pick one gender when going into restrooms. It is also a risk for them to go into one due  
10 to homophobic people. According to the NBC News, "Of the 7,120 hate crime incidents reported in 2018,  
11 more than 1,300 — or nearly 19 percent — stemmed from anti-LGBTQ bias, according to the FBI's latest  
12 Hate Crime Statistics report." My bill is aimed to help with that for students in middle and high school.  
13 Having universal restrooms would help with those who don't feel safe, and are struggling with their  
14 identity or just identify as neither male nor female.

15 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

16 The law should be implemented on January 1, 2022.

17 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

18 The amount needed for this bill would cost around \$27,900. The funding for this bill would come from the  
19 Louisiana State Minimum Foundation Program.

20 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

21 Since the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education has to approve any school construction,  
22 they would be penalized for not doing so, if the bill is passed by the governor. If they choose not to allow  
23 these renovations, they first get a warning to do so. If the warning is ignored, they should pay a fine of  
24 \$200 for each week that they approve of the construction. If they still do not approve of it after 5 weeks,  
25 they should lose their jobs.





# LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

## HOUSE BILL 80

Ella Vu

Haynes Academy

**TITLE:** Mental Health Education for High School Students

### **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

The CDC states, "Mental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel, and act. It also helps determine how we handle stress, relate to others, and make healthy choices. Mental health is important at every stage of life, from childhood and adolescence through adulthood." For many students, mental health can be the last thing on their minds as they go through high school. In 2019, it was reported that more than 1 in 3 high school students had experiences of persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness, and approximately 1 in 6 youth had reported making a suicide plan in the past year.

Part time jobs, extracurriculars, college applications, and more are stacked on top of their already existing school schedule, only leaving extra time for necessities such as sleep or meals. Like physical health, the importance of mental health varies from person to person. However, the education of proper care for mental health should be essential in school classrooms, especially for emotional and social wellbeing and healthy coping mechanisms.

Sex education and physical health education have already been established in many school systems, and with the addition of mental health education, students will have more insight on better care for themselves and the people around them.

### **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

This bill will be enacted at the start of the 2022-2023 school year for all public high schools in Louisiana. Instead of teachers receiving additional training on top of their current job, a certified mental health educator would be hired to teach students in part of a mental health education program. Like Sex Ed, the program can be factored into and taught in health science (the history of healthcare, healthcare law, anatomy and physiology, nutrition, first aid, and etc.) or physical education classes everyday for half a semester before those classes resume back to their regular content. By the end of their graduation year, students should have gone through their school's mental health education program at some point in high school.

This is a program and not a course nor would it be a supplement for one. Its integration into a school course will vary from school district.

### **SECTION III: FUNDING**

The average salary for a mental health educator would be \$55,546 annually or \$4,628 monthly; this would be paid for by existing funds in the Louisiana Department of Education. Depending on the school and its student population, the educator may be hired to teach the program all throughout the school year or at different times of the year. Classroom textbooks and materials will also vary by school.

### **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

Failure to implement the mental health education program by the second semester of the 2022-2023

- 1 school year will result in the school district being fined \$1,000 per high school for that year and every
- 2 school year the program is not implemented.



# LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

## HOUSE BILL 81

Harshita Pattam Haynes Academy

**TITLE:** Revoke the School Time Change Placed on Jefferson Parish Public Elementary, Middle and High Schools

### SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Before the 2020-2021 school year, most Jefferson Parish elementary and middle schools ran from 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM, while most high schools, like Haynes Academy, ran from 7:20 AM - 2:40 PM. Due to the 2020 Infrastructure and Efficiency Plan presented by then-Superintendent Dr. Cade Brumley passing in March 2020, school times changed from 7:15 AM - 2:20 PM for most elementary and middle schools and 8:15 AM - 3:35 PM for most high schools. These changes claimed to be in efforts of benefitting kids and families. The Jefferson Parish Public School System also cites research proving that high school students perform better when school starts later. They claim that this time switch will aid parents of elementary school kids, but they fail to realize that the switch spotlighted new problems that most likely weren't considered when the Plan passed.

### SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill calls for the times for arrival and dismissal in Jefferson Parish Public Schools to be changed back to how it was before March of 2020 for at least one year. In rebuttal to the school board's idea to provide high-schoolers more time to sleep, they do not realize this time delay off-sets everyone's schedules. Events now have to begin and end later, which results in most people who participate in an extracurricular getting home an hour later than they used to. This added hour means outside of school activities, like eating dinner, homework, and work, are pushed back by an hour. Most people have to sleep later, so although the later beginning time is attractive from the outside, it is doing no genuine change. In addition, it is understandable that parents of young children do not want to have to be late to work because of their child's school; however, with the early arrival time comes an extremely early dismissal time. Most jobs do not let parents out at 2, so these children have to stay in after-care. Most schools offer before-care or after-care, so regardless of which time set applies to elementary schools, parents struggling to manage the times will have to use before-care or after-care. Another disadvantage of this switch is the bus situation. Previously, high schools and the combined middle and high schools would get out earlier, so they would be on their way home by 2:50 PM. This earlier arrival home meant that even if a younger sibling did not necessarily have a ride at dismissal due to parents working, there would be an older sibling at home who could supervise for a few hours. In general, older kids are to be more trusted home alone for longer, but the switch results in younger kids arriving home first, where they either sit alone or are forcing a parent to leave work early. Older siblings who could drive and pick up a sibling cannot help their families out because they do not get out on time. This change instilled in March 2020 was attempting to fix many valid issues, but it did not provide change in the correct manner; for every solution, a new problem was being created- it would just be regarding arrival now rather than dismissal or vice versa. The one thing all high schools now have to deal with is the lack of time after school. Practices go on till 5:30 PM most nights nowadays, which can interfere with jobs and studying time. In addition,

1 these 4-year olds now have to wake up at 6 AM, which is so early for a small child to start their day.  
2 These changes have instilled chaos and confusion in our lives that still has not been amended, but the  
3 reversal of the time switch could be monumental. Nobody likes to get up early, but everybody hates  
4 getting home super late even more. The public school system is messed around with all over the state, so  
5 if this bill is passed, and it is clearly evident that the reversal was more beneficial, these times could be  
6 enforced state-wide. Although not every public school system has these issues, it would be helpful to  
7 have everyone on the same schedule. This interim bill will test it out in Jefferson Parish first and then  
8 move on to make its final decision for the entire state.

9  
10 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

11 No funding is required for the implementation of this bill.

12 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

13 No penalties will need to administered because students are currently being penalized through the time  
14 switch, so if this doesn't get approved, nothing will change for them.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 82**

3 Holly Hillburn            Archbishop Hannan High School

4  
5 **TITLE:** A Proposal to Ban High School Students from Driving Full-Size Pickup Trucks

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 This bill seeks a ban on the driving of full-size pickup trucks by high school students. Time has proven  
8 that they are incapable of being responsible with these vehicles, and that they are mostly used as tools to  
9 be obnoxious towards every other driver on the road. How many have been forced participants in unsafe  
10 driving practices as a result of these vehicles being driven by irresponsible kids? It needs to end now.

11 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

12 Implementation of this bill is easy. Companies selling these trucks will be asked to ensure that the buyer  
13 of these vehicles is no longer a high school student and above the age of 18. Compliance is rewarded with  
14 subsidies from the government.

15 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

16 This bill will cost nothing, given that the government already grants subsidies to the automobile industry.  
17 This will simply require dedicating a small portion of that budget to rewarding compliance from  
18 responsible companies.

19 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

20 The penalty for any high school student found driving a truck will be a fine of 500 dollars. The penalty for  
21 a company found to be guilty of selling a truck to a high school student will be a fine of 2000 dollars.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 83**

3 Camille Starkovich St. Joseph's Academy

4 Ava Masterson

5 **TITLE:** Eliminating Fast-Fashion One Fee at a Time

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Fast-Fashion promotes unbearable labor conditions for workers, especially women, in impoverished  
8 countries. One sixth of the world works in the industry, which gives low wages and terrible hours. There  
9 have been multiple cases of clothes found in these industries with notes sewed in begging for help. Along  
10 with things explicitly written on the tags out of desperation. Industries like H&M, Zara, and Forever 21  
11 use fast-fashion to produce affordable, low-quality, and on-trend clothes. Clothes will fall apart easily  
12 and end up in landfills, while people go and buy more trendy items from the company as their old clothes  
13 break. The materials that the clothes are manufactured out of are proven to fall apart. Materials including  
14 plastics such as nylon and polyester. They can also include dyes such as alkylphenol ethoxylates, which  
15 are incredibly harmful to the development of fetuses and hormones. These are used to try and increase  
16 some durability although the clothing is still lackluster in quality.

17 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

18 Starting a system of fees and rewards based on a sustainability score of a company. The score is simply a  
19 measurement of how sustainable a company is based on the sources of product and production. When  
20 excessively non-sustainable products are used, fees will be distributed. When higher scores are achieved,  
21 a system of rewards will be doled out in response to a good environmental footprint.

22 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

23 Funding would result from the fees paid from non-sustainable companies selling in Louisiana.

24 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

25 A system of fees will be distributed based on the level of non-sustainability.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 84**

3 Avery Kyle Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

4 Ramsey Greene

5 **TITLE:** Affordable Driving Act

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 It is very expensive to get a driver's license. The TIP, temporary instructional permit, is required before  
8 taking Drivers Ed. It cost thirty-two dollars and twenty-five cents in Louisiana. Then Drivers Ed must be  
9 taken, which is around \$650 for the class and behind-the-wheel instruction. It is free to convert the TIP  
10 to the permit. Once the driver is sixteen, they must take a road skills test, which is only thirty minutes but  
11 generally costs anywhere from sixty to seventy dollars. Then, once the test is passed, it is another thirty-  
12 two dollars and twenty-five cents to get the actual license. This totals the entire process to about \$800.  
13 For citizens in the lower-middle-class to lower class, this makes it impossible to drive legally. This driving  
14 act would ensure that there is just a driving test and written test to get a permit that can cost a maximum  
15 of fifty dollars and a driving test and written test to get a license that can cost a maximum of fifty  
16 dollars, with a one time cost of twenty dollars to get a permit made at the DMV, and free conversion to a  
17 license.

18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 This bill will come into effect in February of 2022. Driving schools will be expected to refund payments  
20 made for classes that have not yet taken place.

21 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

22 This bill would require no funding.

23 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

24 Any driving school found in violation of this bill will be expected to pay \$200 on the first offense, \$350  
25 on the second offense, and \$500 on the third offense. After the fourth offense, their business will be shut  
26 down. Any DMV that requires more than a twenty-dollar one-time fee will be expected to refund the  
27 payment made in full and give the license to them free of charge.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 85**

3 Carter McLean

Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

4  
5 **TITLE:** Combatting Gerrymandering with Ranked-Choice Voting in Louisiana's US House of Representatives  
6 Elections

7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 As the 2020 census data is released at the dawn of the new decade, Louisiana is required to redraw its  
9 US House of Representatives districts to account for demographic changes. While members of the  
10 legislature usually have Louisiana's best interests at heart, they are no paragons, and are also motivated  
11 by political factors. Legislators of the majority party in state legislatures essentially control district  
12 drawing, and they have a strong obligation to ensure an advantage for their party in the future, so will  
13 always try to deny the opposition power by diluting their relative strength across districts. This practice is  
14 called gerrymandering, where the majority party's candidates can win without the minority's votes or  
15 consent, and it must be limited to ensure that everyone has a say in elections. It is human nature for  
16 politicians to act in self-interest, after all, and banning something as abstract as gerrymandering is  
17 unfeasible, so we should limit gerrymandering's negative effects through ranked-choice voting.

18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 This bill will combat gerrymandering in Louisiana by requiring that all six House of Representatives  
20 districts elect their members on a ranked-choice ballot. Each voter will rank their top three candidates on  
21 their ballot in order of preference. The first candidate with a simple majority (over 50%) of "first-choice"  
22 votes wins. If no candidate receives a simple majority, the worst performing candidate will be eliminated,  
23 and voters who ranked the eliminated candidate as "first" will have their other choices promoted, and the  
24 tally will be counted again, etc. Eventually, an acceptable candidate who is generally tolerated by most  
25 people will end up with a majority, even if they are not everyone's first choice. By giving voters tiered  
26 choices, candidates will be encouraged to be very moderate (more heavily left-wing and right-wing  
27 candidates will likely be eliminated early on from lack of votes), instead of pandering towards the one  
28 party in the majority.

29  
30 This bill will be implemented after a redistricting plan is approved for Louisiana US House districts for the  
31 decade.

32 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

33 This bill requires no additional funding given Louisiana's voting infrastructure is reasonably equipped to  
34 handle counting these elections.

35 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

36 This bill requires no additional penalties.





1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 86**

3 La'Tori Romero

Woodlawn High School

4  
5 **TITLE:** Age Requirement for Soda/ Energy Drinks

6  
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 The soda/ energy drink consumption is associated with greater weight gain and a greater risk of obesity  
9 over time. The obesity prevalence was 13.4% among 2 to 5-year-olds, 20.3% among 6 to 11-year-olds,  
10 and 21.2% among 12 to 19-year-olds in the U.S. The adult obesity rate stands at 42.4% in the U.S.  
11 Studies show that soda/ sugar energy drink consumption was significantly associated with greater weight  
12 gain and greater risk of obesity over time in both children and adults.

13 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

14 You must be at least 14 years old to purchase soda/ energy drinks. The kid must show a form of ID such  
15 as a school ID to confirm their age. A soda license would be created for companies to be able to sell/  
16 produce sodas and energy drinks. Like there is a Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Tobacco, there would be  
17 a Louisiana Office of Sodas and Energy Drinks.

18 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

19 The implementation of this bill requires no funding.

20 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

21 Companies/ salespeople that sell to younger children will get a warning the first few times and then have  
22 to pay a fine of 50\$ per soda/energy drink sold to younger children. Vending machines set up in middle  
23 schools and elementary schools would not be allowed to have sodas/ energy drinks inside them. If the  
24 vending machines do have sodas/ energy drinks they should be removed, and if they were not removed,  
25 the companies that supplied the vending machines and the schools would both have to pay a 50\$ fine per  
26 soda/ energy drink sold.

27



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 87**

3 Melvin Ruffus

Neville High School

4  
5 **TITLE:** To repeal corporal punishments in public schools.

6  
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Corporal punishment is not an effective method of managing behavior. It does not teach a child how to act  
9 properly. At best, corporal punishment has only a temporary effect on behavior. And it may even make it  
10 worse. Not only does it reinforce some problem behavior, but also it teaches a child that physical force is  
11 the way to resolve conflict.

12 Parents can refuse to let administrators use corporal punishment. A child who is spanked at school then  
13 spanked at home has no safe place. According to the Ministry of Social Development "Physical punishment  
14 is associated with increased child aggression, antisocial behaviour, lower intellectual achievement, poorer  
15 quality of parent-child relationships, mental health problems (such as depression), and diminished moral  
16 internalisation." Also according to the National Institute of Justice. A common belief held by many  
17 professionals in the criminal justice field is that the vast majority of incarcerated felons have been victims  
18 of physical abuse or neglect as children. Hitting children might discipline them but in the long run the child  
19 will never learn respect only fear. Giving principles and teachers the right to hit children gives them more  
20 authority than they should have. Just because a parent gives a principle a right to instil corporal  
21 punishment there should be other methods tried. A principle can easily overdo the punishment and hurt  
22 the child more than needed. Children with disabilities are excluded from punishments. Congress tried to  
23 ban corporal punishments in April of 2021 but it was considered constitutional and legal on May 6th of  
24 2021. No principle nor teacher should have the authority and power over a child that is not theirs.

25 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

26 This bill should be in effect on January 1, 2022.

27 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

28 No funding is needed for this bill.

29 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

30 Suspension without pay and/or termination pending investigation against the person who did the act.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 88**

3 Rachel Fereday

Dutchtown High School

4  
5 **TITLE:** Solving Flooding from Development

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Recently there has been a prominent issue in Louisiana. More homes have been flooding than ever before,  
8 and most citizens attribute it to the new developments popping up everywhere we look. It is crucial that  
9 we protect Louisiana residents and their homes. Therefore property developers should be offered  
10 incentives for remodeling old structures rather than building new ones on available land. Louisiana is one  
11 of the states in America with some of the highest vacancy rates in terms of buildings and homes. The  
12 government pays for these buildings, and it wastes billions of dollars each year. If these buildings were  
13 repurposed, the government could avoid unnecessary spending, and Louisiana residents would be a lot  
14 happier.

15 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

16 To solve this issue, the bill requires that property developers be offered an incentive to repurpose old  
17 buildings or homes instead of building new ones on available land. Any new businesses or developers that  
18 want to build on new land will be provided the opportunity to remodel an old building, and therefore will  
19 be exempt from state income taxes for the first 10 years.

20 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

21 There would be no additional funding for this bill, because the government would no longer need to  
22 upkeep and pay for abandoned buildings that would be used by businesses or developers in this bill. There  
23 would also be a tremendous amount of money saved as a result of this bill if flooding decreased.

24 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

25 There are no penalties for this bill.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 89**

3 Sophia Edwards

St. Joseph's Academy

4  
5 **TITLE:** Ban Solitary Confinement in Louisiana

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Over 17% of Louisiana's prisoners have been put in solitary confinement for more than 2 or more weeks.  
8 Louisiana has a problem with overusing solitary confinement. Solitary confinement proves to be  
9 detrimental to a person's health. It causes severe under-stimulation which causes the line between reality  
10 and fantasy blur. Solitary confinement restricts a person from social interaction completely which does  
11 not help the mental state of the people who have anti-social personality disorder. After solitary  
12 confinement, inmates are more likely to experience anxiety, depression, paranoia, and some even suffer  
13 from hallucinations or delusions. Correctional workers often seem to use solitary confinement as a way to  
14 control the behavior of the prisoners, but control and punishment does not "cure" bad behavior. Prison  
15 should be a form of rehabilitation and punishment from previous crimes. Putting the prisoners in units  
16 with their "cliques" to decrease conflicts between inmates and giving the correctional staff more training  
17 to assess and respond to the mental health issues they see every day.

18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 Separating different areas of the prison into spaces for individual groups in the prison will cause a  
20 significant decrease in conflict and tension between inmates; therefore, it decreases actions resulting in  
21 solitary confinement. It would also decrease the need for solitary confinement as a form of safety from  
22 other prisoners. The correctional staff will also need to receive more training for the mental health issues  
23 they deal with daily. Providing more training for these situations will help the correctional staff know how  
24 to deescalate situations without the need of solitary confinement as a punishment.

25 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

26 The funding for the additional training of the correctional staff workers will come from a fee issued to the  
27 people who take the correctional staff training courses.

28 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

29 There is no punishment for this bill.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 90**

3 Ryan Asefi                    Episcopal School of BR

4 Hayden Singh

5 **TITLE: HOV Lanes**

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 HOV, or high-occupancy vehicle, lanes are found in many states and big cities, these lanes are for high  
8 occupancy vehicles and can be used free of charge as long as requirements are met. Louisiana has very  
9 few of these lanes and the addition of these lanes can reduce traffic congestion, save time, and lessen our  
10 emissions of CO2 into the environment. HOV lanes can lead to safe traffic conditions as there are fewer  
11 cars trying to merge in and out of a lane of traffic. HOV lanes can be restricted during certain times of  
12 the day (during rush hours) and act as a normal lane during less popular hours. Furthermore, the lane can  
13 also be used by people who do not meet the qualifications to use the lane by paying a fee.

14 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

15 HOV lanes will be open to passenger vehicles, trucks, cars, vans, or buses with 2 or more passengers from  
16 the hours of 5-9am and 3-7pm. It will also be open to fully electric vehicles no matter the passenger  
17 count to incentivize people to purchase electric vehicles. Commercial vehicles like semi trucks will not be  
18 allowed to use these lanes. However, if a passenger vehicle only has one person in it they may pay 15  
19 cents per mile to use it. Their mileage will be tracked via an app that will determine what lane they are in  
20 based on surrounding traffic and GPS and will require payment at the end of the month, or a fine will be  
21 imposed. There will be police officers that monitor these lanes and camera systems that can determine if  
22 there are enough people in a car. If a vehicle does not meet the requirements for being in the HOV lane,  
23 the license plate will be recorded and a ticket will be issued. Lanes will be added using an existing  
24 shoulder so construction will be limited. The outside shoulder will still be intact allowing for emergency  
25 vehicles and wrecks to have a space to be moved.

26 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

27 Funding for HOV lanes will be used from federal and state budgets for transportation along with DOT  
28 grants. Payments for fines will be used in funding these lanes. People who don't normally qualify to use  
29 the HOV lane and decide to buy a pass will also generate revenue for the state to use on the addition of  
30 HOV lanes.

31 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

32 \$100 fine for first offense, \$175 for second offense, and \$300 for three or more offenses (no points on  
33 license because Louisiana does not have a point system).



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 91**

3 Ryan Elkhansa                      Episcopal School of Acadiana

4  
5 **TITLE:** Higher Succession for Minors with Adult Siblings

6  
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 When a parent or guardian of a child dies without a will, if the child has siblings they will receive an equal  
9 cut as the rest of their adult siblings. Children have many more future expenses than their adult siblings,  
10 such as expenses for school, food, bills and extracurricular activities. After they reach adulthood, many of  
11 these expenses will be paid for and most of their inheritance will be gone. This will protect some of the  
12 minor's inherited assets in order to have a set up for their life until they attain the age of majority.

13 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

14 Children of a deceased parent will receive higher inheritance than their adult siblings with no will, as  
15 described below.

16 If the minor heir has one adult sibling, the minor heir will receive a ten percent higher apportionment,  
17 which would render their inheritance to be sixty percent ownership of the total sum. If there are two adult  
18 siblings, the minor heir would receive forty-three percent, and so on (thirty-five percent with three adult  
19 siblings). The date of effect will be on November 17th of 2022. In the case of multiple minor heirs, the  
20 apportionment increase will remain at 5% so long as there is an adult sibling.

21 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

22 No funding is necessary.

23 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

24 No penalties are necessary.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 92**

3 Addison Manning                      Episcopal School of Acadiana

4  
5 **TITLE:** Reform Solitary Confinement

6  
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Solitary confinement is the isolation of a prisoner in a separate cell for punishment. In the context of  
9 American jurisprudence, solitary confinement was first implemented by the Puritans to give prisoners an  
10 opportunity to reflect and study the Bible. This practice continued until the Puritans realized that solitary  
11 confinement was actually damaging for prisoners. Solitary confinement is overused and unregulated. As  
12 applied in the contemporary justice system, any prisoner that correctional officers simply do not want to  
13 deal with can be placed in solitary confinement with no repercussions. In a study of 119 former prisoners  
14 43% had a history of solitary confinement and 28% percent screened positive for PTSD symptoms.

15  
16 <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28281161/>

17  
18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 Beginning January 1, 2022, Louisiana prisons must collect and submit their monthly data on solitary  
20 confinement. This bill will require Louisiana prisons to submit their monthly report of which prisoners were  
21 placed into solitary confinement, how long prisoners were placed there, and why prisoners were placed in  
22 confinement to the Louisiana Department of Corrections. Data must be sent to the Louisiana Department  
23 of Corrections by the 28th of every month.

24  
25 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

26 This bill requires no funding.

27  
28 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

29 This bill has no penalties.

30



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **HOUSE BILL 94**

3 Jaicee Hunter                      Neville High School

4  
5 **TITLE:** Require all parents to attend a course of parenting classes during the first year of the baby's life.

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 My bill is to require soon to be parents to take a course of parenting classes during the pregnancy of the  
8 parents until the baby's first year of life. A few classes that might be held before the baby is born are  
9 postpartum prep classes, labor and birthing technique classes, prenatal exercise, and lastly what to  
10 expect during the first couple of weeks that the baby is born. Most importantly, this class teaches you  
11 how to avoid SIDS which is sudden infant death syndrome mostly happened by how you lay the baby  
12 down. This can be prevented by taking the parenting class. Which can teach you the proper way to lay  
13 your baby. "Parenting classes can help parents learn more about what to expect in the coming years and  
14 prepare for each developmental stage." (Source- whitby.school.org) The class must be taken over every 5  
15 years if you've had another baby.

16  
17 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

18 The bill has to be presented and agreed on by the house and the senate. It will be implemented by the  
19 social workers in the hospital. The bill will take place in January 2022.

20 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

21 No funding is needed.

22  
23 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

24  
25 No penalties will be imposed.





# LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

## HOUSE BILL 96

Sydney LaTour                      University Lab School

Anna Schneider

**TITLE:** Breaks for high school students during school hours

### **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

The normal school hours for the average highschool American student is 7 hours of class. During this time, the students are bombarded with class work to do while in class and work from almost every class to take home. Meaning as much as it can be considered tolerable to have 7 hours of school with 1 lunch break, those hours do not include the hours at home of work from each of those classes to do. Many students. According to "The Atlantic" website the most recent data indicate that 87% of highschool students that wake up in time for school need sleep, almost every highschool student has extra curricular activities or stuff they do outside of school that add in to those hours. To sum up all of the hours of work in and out of school and homework it isn't extreme to say that numerous students don't have the hours necessary for teenagers to sleep which would be 8-10hours and those hours according to the CDC website (cdc.gov)

### **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

The Louisiana state will allow highschool students from 9-12 grade have brain breaks during school hours for the sake of the intellectual health of the brain of at least 30 minutes since it's proven by specialized professionals that not enough sleep or an overwhelming amount of work from school is the cause for many mental health problems in teens nowadays.

### **SECTION III: FUNDING**

This bill's funding would come from the state of Louisiana's government for schools to be able to pay teachers and staff and be able to afford the time not spent studying due to the student's needed break.

### **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

The penalty for schools that don't abide by the given bill will receive a fine of 5,000 dollars that must be used for the betterment of public schools that need the money for student care and necessities. BESE will adopt policies regarding breaks within the day



# LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

## HOUSE BILL 98

Kailyn Vessel          St. Joseph's Academy

**TITLE:** Funding low income schools

### **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

Louisiana is 50th in education out of all the states in America. the biggest problem being high dropout rates, specifically students from low-income schools. High dropout rates means a lower graduation rate. Louisiana tends to fund higher-income schools more than they do schools in areas that are not bringing in as much money. Year after year, lawmakers have cut down the amount of money they send to state universities, estimated around \$1 billion since 2008, and with every budget cut universities are raising their tuition to keep doors open. Louisiana tends to blame public schools instead of trying to provide the correct resources to help with the problem. Our school funding has stopped over the years and so that is why our education is ranked so low compared to other states. By starting a program that funds low-income schools to hire better teachers and have a better curriculum, we can raise the rates of graduation and lower the rates of dropouts. By starting a program that funds low-income schools, we can bring Louisiana's ranking up in education. The highest-ranking state in education as of 2021 is Massachusetts. In Massachusetts, the state provides money for low-income districts to educate their students. This funding not only increased graduation rates, but it also supported teachers and raised the standards for said schools. This funding allowed them to hire better teachers and other staff members that helped children with their learning. If we implement this kind of program in Louisiana, it can raise test scores and graduation rates. It will also lower the amount of student who drop out every year.

### **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

The program will allow schools in low-income areas to receive higher funding of about 2.75% to keep up with the inflation from 2008. In the 2007-08 school year, nominal state per pupil spending for the average district was \$5,528 but dropped significantly post-recession to a low of \$5,234 per pupil in 2010-11. Since then, average nominal state per pupil spending has risen and as of the 2016-17 school year stands at \$5,954 per pupil. After inflation, the average state per pupil spending decreased significantly since the 2007-08 school year. In 2016-17 only 1 in 4 schools received actual state funding at nominal level. Since the 2.75 percent increase was not consistent in 2008, schools lost out on a collective \$6.8 billion in revenue which could have ultimately paid more than 13,530 teachers the current Louisiana current salary for 10 years. So if we raise the funding by 2.75% better teachers can be hire which will be able to raise the curriculum and standards for low-income schools.

### **SECTION III: FUNDING**

The funding will not come only from federal grants and the government directly because approximately 92% of school's budgets are funded through taxes, weather its state or locally, income taxes, sales taxes, and property taxes are already going towards school funding, and raising those rates would be too controversial. Therefor, the money to support this will come from school and community directed

1 fundraisers and events. The money from these events will be used towards improving low income schools,  
2 specifically in their education field by paying for tutors, counselors, and other learning and support tools  
3 available to the students.

4  
5 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

6 This section should list any and all penalties for violation of this bill. If your bill has no penalties, just say  
7 that.

8