



2 **HOUSE BILL 99**

3 Davis Lambert

Catholic High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Project Pothole

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Louisiana is currently ranked eighth in the worst road conditions by state. Part of this problem is the
9 potholes. Potholes are defined as deep natural underground cavities formed by the erosion of rock, and
10 in this case, these potholes are in the roads. These potholes are unattractive, and dangerous. They can
11 cause car wrecks, which is costly to repair these cars. One viable solution to this problem is to fill up
12 these potholes. However, the current system is that one must report these potholes to the government,
13 and it could take up to 3 months for them to be filled up. There needs to be a new, faster solution to
14 this problem, and that is where Project Pothole comes in.

15
16 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

17 A new mobile app, called "Project Pothole," will be added to all app stores on all mobile devices. In this
18 app, citizens can request for someone to fill these potholes. The app will be managed and overseen by
19 the Louisiana Department of Tourism and Development. They will get these potholes filled within 15
20 days.

21
22 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

23 Project Pothole will be funded by an 8% tax on cigarettes, cigars, and vapes.

24
25 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

26 Penalties do not apply Project Pothole.



2 **HOUSE BILL 100**

3 Noah Robert University Laboratory School

4 Samuel Adjei

5
6 **TITLE:** Democratize the Workplace

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Today Louisiana’s economy is absolutely horrible and it is only getting worse as time goes on. Even
10 worse than the economy overall is the state of Louisiana’s working class. However, this bill will go a
11 long way in repairing a multitude of problems for average Louisianians on top of the most basic moral
12 responsibility which this bill fulfills: To bring democracy, that which America was founded on, into the
13 workplace where people spend nearly a third of every day for half their life. All of this is done by giving
14 the workers in a business voting power in company decisions and a right to a portion of the profits,
15 since those profits have all been created because of them. First, this bill will solve the problem of jobs
16 going overseas, for what worker will vote to send his own job to another country?- none. Furthermore,
17 this will drastically decrease the income inequality which is at its greatest point in the history of this
18 country by entitling all workers to a portion of the profits which are rightfully theirs. Because this bill
19 targets larger corporations so heavily it will go a long way in creating a situation where smaller
20 businesses can thrive. Not only will large companies be discouraged from coming into Louisiana but
21 many working class people will receive an influx of cash which they can use to start their own
22 businesses. In addition, this will entirely solve any issues regarding low worker pay or poor working
23 conditions since no worker will in their right mind vote against giving themselves good pay and
24 conditions. Last but not least this will result in almost everyone currently unemployed immediately
25 seeking employment in the less desirable jobs as they will be far more desirable.

26
27 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

28 I. All Sole Trader/Proprietorships with 10 or more employees will be required to enter into a partnership
29 agreement issuing a minimum of 15 percent of ownership to the employees, equally distributed among
30 them. This bill reserves the right of employers in Sole Trader/Proprietorships to include such clauses as
31 may revoke all ownership powers and responsibilities from any employees who obtained such ownership
32 through compliance with this bill should their time with the company come to an end, either by choice or
33 force, but such clauses are not required by this bill.

34 II. All Partnerships with 10 or more employees, who were not part of the original partnership
35 agreement, will be required to enter into a partnership agreement issuing a minimum of 15 percent of
36 ownership to the employees, equally distributed among them. This bill reserves the right of employers in
37 Partnerships to include such clauses as may revoke all ownership powers and responsibilities from any
38 employees who obtained such ownership through compliance with this bill should their time with the
39 company come to an end, either by choice or force, but such clauses are not required by this bill.

40 III. All Private Limited Liability Companies will be required to issue a minimum percentage of shares to
41 the employees, equally distributed among them, depending on the size of the Private LLC. This bill
42 reserves the right of employers in Private LLCs to include such clauses which may require any employees
43 who obtained their shares through compliance with this bill to sell their shares back at a reasonable
44 price to the owners should their time with the company come to an end, either by choice of force, but
45 such clauses are not required by this bill.

46 a. All Private LLCs with 1-39 employees will be required to issue a minimum of 10 percent of shares to
47 the employees.

1 b. All Private LLCs with 40-99 employees will be required to issue a minimum of 20 percent of shares
2 to the employees.

3 c. All Private LLCs with 100-999 employees will be required to issue a minimum of 25 percent of
4 shares to the employees.

5 d. All Private LLCs with 1000-9999 employees will be required to issue a minimum of 30 percent of
6 shares to the employees.

7 e. All Private LLCs with 10000 or more employees will be required to issue a minimum of 35 percent of
8 shares to the employees.

9 IV. All Public Limited Liability Companies will be required to issue a minimum percentage of shares to
10 the employees, equally distributed among them, depending on the size of the Public LLC. This bill
11 reserves the right of employers in Public LLCs to include such clauses which may require any employees
12 who obtained their shares through compliance with this bill to sell their shares back at a reasonable
13 price to the owners should their time with the company come to an end, either by choice of force, but
14 such clauses are not required by this bill.

15 a. All Public LLCs with 1-39 employees will be required to issue a minimum of 10 percent of shares to
16 the employees.

17 b. All Public LLCs with 40-99 employees will be required to issue a minimum of 20 percent of shares to
18 the employees.

19 c. All Public LLCs with 100-999 employees will be required to issue a minimum of 35 percent of shares
20 to the employees.

21 d. All Public LLCs with 1000-9999 employees will be required to issue a minimum of 40 percent of
22 shares to the employees.

23 e. All Public LLCs with 10000 or more employees will be required to issue a minimum of 50 percent of
24 shares to the employees.

25 V. All For Profit Social Enterprises will be required to issue a minimum percentage of shares to the
26 employees, equally distributed among them, depending on the size of the Social Enterprise. This bill
27 reserves the right of employers in Social Enterprise to include such clauses which may require any
28 employees who obtained their shares through compliance with this bill to sell their shares back at a
29 reasonable price to the owners should their time with the company come to an end, either by choice of
30 force, but such clauses are not required by this bill.

31 a. All Social Enterprises with 1-39 employees will be required to issue a minimum of 10 percent of
32 shares to the employees.

33 b. All Social Enterprises with 40-99 employees will be required to issue a minimum of 20 percent of
34 shares to the employees.

35 c. All Social Enterprises with 100-999 employees will be required to issue a minimum of 25 percent of
36 shares to the employees.

37 d. All Social Enterprises with 1000-9999 employees will be required to issue a minimum of 30 percent
38 of shares to the employees.

39 e. All Social Enterprises with 10000 or more employees will be required to issue a minimum of 35
40 percent of shares to the employees.

41 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

42 Section 3: No funding is required for this bill.

43 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

44 Section 4: Any businesses which do not comply will first receive a warning and order to fix within 2
45 weeks and then the business will be subject to a fine equal to the same a percent of profits in one year
46 equal to the percent of the company which was to be owned by the employees. In addition the CEO is
47 liable to be sued by any employees denied their rights within this bill for between \$100,000 and
48 \$10,000,000.
49
50



2 **HOUSE BILL 101**

3 Emma Stone University Lab School

4 Sophia Ray

5
6 **TITLE: REQUIRE SEX EDUCATION IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Right now, Louisiana public schools are not required to teach sex education. According to the CDC, as
10 of February 2022, Louisiana has the third highest teen birth rate in the country with 25.7 births per
11 1,000 females aged 15-19. Other states, like Vermont, have much lower numbers. Vermont has the
12 third lowest teen birth rate with 7 births per 1,000 females aged 15-19, and its schools require sex
13 education. In Louisiana today, if a school provides sex education, abstinence must be taught as the
14 social standard, consent is not required education, and homosexuality may not be taught if the contents
15 are explicit, according to Sex Education Collaborative.

16
17 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

18 The program will start in sixth grade where the physical education course will be replaced by an
19 introductory sex education course for 15 days. This course will be divided into males and females. In
20 this course, the students will learn about their bodies, reproductive systems, puberty, and relationships.
21 In eighth grade, the students will have an introduction to safe sex, consent, STDs, and other effects of
22 unprotected sex. The course will also discuss sexuality and gender identity. This course will also be
23 divided into males and females. In tenth grade, the course will go co-ed. The students will have more in-
24 depth discussions on protection, consent, sexual assault, and rape.

25
26 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

27 Workers from the Louisiana Department of Health will be appointed to teach each grade's course
28 depending on their respective fields. They will continue to be paid their normal salary meaning no
29 additional state money will be used.

30
31 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

32 If a school refuses to adhere to any of these rules, an investigation by the school board will be held to
33 determine the cause and penalty.



2 **HOUSE BILL 102**

3 Nicholas Pecquet Catholic High school

4 Alexander Traylor

5
6 **TITLE:** Youth Background and Gun Purchasing

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 The legal age to buy a gun is 18. The only other right you gain at the age of 18 is the ability to vote
10 and get drafted. Our bill would reduce an 18-year old's ability to buy and sell a gun and raise those
11 ages to 21. We also plan to stop clearing youth's backgrounds when they turn 18. If you can remember,
12 in past years many teenagers have committed heinous crimes and then were tried for those crimes.
13 When you turn 18, your background is cleared. This may not seem like a problem since many youths do
14 not commit heinous crimes, but some commit very severe crimes that seemingly go away when they get
15 to be 18. Then, as soon as they turn 18, they can go out and legally buy a gun since they have no
16 previous crimes that are recorded. So, how could we combat this? Well, the legal age to buy and sell a
17 gun would be raised to 21. If you think about it, that is also the age to drink alcohol and buy cigarettes.
18 I believe that gun buying should be permitted at the same time as you are legally permitted to drink.
19 Also, we should not just clear any youth's background when they turn 18. If you think about it, a youth
20 could murder someone at 17 and then, if possible, a year later go out and buy a gun. Would you really
21 trust a youth to change in 1 year? Of course not. Not clearing backgrounds would help prevent crimes
22 from happening by our youths. Our bill would stop youths from buying guns until they turn 21, and we
23 would also stop clearing their background when they turn 18.

24
25 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

26 For this bill to be implemented into the Louisiana legislature, the bill would need a simple majority as
27 well as formally signed. The law would take effect as soon as the bill is voted into law.

28
29 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

30 Implementing this bill would not cost any money. We would not need any money for this bill because the
31 background checks of the buyer/seller will still be mandatory and the number of people to perform
32 these checks would stay relatively the same. The only reason the number of workers would change is if
33 the government were to hire new workers for the position.

34
35 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

36 There will be a punishment for all those who do not comply with this law. If you are at a company who
37 sells guns, and you knowingly sell a gun to a youth, you and the youth will be in big trouble. First, you
38 and the youth will be arrested. If convicted, the seller will be put in prison for 10-20 years, and not
39 have the ability in any cases for parole. You would also pay a fine of 5000\$. If you purchased it, you
40 spend 1 year in jail, and pay 1000\$ in fines. This would count as a felony for both parties, so neither
41 party could purchase a gun again. Also, the company would face no repercussions for the acts
42 committed by an employee.



2 **HOUSE BILL 103**

3 Lakeebra Williams Captain Shreve Highschool

4
5 **TITLE:** Banning the publication of inappropriate content in children’s books.

6
7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Over the years, there has been a huge climb in inappropriate content in children’s books. Like, “Let’s
10 Play Indoors”, which was published in 2011 and features inappropriate games. Similar to the Missouri
11 law, making it a crime for educators to show “explicit” books to students. This law prevents the
12 exposure of inappropriate content to underage children. This bill completely bans the publishing of
13 inappropriate content in children’s books.

14
15 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

16 When a writer creates a children’s book, it will be mandatory to have proofreaders to read their book.
17 The proofreaders will decide whether or not the book is suitable for children and if they believe it is
18 appropriate, the author will be allowed to publish the book.

19
20
21 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

22 The money to support this law will come from the authors of the books. The pay will be determined by
23 the weight of the book. If the book surpasses 8.5 ounces, two dollars will be added.

24
25
26 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

27 If an inappropriate children’s book gets passed, the author of the book and the publisher will get fined
28 one hundred dollars. The second offense will result in a fine of five hundred dollars. The third offense
29 will give them 1 year in federal prison.



2 **HOUSE BILL 104**

3 Cameron McDearmont

Captain Shreve High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Juvenile Psychological Counseling Act

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 The Juvenile Psychological Counseling Act is a law that will provide mental health counseling to juveniles
9 ages 4-17. From the results of an optional mental health assessment, if a student scores lower than a
10 certain threshold (which can be amended), the state shall pay for a certain amount of counseling
11 sessions, depending on the score on the juvenile's assessment with a state-certified Pediatric
12 counselor, the sex depending on the student's choice. Juveniles age 14-17 may opt to choose an adult
13 psychological counselor at the parent's discretion.

14
15
16 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

17 Juveniles will take an optional, semiannual mental assessment on August 28th and February 28th in
18 school. If a student is not present that school day or is homeschooled, the assessment may be taken
19 online on their respective school websites.

20
21
22 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

23 To finance the Act, an income tax will be implemented on the population of Louisiana of .5% which will
24 fund the counseling sessions of the juveniles, and pay the counselors.

25
26
27 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

28 There is no penalty for this act, as this is an optional assessment. However, if a juvenile doesn't act
29 respectfully to the counselor during a session, the family of the juvenile shall be fined \$60 and the free
30 sessions shall be waived.

31



2 **HOUSE BILL 105**

3 Michael Wilhelm Catholic High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Louisiana Financial Literacy Act

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Financial Literacy refers to the knowledge of managing, investing, and budgeting of an individual's or
9 group's finances. As of 2017, 23 states in the U.S require some form of finance class (personal & family
10 finance, business, etc...), but Louisiana is not one of them. Louisiana requires it's schools to offer a
11 finance elective, but this is entirely optional to the students. In 2015, a study by the National Center
12 for Education Statistics (NCES) determined that only 40% of U.S 18-24 year-olds were planning to,
13 currently attending, or previously attended postsecondary school, meaning high school education is the
14 only education a large portion of the country will have when entering young adulthood, a very
15 financially vulnerable time. A mandatory education in finance prior to leaving high school would be
16 essential to those pursuing a career without access to college level finance classes. The Financial
17 Literacy Act would add a mandatory finance credit to all public, charter, and private schools in the state
18 of Louisiana. This would be done to ensure that high school graduates are familiar with complex
19 financial topics such as credit scores, mortgages, investments, etc... This act would greatly improve the
20 financial responsibility and knowledgeability of the state's high school graduates, and lead to healthier
21 practices on their part.

22
23 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

24 Administered by the Louisiana Department of Education, this act would be implemented in all Louisiana
25 public and private schools. In order for a student to graduate from a Louisiana high school, they must
26 take a credit worth (two semester) class involving business or finance. It would be up to the individual
27 school district to choose what classes to offer from an approved list of finance courses.

28
29 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

30 Funding for public schools would be allocated from state and local tax dollars.

31
32 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

33 Any school in violation will not be allowed to operate within the state of Louisiana



2 **HOUSE BILL 106**

3 Julian Rogers Catholic High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Do Good and Good Will Come to You

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 At present there are more than 36,000 people serving time for felonies in the state of Louisiana. It cost
9 the state on average just over \$16,000 per inmate. The Work Opportunity Tax Credit is offered by the
10 I.R.S. for businesses and employers who hire people classified by the Department of Labor as "target
11 groups." The maximum tax credit for qualified ex-felon employees is \$2,400 per employee. I propose
12 that Louisiana offers a maximum \$7,600 tax credit in addition to the \$2,400 offered by the I.R.S. This
13 would make Louisiana businesses and employers eligible for a \$10,000 tax credit for hiring ex-felons.
14 For every ex-felon that is employed, the state will save over \$8,000 per ex-felon, businesses will save
15 \$10,000 per employee, and numerous ex-felons will have the opportunity to live meaningful lives.

16
17 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

18 The implementation will depend on the good will of businesses and employees.

19
20 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

21 The funding will come from the corrections budget.

22
23 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

24 Not hiring and applying the ex-felon will result in not receiving the tax credit.



2 **HOUSE BILL 107**

3 Dehlia Trainer

Lafayette High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Reduce Plastic Bags at Grocery Stores

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 This bill would reduce the amount of plastic bags provided at grocery stores. With the bill, cashiers
9 would automatically bag groceries with paper bags, instead of plastic bags. If the customer were to ask
10 that plastic bags were to be used, the cashier would certainly do that, and plastic bags would still be
11 easy to access, and easily requested. This law would decrease the amount of wasted plastic packaging
12 in the world and the amount of plastic in landfills. At the checkout line, cashiers would also heavily
13 recommend that the buyers recycle the paper bags and bring their own reusable bags, which would
14 further benefit the environment and increase reusability. Only 3% of plastic bags are recycled a year. On
15 the other hand, 65% of paper bags and products are recycled.
16

17
18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 Paper bags would be replaced as the main bags instead of plastic bags in grocery stores, and plastic
20 bags would replace where paper bags are currently stored. The law would take place January 1st, 2024,
21 to give the state over a year to prepare for the change. Over the course of 2024, the slow transition of
22 bagging would happen, district by district, beginning with the most populated to the least, that way it
23 wouldn't be a huge change all at once, and give people time to adjust. The goal would be to finish
24 replacement before January 1st, 2025.
25

26 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

27 The grocery stores themselves would not have to pay to switch out bagging, the government would
28 provide the funding. The Department of Revenue would oversee the tax and use of tax money. The
29 difference of costs between plastic and paper bagging is approximately 2 cents per bag. A small sales
30 tax would be implemented when paying for groceries. A 1.5% sales tax would be implemented, and
31 would go towards payment for paper bagging. If fines occurred because of violations of this law, the
32 money received from that would go back to payment for bagging.
33

34
35 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

36 Owners of grocery stores who refused to allow the government to swap bagging would be fined. The
37 owner would get one warning, and a notice of 30 days to replace the bagging or they would be fined
38 1,000-2000 dollars per offense, depending on the size of the store As stated previously, the money
39 collected from the fines would then be used to then pay for more bagging replacements.
40



2 **HOUSE BILL 108**

3 Ramsey Claire Greene

Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

4 Hayden Singh

5
6 **TITLE:** Narcotics No More (Amend Section B of Louisiana Revised Statute 40:966)

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 In 1999, Louisiana saw a very low rate of drug overdoses compared to the rest of the United States
10 (CDC 2022). In 2000, the sentencing for Schedule I drug possession with intent to distribute,
11 distribution, and production saw its largest decrease (Clark 2022). Since then, Louisiana has seen a
12 drastic increase in its number of narcotics-related mortalities (CDC 2022). The Texas, Arkansas, and
13 Mississippi legislatures all dole out longer sentences, and all of these states have much lower overdose
14 mortality rates than Louisiana. Having lower sentencing makes Louisiana a more attractive market for
15 drug dealers compared to other states where they would be incarcerated for many years longer once
16 caught. This bill increases sentences for distribution of heroin and other Schedule 1 drugs such as
17 cocaine and methamphetamine, not including marijuana. This bill does not further punish victims of drug
18 addiction, but instead seeks to prevent those very drugs from crossing into our state lines by punishing
19 the individuals who seek to exploit victims of addiction by producing and selling these drugs.
20

21 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

22 The current penalty listed under subsection B.1a (Distribution of <28g non-cannabis Schedule 1
23 substances) of Louisiana Revised Statute 40:966 is imprisonment for not less than one and not more
24 than ten years.

25 This bill will increase that penalty to not less than ten and not more than forty years.

26 The current penalty listed under subsection B.1b (Distribution of >28g non-cannabis Schedule 1
27 substances) is imprisonment for not less than one and not more than twenty years.

28 This bill will increase that penalty to not less than twenty and not more than fifty years.

29 Lastly, the penalty listed under subsection B.3 (distribution of heroin) is imprisonment for not less than
30 five years and not more than forty years.

31 This bill will increase that penalty to not less than twenty and not more than fifty years. This bill takes
32 effect on October 1, 2024.
33

34
35 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

36 In 2021, the Louisiana Department of Corrections had more than \$25,000,000 of unspent funding
37 (DOC Executive Budget Review 2022). These funds will bear the additional costs of longer prison
38 sentences.
39

40
41 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

42 Not Applicable

2 **HOUSE BILL 109**

3 Miniya Malone Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

4 **TITLE:** Educate Young Voters5 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

6 Voting is a civil responsibility held by all eligible American citizens with an aim of allowing the American
7 people a voice in their government. However, with the lack of proper education for young voters across
8 the country, many find themselves either blindly voting or not voting at all. A 2021 study by Tufts
9 University Tisch College estimated that only 50% of young people, aged 18-29, voted in the 2020
10 presidential election. In Louisiana, this percentage dropped to 42%, and worst, voter turnout for
11 Louisiana citizens aged 18-19 was only 32%. This is less than half of the national voter turnout
12 percentage from this election, which lay at about 66.8% according to data from the United States
13 Census Bureau. There are several reasons why voter turnout among youth tends to be lower than the
14 average voter turnout, including general apathy towards voting or the belief that the voting system is
15 'broken', but one reason very prevalent among young, inexperienced voters is a lack of education about
16 the voting process. If implemented, this bill will allow all high school Louisiana students attending public
17 Louisiana high schools to learn about the voting process through a curriculum offered by their school.
18 This curriculum will also be offered to Louisiana private high schools if they so choose.

19 The implementation of such curriculums in Louisiana schools has already been shown to be effective
20 through the passing of Louisiana's 2014 House Bill No. 542, which required instruction related to CPR
21 to be integrated into the curriculum of an existing required course of study in public high schools. By
22 teaching Louisiana high schoolers about how to vote in this same way, more youth coming out of high
23 school will be educated enough to cast their ballot and let their voices be heard.

24 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

25 The Louisiana Department of Education will be responsible for either creating or finding and adapting a
26 voting education curriculum that includes (but is not limited to) information regarding the following:

27 (1): How to Register to Vote

28 (a): Voter registration deadlines

29 (b): Voter registration requirements

30 (2): How to Vote in Person

31 (a): Early Voting Options

32 (b): Local Polling Stations

33 (c): ID Requirements

34 (d): Dates/Deadlines

35 (3): How to Check Voter Registration and Ballot Status

36 (4): Absentee Ballots

37 (a): Requirements

38 (b): Dates/Deadlines

39 This curriculum is to be given to all public Louisiana high schools and integrated into the curriculum of
40 a civics/government course required for graduation.

41 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

42 Any funding necessary to implement this bill will come from the Louisiana Department of Education.

43 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

44 In school districts that fail to adhere to/implement the curriculum, a mandatory meeting will be
45 scheduled between that parish's school board and the Louisiana State Board of Education and
46 Secondary Education (BESE). Further action will be up to the discretion of the BESE on a case-to-case
47 basis.



2 **HOUSE BILL 110**

3 Paris McClain

Dutchtown High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Child support penalty

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 The total child support amount due in Louisiana as of the month of September 2022 is \$132,932,346.
9 Only \$101,290,273 has been collected. Children living off of child support often have obligors (a
10 parent paying child support)who are living extravagantly while the child's basic needs are not being met,
11 due to insufficient funds. If a parent sues the other for child support, it usually means the obligor is not
12 paying how they are supposed to. In the "Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act of Louisiana ", the failure
13 to pay a support of any child residing in Louisiana for more than six months is illegal. The first offense
14 penalty is a fine not more than five hundred dollars or imprisonment for not more than six months or
15 both. A second offense requires a payment of no more than twenty five hundred dollars or
16 imprisonment with or without hard labor for no more than two years. As offense reoccur, penalties get
17 worse. The obligor is required to keep up with payments/agreements as they are due.

18
19 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

20 This bill will be implemented on January 1,2023

21
22 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

23 An increase in taxes.

24
25 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

26 Imprisonment and extra payments should not be necessary.Instead, after the obligor has been sued,
27 they should be given a push in the right direction to get their bill payments on track before heavy
28 punishments are enforced. First offense obligors should be sentenced to time on house arrest only
29 allowed time at work to make up the money they owe.House arrest would depend on the estimated time
30 it would take to make back money. If the obligor is not able to pay because they have lost their job, the
31 government will supply a community service job. Government supplied jobs may be best suited to them
32 depending on their individual abilities and availability. If offenses are recurring after two parole
33 sentences, obligors will then be fined, starting with \$500, going up by two hundred after every offense.

34
35
36



2 **HOUSE BILL 111**

3 Rebecca Barton Dutchtown Highschool

4
5 **TITLE:** Violence Based on Political Affiliation and/or Beliefs to be Considered a Hate Crime Under State
6 Law

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 A hate crime is defined as violence motivated by bias against race, color, religion, national origin,
10 sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or disability. When prosecuting cases that involve crimes of
11 hate, prosecutors consider three factors: the crime itself that was committed, the motivation behind the
12 crime, and whether the offender was motivated to commit it out of hatred or prejudice. On Sunday,
13 September 18th, an 18 year old was murdered by a 41 year old man because of a "political
14 disagreement". He was later released on a \$50,000 bail. Were this act of violence considered a hate
15 crime rather than vehicular manslaughter, the probability of such a low bail would decrease and the
16 potential for a stronger charge due to the nature of the crime would increase. In today's politically
17 charged environment, the growing number of violence perpetrated due to a person or person's political
18 beliefs should be recognized and addressed as a crime perpetrated by hate and/or prejudice. By doing
19 so, just as the importance of recognizing hate based crimes against people due to race, color, religion,
20 etc., it is also important to acknowledge and appropriately punish those criminal acts committed based
21 on political affiliation or beliefs.

22
23 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

24 This bill will be enacted on January 1st, 2023. Upon the enactment of this bill any person or persons
25 found guilty of a politically motivated act of violence will be charged with a hate crime under Louisiana
26 state law. Punishment of this crime will be based upon the mandatory state laws under RS 14:107.2.

27
28 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

29 No funding needed for this bill.

30
31 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

32 Politically motivated violence will be punished under Louisiana state law RS 14:107.2. Those in the
33 position to prosecute the crime, but refuse to do so, will be held accountable by the court.
34



2 **HOUSE BILL 112**

3 Nathan Henderson Dutchtown High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Installation of Surveillance Cameras at High-Risk Railroad Crossings

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 On September 16th of this year, LSU senior Allison Rice, known as 'Allie' to her friends and family, was
9 slain in the early morning. This unfortunate incident occurred while she was stopped at a railroad
10 crossing on Government Street in Baton Rouge. The perpetrator is still at large. There are many such
11 unidentified criminals in the Baton Rouge area. Allie was not the first victim of senseless crime in this
12 area, and if nothing is done, will certainly not be the last. She was a high schooler just 3 years ago.
13 Over the coming years, could any of us meet the same fate? Additionally, Louisiana was ranked the 8th
14 worst state in terms of rail-highway collisions last year. What do many of these accidents and the
15 Allison Rice case have in common? Lack of surveillance. While impossible to say with certainty, would
16 Allie's murderer have thought twice knowing their identity would be revealed? What could we learn
17 about our train collisions that could help prevent them in the future? The answer to both of these
18 questions can only be found with railroad surveillance.

19
20 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

21 Starting on January 1st, 2023, this bill will seek to give the most high-risk railroad crossings across the
22 state adequate surveillance systems to be operative whenever a train is approaching and departing.
23 Within a thirty-second window on each end of the train's presence, two security cameras will be active
24 and sending a live feed to the nearest police station. Having two cameras serves a couple of purposes;
25 first, having surveillance of both sides of traffic will ensure that both lanes are covered. It also serves
26 the purpose of redundancy, meaning if one camera is vandalized- as is likely in these crime-ridden
27 areas- the culprits of these crimes will also be caught. If a camera loses power or connection, the
28 authorities will be promptly notified.

29
30 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

31 Over the course of 5 years, a combined total of 7% of the annual budget from the DOTD (Department of
32 Transportation and Development) and the Department of Public Safety will fund this effort. If in these 5
33 years, it becomes evident that these installations garner no significant reductions in crime or accidents
34 in these areas, the funding for this bill will cease to be drawn.

35
36
37 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

38 N/A



2 **HOUSE BILL 113**

3 Austin Roberson Catholic High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Support for Tiger Town

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 The movement in Baton Rouge Keep Tiger Town Beautiful Is a volunteer group that aims to clean up
9 Baton Rouge one piece of trash at a time. This bill would give governmental support towards this small
10 but rapidly growing organization and allow It to reach its maximum potential. The government would
11 provide a starting \$20,000 donation which would go towards equipment such as gloves, reflective
12 traffic vest, and trash bags. Along with the donation, free advertisement will also take place in the form
13 of commercials, and social media to shed light onto the organization in support of more volunteers. As
14 of right now, the most people amassed at one event was almost 40 people, however this bill will be able
15 to possibly double that number and make sure everyone as adequate equipment to get the job done.
16 Louisiana Is one of the dirtiest states in terms of littering and this bill Support for Tiger Town plans to
17 stop that.

18
19 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

20 This bill will be Implemented on January 1, 2023. Once Implemented, governmental websites will begin
21 advertising for Keep Tiger Town Beautiful to reach out to the public. The government would also reach
22 out to the media for more advertising along with commercials on certain channels.

23
24 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

25 The cost would be \$20,000 that would be part of the Initial donation with another 500\$ set aside for
26 commercials and advertisement. This money would come from the recent 1-billion-dollars budget
27 surplus. Additionally, any more money that may be needed would also come from the extra 1 billion
28 dollars.

29
30 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

31 No penalties are necessary.



2 **HOUSE BILL 114**

3 Savanna Baker

Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

4
5 **TITLE:** Project V.E.G (Vertical Efficiency Garden)

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Every year in Louisiana, 54% of our groundwater is used for agriculture (Managing Louisiana's
9 groundwater resources). On top of the excessive water usage, numerous pesticides are used, the
10 harvesting time isn't as efficient as it could be, and there isn't as much room for agricultural expansion
11 in the future. The solution to our outdated agricultural system is vertical farming. Instead of having our
12 farms on ground, vertical farms build up vertically. These facilities monitor light, temperature, water,
13 and carbon dioxide levels, and can be as simple as a freight container or could expand to a self-
14 sufficient model. Vertical farming uses up to 97% less water than traditional farming, and uses no
15 pesticides. Due to the precision of vertical farming, crops are of higher quality and are easier to harvest
16 and transport (and therefore more nutritious and fresh) because of the vertical farms close proximity to
17 populated areas. Vertical farming will not take local or industrial farms out of business. They will
18 instead enhance this market as it will be year-round. Vertical farms, once funded well and thoroughly
19 researched, will have the ability to inhabit out of state crops in the future. Vertical farming has been
20 proven to be successful in other states, examples including Freight Farms, 80 Acres Farms, and Cubic
21 Farms.

22
23
24 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

25 Project V.E.G will be a L.L.C and could be owned by a local food company such as Associated Grocers or
26 the Food Bank. V.E.G will start off with the simple freight crate model, located in for listed lots of
27 grocery stores. Over time, the actual store will be modeled (by 80 acre farms) and renovated.

28
29
30 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

31 To purchase the freight crates, V.E.G will apply for necessary funds with a grant. Once enough revenue
32 has been generated, V.E.G will renovate the building funded by a Louisiana loan with Mezzanine
33 financing.

34
35
36 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

37 N/A



2 **HOUSE BILL 115**

3 Andrew Morrill

Dughtown High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Second Chance for the Incarcerated

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Background:the bill is to encourage places of hire to have more equal opportunity by giving a 3% state
9 income tax break. This of course is alongside the already of course in place legal requirements such as
10 the EPA and article VII. This scale depends on the size of the company. The scale is 1 previously
11 incarcerated to 1000 other employees in order to be qualified for this bill. Every 5 years the companies
12 must be inspected by an agent in order to avoid fraud. Companies must send a request to the
13 department of correctional facilities in order to get an agent to do an inspection when they first file to
14 see if they qualify for the tax break.

15
16 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

17 This date will be in practical effect 2/25/2023 and full effect in 3/10/2024 practical, which means that
18 we will start sending agents to inspect companies that are filing for this tax break. full effect meaning
19 that companies that have been filed and inspected may qualify for this tax break as well the system set
20 up by the department of correctional facilities in order to process the request for agents.

21
22 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

23 funding comes from the department of correctional facilities from money that was put aside federally
24 to set up base camps for agents and new employees to manage requests. Which approximates to about
25 _ -1 million dollars for Louisiana . Each state will use the separated money the same for a building and
26 needed infrastructure for the agents.

27
28 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

29 Since this bill is encouragement of a pre-existing federal law there are additional penalties added for
30 companies that do not file and are suspected of not following federal guidelines for equal opportunity
31 employment then they will be fined 5% of that company's total income of that year of which will be
32 given to the department of correctional facilities.



2 **HOUSE BILL 116**

3 Brenslie Trabeau Dutchtown High School

4 Addison Crain

5
6 **TITLE:** DCFS Caseworker Internships

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 In Louisiana, a current problem is that Child Protection Service workers have too many children
10 assigned to them and they cannot spend adequate time on each foster child. This issue can lead to
11 many important details being missed or overlooked and children having to return to unhealthy
12 situations they shouldn't be in. Louisiana is ranked the 48th worst state when it comes to DCFS
13 (Department of Children and Families Services). Approximately 4,000 children are in Foster care in
14 Louisiana. Not to mention that there are currently approximately 171 job vacancies for child welfare
15 case workers. There simply isnt enough social workers for the constant increase in foster kids. With
16 cases reaching an all time high, caseworkers need more time to investigate thoroughly to ensure
17 children are not released into unsafe environments.

18
19 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

20 Our Bill will propose setting up an internship with psychology students from local colleges to assist
21 caseworkers with their investigations for college credits. The students must have at least 2 years of
22 phycology studies to qualify for the internship. The psychology students are going to help make sure
23 the social workers are in a good mental state to be dealing with the large work load. An investigator will
24 still be a lead on each case, but the psychology major will help to decrease the labor of the workers.
25 This will also bring in additional assistance to help facilitate the extensive amount of documentation
26 that is involved.

27
28
29 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

30 There will be no funding needed.

31
32
33 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

34 There will be no penalties.



2 **HOUSE BILL 117**

3 Ava Robertson

Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

4
5 **TITLE:** Specific Lanes For 18 Wheelers

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 This bill will create a specific lane on major interstates in Louisiana for large trucks like 18 wheelers to
9 avoid wrecks with other vehicles. According to police reports in 2020, there were about 415,000
10 crashes involving large trucks. 4,444 of those were fatal and 101,000 resulted in significant injuries.
11 This is important because it will reduce the risk and amount of 18 wheeler or car accidents on the
12 interstate. Eighteen wheelers have blind spots on either side and in the back. Unknowingly, cars can
13 easily be hidden and out of view. The drivers of these trucks can quickly change lanes, slow down, or
14 speed up accidentally causing a collision with the car. Creating specific lanes can stop this from
15 happening because the car is less likely to be in the blind spot, and even if it is, the truck won't be able
16 to merge into the lane. Although there is already a law in Louisiana that confines big trucks to the right
17 lane except when passing or turning left; this law does not stop average sized cars from traveling in the
18 right lane. This bill would keep cars in the middle or left lane, and would only allow them in the right
19 lane to exit the interstate. They would only be able to change lanes to exit the interstate within 150 ft
20 of the exit. Interstates that are less than three lanes will be expanded so traffic does not get backed up
21 with all the cars in the same lane.

22
23 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

24 If passed, this bill will go into effect on after the two lane interstates are expanded. Then, this bill can
25 be easily implemented by announcing the new lanes. The lanes on the interstate will also be painted to
26 show whether they are car lanes or big truck lanes.

27
28 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

29 Funding would be necessary for interstate expansion, and would only be for interstates with less than
30 three lanes. Funding would come from a 0.5% increase on tax on cigarettes and vape products.

31
32 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

33 If an 18 wheeler or any other vehicle drives in the wrong lane and not within 150 ft of an exit, then
34 they will be fined \$50 at first. The fine will go up \$50 each time they are caught in the wrong lane.

35



2 **HOUSE BILL 118**

3 Sofie Finnerty

Dutchtown High School

4 Sydnee Daniel

5
6 **TITLE:** Bottle Bill

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Louisiana loses a football-field-sized piece of land every 30 minutes due to coastal erosion. In order to
10 combat this, Louisiana can adopt the pre-existing Bottle Bill that is already implemented in 10 states.
11 These Bottle Bills promote recycling by offering a monetary incentive for returning containers. Seven
12 states in which this Bill was implemented reported a reduction in beverage container litter ranging from
13 70-83%. Louisiana would use the glass containers that are turned in and crush them into sand. This
14 sand can then be used as sand bags for floods and hurricanes as well as a means to build up our
15 wetlands. Louisiana adopting this Bill would increase recycling, decrease pollution, provide an
16 opportunity to combat coastal erosion, boost the economy, and increase job opportunities.

17
18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 This bill would first be introduced in Baton Rouge and New Orleans as of May 2023. If successful, one
20 bottle collection site would then be stationed for every 20,000 people across Louisiana. Bottles would
21 then be shipped to the nearest recycling center where plastic, cans, and glass would be sorted. Plastic
22 bottles and cans would be recycled while glass bottles would be crushed to form sand.

23
24
25 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

26 When bottles are brought to a collection site, the customer will receive anywhere from 2-15 cents,
27 depending on the type and volume of the container. In order to fund the payment and the recycling
28 center, a slight income tax increase will be implemented.

29
30
31 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

32 There are no penalties for this bill



2 **HOUSE BILL 119**

3 Makenzie King Dutchtown

4 [Click here to enter text.](#)

5 **TITLE:** Improving Physical Exams

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Over the last seven years, three high school football players died while or directly after playing football
9 in Louisiana alone. For example, a fourteen-year-old at Dutchtown High School, Burke Cobb, died from
10 Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM) in 2012. HCM is a heart condition that is the leading cause of
11 sudden cardiac death in young athletes. HCM exists in roughly 1 out of 500 individuals, and
12 approximately one case of sudden cardiac death occurs every three days in organized youth sports
13 across the United States. If a student-athlete has HCM or one of the many other cardiac issues that
14 can lead to death in young athletes, it would be detected by an Electrocardiogram.

15
16 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

17 This bill would improve and raise the requirements necessary physical exams needed by athletes to
18 participate in high school athletics. This bill is written in order to provide a more advantageous physical
19 exam. Adding an EKG would help physicals to more accurately ensure that the kids are physically fit and
20 have no medical problems that would cause severe injury when a child plays a sport. Currently, the only
21 thing done in a physical is a full-body fitness test. The current exam does not test for heart defects
22 such as HCM or other issues that affect an athlete's ability to participate in physical activities. The
23 purpose of adding the Electrocardiogram to the physical exam would be to detect if a student had one
24 of these heart conditions. If a heart defect is detected a specialist (such as a cardiologist) would have
25 to do a follow-up on the student before they could participate in any school activities.

26
27 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

28 No funding is necessary as funding for it will come from medical insurance. Schools also have
29 scholarships and other grants established in order to supply insurance for physical health. Without
30 insurance, an EKG costs about \$50.

31
32 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

33 This bill will give all Louisiana schools a 1-year waiver period to prepare to comply with this
34 improvement in physicals. After the given period has passed, individual schools will begin to be fined
35 based on the number of students who do not receive the updated physical. The fine can be determined
36 at a later date by the Department of Education of Louisiana. If found that not all of their students have
37 had the new version of a physical exam filled with the proper paperwork, the schools as a whole would
38 be unable to participate in the events.



2 **HOUSE BILL 120**

3 Glynes Hill Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

4 Isabella Civello

5
6 **TITLE:** Learning From Louisiana’s Literacy Levels

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Over half of Louisiana’s children have reading levels that are below the benchmark for their grade level,
10 according to the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Standardized reading
11 screening tests will be required to be administered in all Louisiana public schools. They will be given to
12 students in grades kindergarten through twelfth grade two times a year– once within the first month of
13 the school year and once within the last month of the school year. Since this test could influence the
14 teachers’ lessons, the second test at the beginning of the second semester allows administration to
15 determine whether or not teachers are using the results of the test to help their students.

16 It is impossible to control how teachers teach the material, but there will be a set of skills made public
17 of what students in each grade should know to be on track. Teachers will be able to use this to guide
18 their students and lessons, although it should not need to dominate the curriculum. These tests will
19 show the school and teachers the work that needs to be done for their students to be on the right track
20 for their age group so that Louisiana’s children can be successful during and after their years in school.

21
22 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

23 This bill will go into effect at the beginning of the 2023–2024 school year.

24
25 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

26 No funding is necessary for this bill.

27
28 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

29 If a school does not comply with administering these tests two times a year, then five percent of the
30 school’s funds will be withheld for the next school year.



2 **HOUSE BILL 121**

3 Brenslie Trabeau Dutchtown High School
4 Addison Crain

5
6 **TITLE:** DCFS Caseworker Internships
7

8
9 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

10 In Louisiana, a current problem is that Child Protection Service workers have too many children
11 assigned to them and they cannot spend adequate time on each foster child. This issue can lead to
12 many important details being missed or overlooked and children having to return to unhealthy
13 situations they shouldn't be in. Louisiana is ranked the 48th worst state when it comes to DCFS
14 (Department of Children and Families Services). Approximately 4,000 children are in Foster care in
15 Louisiana. Not to mention that there are currently approximately 171 job vacancies for child welfare
16 case workers. There simply isnt enough social workers for the constant increase in foster kids. With
17 cases reaching an all time high, caseworkers need more time to investigate thoroughly to ensure
18 children are not released into unsafe environments.
19

20
21 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

22 Our Bill will propose setting up an internship with psychology students from local colleges to assist
23 caseworkers with their investigations for college credits. The students must have at least 2 years of
24 phycology studies to qualify for the internship. The psychology students are going to help make sure
25 the social workers are in a good mental state to be dealing with the large work load. An investigator will
26 still be a lead on each case, but the psychology major will help to decrease the labor of the workers.
27 This will also bring in additional assistance to help facilitate the extensive amount of documentation
28 that is involved.
29

30 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

31 There will be no funding needed.
32

33
34 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

35 There will be no penalties.
36



2 **HOUSE BILL 122**

3 Allie Nichols

Dutchtown High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Forever have a home

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Hundreds of kids each year bounce from home to home in the foster care system for circumstances that
9 were not their fault. As of 2021, there were 3,861 reported foster kids in Louisiana, with more and
10 more kids being put into the foster care system, which struggles to provide a healthy and advantageous
11 life for each and every child. In the modern day, many children have two parents on their birth
12 certificate but are only being raised by or involved with one parent. The bill ensures that children have a
13 family to go home to in the worst-case scenario. Continuously, the need for social workers is increasing
14 every year with an average of 52 new positions each year and a 12.5 % increase in demand. This bill
15 has the hopes of making the safety of our children more organized and leaving the foster care system in
16 less hardship. Therefore, cutting down the towns of work assigned to the so few social workers,
17 working towards a better foster system, and keeping the children safe and happy.

18
19
20 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

21 This bill proposes that when a child is born the legal guardian(s) of said child have to file a Will of
22 Custody, in which they will name a person they wish for their child to live with if he/she pass. Said
23 person named to have custody of the minor will have the first opportunity to claim custody of the child.
24 During this, there will be a psychological evaluation for the new legal guardians and child. Also, he/she
25 will have to be interviewed where they would present their work schedule, financial stability, childcare
26 plan, etc. to guarantee the child will be in a sufficient home. If the parents of the child are married and
27 one parent dies, the living parent shall maintain custody of the minor child. In the event of a parental
28 death with divorced parents with a custody agreement, the new legal guardians will take the place of
29 the deceased guardian. If the biological legal guardian wishes for sole custody, then he/she will have to
30 file in court for sole custody. During this, he/she will undergo the same process as the opposing legal
31 guardians to guarantee a safe home for the child.

32
33 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

34 The psychologist will be provided by CPS and the interviews for potential legal guardians will be
35 provided by Social Workers.

36
37 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

38 This will be mandated paperwork for every child that is born and registered in the state records. If not
39 completed within the first 3 months of the child being born, parents will be fined \$250.00. After each 6
40 month period has passed, the fine will increase by 50 dollars and be contacted by the local CPS
41 workers.



2 **HOUSE BILL 123**

3 Denton Hester

Captain Shreve High School

4 Brex Lopez

5
6 **TITLE:** Recycling is mandatory in the State of Louisiana.

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Because Louisiana is directly next to the Gulf of Mexico, both wildlife and human-life are directly
10 affected by garbage. We can minimize this impact by recycling. By making recycling recyclables
11 mandatory, we can minimize the amount of garbage that ends up in places it shouldn't, we can make
12 Louisiana just as beautiful as it once was.

13
14
15 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

16 This Bill would be implemented starting January 1, 2024. For this Bill to be implemented we would first
17 need it to be passed. For the Bill to take effect it would need to be passed then the facilities would be
18 built. While the facilities are being built workers are hired for the facilities and to take the garbage
19 routes.

20
21 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

22 Funding for this bill will come mainly from a 0.004% income tax. A very small portion of funding will
23 come from the penalties. Our budget is approximately \$500,000,000, leaving about \$60,000,000 for
24 miscellaneous costs. The \$500,000,000 budget will cover payment for worker, facilities, and labor
25 costs.

26
27 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

28 If people leave any items that are able to be recycled in the garbage there will be a \$0.50 fine placed
29 per item on the person that leaves the recycled item.

30



2 **HOUSE BILL 124**

3 Krista Miller Mandeville High School

4 Brayden Pursell

5
6 **TITLE:** To: Enact a Ten Point Grading Scale Across the State of Louisiana

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 All public schools in Louisiana will transition to a ten point grading scale. Most colleges, with the
10 exception of the most prestigious schools, make use of a ten point scale, and students should have the
11 ability to prepare for college with familiar grading conditions in one's high school. As Louisiana is well
12 known for its TOPS and dual enrollment opportunities, both of which require a specific minimum GPA,
13 with an adjustment, all students could have a greater opportunity to achieve the required GPA. Students
14 will also be able to adequately compete with students at all other schools in the state if respective
15 grading systems are adjusted accordingly. Lastly, students will have the ability to raise their GPA in AP,
16 honors, dual enrollment, and on-level classes with this system, advancing their class rank and granting
17 more scholarship opportunities.

18
19 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

20 This law will be enacted for the 2023-2024 school year, and will be implemented in all public schools
21 across Louisiana, unless operating under a private structure, or granted governor approval in
22 circumstances not stated.

23
24
25
26 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

27 This law requires no funding from federal, state, or local means.

28
29
30 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

31 If this law is violated, the school in violation will lose federal funding for the district it resides in.

32
33



2 **HOUSE BILL 125**

3 Maeve Dolan Episcopal Highschool of Baton Rouge

4 Adam Chittom

5
6 **TITLE:** Increase SSI Resource Limits

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 This bill would increase the maximum amount of monetary resources that a family or parent of a
10 disabled child can have according to the SSI (Supplemental Security Income) requirements while
11 receiving supplemental income. The current limit is \$2,000 for a single parent and a disabled child and
12 \$3,000 for two parents and a disabled child (not including the value of the house or car). This is not
13 enough money for a parent to support both themselves and their child, let alone a disabled child who
14 may require additional hospital visits, educational aids, prosthetics, physical therapy, and medications.
15 It can cost a family, on average, around \$60,000 annually to raise a disabled child, and around 8% of
16 children under the age of 15 have some kind of disability (physical or psychological). According to the
17 Federal Reserve's Survey of Consumer Finances, the median American's checking account contains
18 \$5,300. Therefore, it is more than reasonable to raise the SSI limit for the monetary resources of both
19 a single parent and disabled child to \$5,000 and to change the limit for two parents and a child to
20 \$6,000 while receiving SSI. This bill, if implemented, will help more struggling parents of disabled
21 children in Louisiana.

22
23
24 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

25 This bill will take effect on January 1st, 2024.

26
27
28 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

29 We will create a 2% tax on the Louisiana Lottery to fund the additional income given to the parents by
30 the state of Louisiana. That will make the annual budget for the bill around \$11,620,000.

31
32
33 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

34 No penalties are applicable to this bill.

35



2 **HOUSE BILL 126**

3 Ian Trahan Catholic High School

4
5 **TITLE:** More time for felons caught with guns

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Currently the sentence for felons caught with firearms is 5-20 years.

9 As we all know gun violence is a major problem in Louisiana. Most people say to get rid of that problem
10 to just get rid of guns, however I disagree. I believe that it is not the gun that kills people it is the
11 person using the gun that kills people. Majority of murders in Louisiana are committed by felons with
12 firearms. So, if we can stop these felons from getting their hands on firearms, we can also help stop
13 some of the murder problem in Louisiana. So, I say we need harsher punishment on felons caught with
14 firearms. This bill would also give punishments to the people who helped that felon come in possession
15 of that gun. This bill would add to the minimum amount of time that a felon could spend in jail for
16 possession with a firearm. If we want gun violence to end, we have to be tuff on gun violence.

17
18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 This bill will raise the sentence for felons caught with firearms from 5-20 years to 8-25 years. Then
20 after the sentence is served a mandatory 2-year community service sentence will be caried out and a
21 minimum of 4 years' probation. A minimum \$3,500 fine will be added on top. For someone who bought
22 the gun for the felon a sentence of 2-6 years will be enforced this will be a felony charge so that
23 person will not be able to buy a gun in the future. A 1-year community service sentence and a fine of
24 \$1,000. They will also be put on probation for 1-2 years.

25
26 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

27 This bill will be funded by leftover Covid funds and a new tax. When we were in the Covid-19 pandemic
28 the state of Louisiana received millions of dollars from the federal government. A lot of that money is
29 still left over. We can fund this bill from those funds. A recent example of this is in Florida when
30 Govenor Ron DeSantis used left over covid funds for infrastructure. So, we could use leftover Covid-19
31 funds in Louisiana to help fund this bill. This bill would also impose a small 2% tax on residence of
32 Louisiana to fund this bill. The tax is worth it to help keep crime off the street. These funds would be
33 used to help pay for inmate cost and police force fundiing.

34
35 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

36 7-25 years in jail for felons caught with a firearm. 2-6 years in jail for someone who helped a felon
37 obtain a firearm. 2-year community service for a felon caught with a firearm. 1 year community service
38 sentence for someone who helped a felon obtain a firearm. A 4-year probation for a felon caught with a
39 firearm and a 1-2-year probation for someone who helped a felon get a firearm.

40 A felon will receive a fine of no less than \$3,500. A person who helped a felon obtain a firearm will
41 receive no less than a \$1,000 fine and will lose the right to own a gun.



2 **HOUSE BILL 127**

3 Mason Bond Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies

4
5 **TITLE:** Enforce More Frequent Inspections of Offshore Oil Rigs

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Louisiana produces a large amount of the USA's oil and natural gas, with many offshore drilling sites. In
9 recent years, Louisiana's gulf coast has suffered many disastrous oil spills, resulting in mass loss of
10 wildlife, and severe damage to the gulf itself. The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement
11 (BSEE) has scheduled annual inspections of all oil rigs, and periodic unscheduled inspections, as well as
12 monthly reports on safety needing to be sent to the bureau. However, with so few inspections on the oil
13 rigs, it is difficult to be sure if the safety reports sent throughout the year are entirely accurate. By
14 increasing the number and regularity of inspections, it would be much easier for accurate and relevant
15 data on oil rig operation and safety to be collected.

16
17 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

18 With the implementation of this bill, the rate of routine inspections will increase to be monthly, as close
19 to a week after the reports are issued, in effort to confirm both the voracity of the reports and the
20 general safety of the oil rig. With the additional inspections more rigorous detail would be paid to
21 safety precautions to prevent oil leaks and spills.

22
23 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

24 Funding for this bill would be taken from taxes for public infrastructure, in order to supply for travel
25 costs and any costs deemed necessary by inspectors to maintain safety on rigs.

26
27
28 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

29 If any oil rig fails to comply with inspections, the company would be fined for a minimum of \$10,000. If
30 a company's oil rig fails to comply more than three times, the company will be fined a minimum of
31 \$50,000 and all rigs will have a resident inspector to ensure security and safety. If an oil rig fails to
32 comply with suggested safety procedures, they will follow similar penalties as refusal to be inspected.



2 **HOUSE BILL 128**

3 Angelina Plaisance Lafayette High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Prevent the banning of books in public libraries

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 As we speak, books are being challenged and banned in public libraries across Louisiana. Classics such
9 as, *The Scarlet Letter*, *A Lesson Before Dying*, *The Catcher and the Rye*, among many others. If young
10 people are subject to this needless censorship, how will they gain perspective on the world outside their
11 community? They will be narrow-minded and hostile to outside viewpoints if we don't give them the
12 accessibility to knowledge. The censoring of these books go against our fundamental right in this
13 country to freedom of press. So, why is it we still have them being banned day after day?

14
15 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

16 Public local and school libraries will be allowed to carry any books they have access to, any challenged
17 to these books will be struck down and regarded and pointless under this bill. Private libraries are not
18 subject to this and therefore allowed to pull books they deem immoral. This bill will go into effect
19 immediately as it is passed, any books previously pulled from shelves will be put back.

20
21 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

22 There is no funding required for this bill.

23
24 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

25 If any public library is caught censoring or pulling books from their collection they will receive a loss of
26 state funding.



2 **HOUSE BILL 129**

3 Christine Tseng

Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies

4
5 **TITLE:** Building a better community for our youth through the arts

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Adolescence is the most formative and dangerous of one's life; what every person determines to do
9 shapes their character and life outcomes. Especially today, the risks of youth are more vital than ever
10 as interrelated issues, such as crime, substance abuse, violence, and poverty, negatively impact
11 adolescents and their communities. For example, Louisiana's crime rate is among the highest in the
12 nation, with 6,408.22 people committing a crime per 100,000, according to data from 2021 and 2022.
13 For reference, Louisiana has a population of around 4,624,000, meaning about 296,000 people commit
14 crimes yearly. Thus, adolescents growing up in or around these dangerous environments tend to be
15 more involved due to external influence. This proposed plan aims to create a safer environment that
16 allows 6th-12th graders to spend more energy in meaningful outlets- to have healthy emotional
17 releases, support, better self-images, better environment and communities, and overall better life
18 outcomes. By setting up free communal programs year-round in high-crime cities, youth will make
19 better life choices through band or visual arts. Studies have shown that students who participate in the
20 arts are 5 times less likely to drop out of school, 3.6% less likely to have disciplinary infractions, and
21 are significantly less likely to be arrested and participate in substance abuse. According to RS
22 17:1970.6, "whenever possible, the school shall offer such extracurricular activities as may be found in
23 any public secondary school in the state and shall work to make arrangements with surrounding city
24 and parish school systems to provide such opportunities." These would allow more outreach in schools
25 and cities that the program does not initially cover, maximizing the benefits.

26
27 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

28 With input from local police departments, the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) will analyze the
29 highest crime rates for all of Louisiana's cities. Then, the cities with the top 10 highest crime rates will
30 meet with school administrators to implement visual arts or band in 10 of their highest-risk schools. If
31 effective, the LDOE will repeat the above mentioned process, so 100 new schools will be added to the
32 program every 5 years. These initial participating cities and schools would be implemented in 2023,
33 with yearly checkups from the LDOE to ensure maximum effectiveness through annual reports and
34 performances.

35 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

36 The money to finance will come from Louisiana education grants (e.g., \$10,000 Grants to USA Teaching
37 Artists for Professional Development in the Fields of Arts and Education), existing educational funds,
38 and taxes. Using or increasing existing corporate, income, and state or local sales tax could fund this
39 plan. In addition, fundraising done by individual schools or by an outside nonprofit organization, such as
40 Youth Empowerment Project, for schools will help fund this bill. The LDOE will ensure that these funds
41 will be used correctly for each city and public school.

42 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

43 If a city or a public school does not implement these programs, the LDOE will give a warning strike and
44 meet with the city officials or the school administrators to ensure progress. They will be fined 3% of the
45 school system's allocated education budget if they still need to be enforced. This will happen after 3
46 strikes, and they are given 6 months to implement these changes.



2 **HOUSE BILL 130**

3 Ryder Bond Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

4
5 **TITLE:** Louisiana constitutional carry

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 On December 29th, 2019 Keith Thomas Kinnunen stood up in the West Freeway Church of Christ in
9 White Settlement Texas, and opened fire on the crowd of over 200 churchgoers massacring 100s, or at
10 least that could have been the outcome. Jack Wilson, a member of the volunteer security team at the
11 church, fired a single shot putting the gunman down. Mr. Wilson didn't just prevent a mass shooting, he
12 proved a good guy with a gun can prevent tragedy. On July 17th, 2022 Jonathan Sapirman walked into
13 an Indiana mall and opened fire shooting three people before Elisjscha Dicken shot Sapirman at a
14 distance of 40 yards with his own gun. This was weeks after Indiana legalized their own constitutional
15 carry bill. If the bill was not in effect Dicken would have had to wait up to 3 weeks for the state to
16 process his concealed carry license. In both cases provisions to allow concealed carry was in effect. The
17 outcome, if they were not, could have been disastrous. Furthermore, there are no known consequences
18 of constitutional carry. The facts back it up as well. An independent study conducted by the NRA in May
19 of 2022 studied the rates of gun-related events in constitutional carry states since their date of
20 enactment. Instead of seeing an increase in homicide rates, they actually went down 6%. Thus proving
21 constitutional carry won't lead to more gun-related deaths even though more people will have access to
22 the privilege of carrying a concealed firearm.

23
24
25 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

26 This bill will legalize constitutional carry in the state of Louisiana thereby allowing any citizen not
27 prohibited from possessing a handgun able to concealed carry it without a concealed carry license. The
28 bill will go effect immediately after the governor signs it into law

29
30
31 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

32 NA

33
34 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

35 NA



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2022

HOUSE BILL 131

Margo Esquivel Haynes Academy

TITLE: Reforming the Louisiana Electoral College

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Our country prides itself for being a democracy. The founding fathers themselves were intent on having a democracy to avoid the abuse they had suffered at the hands of the British monarchy. In this country they created, everyone would have a say in how their country would be run, and citizens would never again be oppressed by a controlling government. Why, then, do we use a faulty system that minimizes our voices and has led to candidates the majority of America voted against being placed in one of the highest offices in our country? Louisiana, like 47 other states, uses a "winner-takes-all" system in which all Electoral College votes for the state are given to the candidate that wins the majority of the state's vote. However, this can cause discrepancies between the popular vote and the candidate actually selected for presidency. In a proudly representative country, we should take every possible step to allow citizens' voices (and thereby votes) to be heard. By adopting a system in which each congressional district gets one Electoral College vote, with two "elector-at-large" votes going towards the statewide majority, Louisiana's votes will more accurately reflect the people's choice. This bill would change the way Louisiana's Electoral College ballots are cast to allow the Electoral College vote more closely represent the popular vote.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

A pool of electors shall be created in the year preceding the presidential election as follows. Each recognized political party shall nominate presidential electors in a manner determined by a resolution adopted by the state central committee of the respective recognized political party. Each party shall nominate two electors-at-large and one elector for every congressional district in the state. No person shall be elected as a presidential elector who is not a qualified elector of the district for which he is chosen, unless he is elected at large, in which case he shall be a qualified elector of the state. A candidate for presidential elector may be registered to vote with or without a declaration of party affiliation. No United States senator, representative in Congress, or person holding an office of trust or profit under the United States shall be elected a presidential elector.

The pool of all electors shall meet in the State Capitol in Baton Rouge on the day appointed for their meeting by federal law. On the day of their meeting, electors of the political party corresponding to the candidate who receives a majority from each congressional district in the case of congressional district electors, and from the majority of the state overall in the case of electors-at-large, shall be recognized as members of Louisiana's Electoral College for that year. These recognized electors must swear an oath promising to vote for the presidential and vice presidential candidates corresponding to their political party. When the Electoral College vote is taken, the two recognized presidential electors-at-large shall cast their ballots for the presidential and vice-presidential candidates who received the majority within the entire state. The recognized presidential electors for each district shall vote for the presidential and vice-presidential candidates who received the majority within the congressional district they represent. If any elector(s) should fail to appear at the appointed meeting location and time, the other electors shall fill the vacancy by voice vote.

SECTION III: FUNDING

There is no additional funding required for this bill.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If any elector should purposefully vote for a candidate other than the candidate they have pledged to vote for, except in the case of a candidate's death, the elector shall be subject to criminal prosecution and penalty of a \$1000 fine and up to six months in jail. Such prosecution shall be conducted by the Attorney General.



2 **HOUSE BILL 132**

3 Lincoln Trumps Lafayette High

4
5 **TITLE:** Confederate Removal and Preservation Act

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Over the past several decades statues honoring Confederate veterans have drawn large amounts of
9 controversy and provoked public outcry. Louisiana currently has 32 statues honoring members of the
10 Confederacy despite widespread public objections. This bill seeks to remove Confederate monuments
11 from public areas while preserving objects of historical or cultural value. Monuments honoring the
12 Confederate States of America, hereby defined as monuments honoring an individual or group on
13 account of their participation in the Confederate Armed Forces or the government of the Confederacy,
14 will be subject to removal, relocation to museums, or into the hands of private citizens.

15
16 Cultural or historical significant monuments are defined as the following: monuments that were
17 constructed before 1900 or monuments that are otherwise noteworthy.

18
19 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

20 The Confederate Monument Review Board is to be established under the authority of the Louisiana
21 Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism. The Board will have at least 13 members appointed by
22 the head of the department. The board will be empowered to review all 32 sites where a Confederate
23 monument is displayed on public property and recommend one of three courses of action by majority
24 vote.

25 (1.) The removal of the monument from public property before 2030, with authority delegated to the
26 parish government to decide what to do with the statue after it's removal.

27 (2.) The transfer of the monument to a Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism run
28 museum, the museums of other states, or a private entity.

29 (3.) Allowing the monument to remain on the grounds of historical or cultural significance.

30
31
32 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

33 The Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism will be granted \$100,000 of discretionary
34 spending for each statue the Confederate Monument Review Board votes to remove.

35
36 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

37 No penalties are necessary for this bill.



2 **HOUSE BILL 133**

3 Avishka Fernando

Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies

4
5 **TITLE: AN ACT TO REDUCE POLLUTION IN THE STATE OF LOUISIANA**

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 The State has major air and water pollution problems that have led to the endangerment of many people
8 and species. Companies and businesses around the state release pollutants into the environment
9 significantly worsening the safety of animals and people. According to a CNBC investigation in
10 September of 2022, Louisiana was the worst-ranked state in pollution of water and air. On top of this,
11 a January 2022 study from Tulane University showed that at least 85 cancer cases per year in the
12 state of Louisiana are due to exposure to high levels of air pollution. To ensure the safety of not only
13 people now, but the people of future generations, action needs to be taken.

14 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

15 To help diminish air pollution, restrictions and regulations will be set in place for all subjects to recycle
16 any materials they can, along with a strongly encouraged suggestion to diminish excess waste and use
17 natural resources when capable. Things like Catalytic Oxidizers can be implemented in major chemical
18 manufacturing and power generational areas. Catalytic Oxidizers take pollutants from the air and/
19 or different production systems and turn them into harmless compounds. In order to also aid this Rotary
20 Concentrators can be added on if the funding is available to make the process more efficient and create
21 redundancy in systems.

22 Things similar to the Direct Air Capture system can be used as well to take pollutants such as CO2 and
23 turn them into new and reusable fuels. The CO2 harvested can be turned into things such as gasoline,
24 diesel, and jet fuel. On top of this, CO2 can also be used in other processes such as the production of
25 steel and concrete, coatings and carbon fibres, or enhanced oil recovery. These processes will decrease
26 the number of toxic pollutants released into the air and decrease harmful pollution to environments and
27 areas surrounding these production areas. The companies at hand will be required to have a Direct Air
28 Capture system near or in production areas to ensure efficiency and protection.

29 SemiAnnual checks and reviews will be held by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality to
30 ensure that subjects are complying with the rules and regulations set in place for both the Catalytic
31 Oxidizers and Direct Air Capture systems that may be put into place. The objects in question should be
32 in proper working order and maintained to ensure resources aren't being wasted. Districts are required
33 to create some form of enforcement to ensure the safety of both the people working with or around
34 these plants.

35 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

36 The majority of funding will come from fines and penalties collected from infractions. On top of this
37 agency, funds should be allocated from tax income (this may result in tax rises and this is
38 acknowledged). If funding is not available, Louisiana can ask for help from National Agencies like the
39 United States Environmental Protection Agency.

40 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

41 Companies that do not follow these guidelines will be fined and potentially shut down. Fines can cost
42 between \$5,000-\$200,000 USD, varying based on the severity of the infraction and the country of
43 origin. Failure to comply on multiple occasions, with a maximum of 3 major infractions, will result in the
44 termination of company operations. Based on the severity, companies will be able to plead their case, to
45 the appropriate governing body, against allegations to prove they have and will continue to comply with
46 the rules set in place.



2 **HOUSE BILL 134**

3 Marcus Soileau Dutchtown High School

4 Benjamin Tilley

5
6 **TITLE:** Lower Prices for Ammunition

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 All around the globe there are people who make their income off of hunting and how much they can sell
10 the pelts and meat of the animals that they hunt. There are also people who mostly eat what they can
11 hunt. With recent spikes in ammunition prices, it makes it more difficult for these people to make a
12 living. In the last two years the price of the 5.56 NATO round (which is a common round used for
13 hunting) has gone up from around 43 to 77 cents per round of ammunition. Spikes such as this affect
14 all types of ammunition.

15
16
17 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

18 The implementation of this bill would just require stores that sell ammunition to lower the prices of said
19 ammunition by 15 cents per round.

20
21
22 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

23 No funding is needed for this bill

24
25 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

26 The penalties of not complying to this bill would be that stores would lose their license to import
27 ammunition.



2 **HOUSE BILL 135**

3 Micheline Benoit

Lafayette High School

4 Riley Gray

5
6 **TITLE:** Organ Donation Act of 2030

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 The Organ Donation Act of 2030 would make all Louisiana citizens organ donors with the ability to opt
10 out, starting January 1st 2030. This would help with the issues of bias towards organ donors as there
11 would be more of them. It would also help with the demand and lack of organ donations here in
12 Louisiana. There are more than 120,000 people across the country on the waiting list for a life-saving
13 organ transplant. Of those, more than 2,000 are in Louisiana. Considering the size of Louisiana in
14 comparison to the other 49 states, this is a very serious problem. We do not have nearly enough organ
15 donors in Louisiana today. The people of Louisiana need a bill to combat this issue. This bill would make
16 it to where it is entirely an individual's choice to opt out of organ donation, also creating a far more
17 accessible process without any needed funding or penalties. If an adult citizen of another country/state
18 is to die in Louisiana, the organ donation laws of that country/state as well as the status of the person
19 are to be referenced.
20

21
22 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

23 Beginning January 1st, 2030, all organ donation statuses of legal adults will be set to 'Yes', unless that
24 legal adult has previously opted out before the enactment of the bill. Organ donation websites and
25 phone numbers will give all legal adults the ability to opt out beginning January 1st 2024, making it so
26 that they will not be automatically made organ donors once this bill is put into effect. Opting out is a
27 very accessible option to the people as it just takes one call to LOPA (1-800-521-4483) or a trip to
28 your nearest hospital. It is also accessible through the LOPA (Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency)
29 website. Beginning January 1st, 2024, all hospitals will be able to change the organ donation status for
30 any person who may not have access otherwise. Whether this be due to language barriers, not having
31 the devices necessary to access these sources, or any other reasons. All minors will remain not organ
32 donors and continue to have the option to opt in. Before a minor becomes an adult, they will have the
33 option to opt out prior to this change, similarly to the option adults have the years before this bill is
34 implemented. Once a person turns 18, they will become an organ donor unless they previously opted
35 out in advance, or opt out when they become an adult. All legal adults will be assumed to be organ
36 donors unless they have gone through the specific registration to opt out.
37

38
39 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

40 No funding will be necessary for this bill as no expenses are required when making the choice to be or
41 not to be an organ donor.
42

43 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

44 If this bill is passed, there will be no consequence for opting out as this is a personal medical decision.



2 **HOUSE BILL 136**

3 Avery Deaville

Lafayette High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Close Drive-Thru Daiquiri Shops

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Louisiana has always held a reputation for being a “party” state, and for being relaxed with rules. Drive-
9 thru daiquiris have been around since the early 1980’s, and they’ve been controversial since the
10 beginning. Sure, at first it may have been alright to have them, since there were 23 other states that
11 hadn’t banned drinking and driving, but now we know the dangers of alcohol consumption and driving.
12 All states have banned driving and driving, and yet we keep open these drive-thru daiquiri stations. Car
13 accident related deaths have been steadily on the rise, and just last year in 2021, Louisiana saw almost
14 1,000 deaths from car crashes. Almost 45% of those deaths involved alcohol. Our contradictions with
15 easy access to cheap alcohol is skyrocketing our death rate, and we’ve danced around the issue for too
16 long. I propose that we eliminate drive-thru daiquiris once and for all.

17
18
19 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

20 This bill will take effect on January 1st, 2030, and all drive-thru daiquiris will need to be closed by then.
21 Since businesses will be forced to close, business owners will be given a \$3000 payout when they file to
22 close their business. If there is more than 1 owner, then the money will be split evenly between them.

23
24
25 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

26 In order to fund the payout, the Louisiana sales tax will be increased from 4.45% to 4.48%, and this
27 additional revenue will be used to pay the businesses. Any additional money may be used to build new
28 businesses on the now vacant lots. These new businesses could either be state funded and run, or the
29 money could be given to parishes and cities for local businesses.

30
31
32 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

33 If a drive-thru daiquiri shop refuses to shut down in time for January 1st, 2030, then the location will
34 be forcibly shut down, and the owners will receive a fine of \$2,500 for refusing to comply with this bill,
35 under the enforcement of the Louisiana Department of State.

36



2 **HOUSE BILL 137**

3 Holden Martin

University High School

4 Adam Carruth

5
6 **TITLE:** Require industrial users of the southern hills aquifer to use other water sources to preserve the
7 Aquifer and prevent worse saltwater intrusion.
8
9

10 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

11 The people of East Baton Rouge Parish depend on the groundwater kept in the Southern Hills aquifer
12 for safe drinking. The Baton Rouge Water Company supplies these people with water as a privately
13 owned utility. Industrial users such as Georgia Pacific, ExxonMobile, Entergy Louisiana, and others
14 remove billions of gallons of clean drinking water from the aquifer for industrial processes such as
15 washing and cooling to make things such as oil and steel. Rather than using perfectly good drinking
16 water for industrial processes, the industry should be required to use water from the Mississippi River.
17 The removal of billions of gallons of clean drinking water causes saltwater intrusion spoiling the clean
18 water of the aquifer. Fresh water is a precious resource and should be preserved.
19
20

21 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

22 The industry would have to limit their withdrawals of water from the Southern Hills Aquifer and to
23 implicit plans to begin cleaning Mississippi River water in their industrial processes. Industries such as
24 Georgia Pacific, ExxonMobil, and Entergy should have a cap for how much water they can withdraw by a
25 certain date and should be required to put in a plan to start using Mississippi River water rather than
26 aquifer water for their processes upon passage of the bill. This should take place as soon as possible.
27
28
29

30 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

31 For the past several decades, the industry has been able to use our drinking water for our industrial
32 processes for very low cost and very little oversight including being able to report how much water they
33 are using without being monitored. Industry has been allowed to do this as we have been watching the
34 water source that we depend on be pulled from without any limits. Financial cost should come from the
35 industrial users and not from the taxpayers. These companies have made billions in profit while having
36 to pay little for water and it is time now for these big companies to pay their fair share.
37
38

39 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

40 If this law is passed and the industrial users do not provide a timely plan for moving to the Mississippi
41 River or other water sources as their water source, there should be a fine to offset fixing the damage
42 to the aquifer. For every gallon taken from the aquifer, there will be a 10-dollar fine. Companies will
43 have one month to start using Mississippi River water before these penalties take effect.
44



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2022**
2 **HOUSE BILL 138**

3 Noor Akram Woodlawn High School

4 Tyriq Cooper

5 **TITLE:** Curve the Pervs

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Child molestation under Louisiana Law is defined as "...the commission by anyone over the age of
8 seventeen of any lewd or lascivious act upon the person or in the presence of any child under the age
9 of seventeen, where there is an age difference of greater than two years between the two persons, with
10 the intention of arousing or gratifying the sexual desires of either person, by the use of force, violence,
11 duress, menace, psychological intimidation, the threat of great bodily harm, or by the use of influence
12 by virtue of a position of control or supervision over the juvenile."

13 The statistics about child molestation in the US are as follows: "every 9 minutes, Child Protective
14 Services substantiates, or finds evidence for, a claim of child sexual abuse" and statistically, "1 in 9
15 girls and 1 in 53 boys under the age of 18 experience sexual abuse or assault at the hands of an adult."
16 The long-lasting effects of child molestation are as follows: "...victims are four times more likely to
17 develop symptoms of drug abuse, four times more likely to experience PTSD as adults, and three times
18 more likely to experience a major depressive episode as adults." The two most horrifying statistics on
19 this topic are, "of the released sex offenders who committed another sex crime, 40 percent perpetrated
20 the new offense within one year from their prison discharge with the majority of the children they
21 molested, after leaving prison, were aged 13 or younger. Also, nearly 70% of child sex offenders have
22 between 1 and 9 victims and at least 20% have 10 to 40 victims."

23 According to "Guidelines for the Biological Treatment of Paraphilias", "Surgical castration reportedly
24 produces definitive results, even in repeat pedophilic offenders, by reducing recidivism rates to 2% to
25 5% compared with expected rates of 50%. Chemical castration using LHRH agonists (a substance that
26 keeps the testicles and ovaries from making sex hormones by blocking other hormones that are needed
27 to make them) reduces circulating testosterone to deficient levels. Also, it results in very low levels of
28 recidivism despite the strong psychological factors that contribute to sexual offending."

29 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

30 The drug used would be an FDA-approved birth control drug known as Depo Provera. Three months
31 before the offender gets released on parole, the offender will take the medication in intervals mandated
32 by the state and will be subjected to continuing this treatment for an indefinite period until the court
33 rules that the drug is no longer necessary. To prevent offenders from intentionally stopping their
34 treatment, there will be a penalty of up to 10 years and a fine of \$15,000 if the offender attempts to
35 cease their treatment. These offenders may also be subject to mandatory therapy during their time in
36 prison to suppress their desire for children. This will not be an alternative to chemical castration, since
37 therapy is much less effective since that person will still biologically have sexual desires for children.

38 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

39 Offenders will pay for their treatment, whether with healthcare or out-of-pocket money, but for those
40 who are unable to pay for their medical fees, the state will cover the costs. The cost of chemical
41 castration is at most \$1,000 a month, which would be taken from the Louisiana State Department of
42 Health's budget.

43 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

44 Under this law, child molesters who molest children under the age of 13 shall be disciplined with
45 chemical castration. On top of this penalty, the offender will be mandated to pay for their medical
46 treatment. If the offender attempts to intentionally stop their treatment, they can spend up to 10 years
47 in prison and be fined up to \$15,000. These people may also be subject to mandatory therapy to
48 suppress their desire for children.



2 **HOUSE BILL 139**

3 Charlotte Gerhardt

Mandeville High School

4 Taylor Flagg

5
6 **TITLE:** Protect Reproductive Healthcare

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 In 2021, there were 7,444 abortions performed in Louisiana. 7,444 individual cases where abortion was
10 a safe and personal decision. Now there will be zero. On June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court ruled 5-4 to
11 overturn Roe v. Wade, a case that protected personal privacy and the right to decide whether to
12 continue a pregnancy. Louisiana was one of 12 states that banned abortion with no exceptions for rape
13 or incest. As a result, the only three remaining abortion clinics in the state are relocating, leaving
14 women unable to travel with no option but to carry out their pregnancy. Just last month, a woman
15 carrying a skull-less fetus had to travel 1,400 miles to New York city to terminate her pregnancy. The
16 prohibition of abortion already affects women who do not have the resources to support a child, but
17 the lack of exceptions could destroy women's lives throughout the state. Protecting women's
18 reproductive healthcare is essential for the well-being of millions of Louisiana residents.

19
20
21 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

22 Allow abortion clinics throughout Louisiana to provide medical exceptions for rape or incest in
23 Louisiana.

24
25
26 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

27 No financing is necessary for the implementation of this bill.

28
29
30 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

31 No penalties are necessary for this bill.



2 **HOUSE BILL 140**

3 Hope Gutierrez Lafayette High School
4 Ryleigh Shullaw

5
6 **TITLE: AN ACT TO: Put an End to Pocketless Pants**

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 In our state, and many states across the nation, there are many women that find themselves struggling
10 to conveniently carry everyday, necessary items. Most women's clothing bottoms, and some men's, do
11 not include pockets, which is a creative innovation that allows one to easily carry personal items. In the
12 1800s, it was believed that women did not need pockets because they relied on men, therefore fashion
13 continued without them. However, new surveys show that more women would prefer pockets on their
14 clothes than not. While purses can be a nice solution, many places don't allow purses or some people
15 just don't want to carry around a purse wherever they go. On average, the pockets in women's jeans are
16 48% shorter and 6.5% narrower than men's pockets. Other studies have found that only 40% of
17 women's front pockets can completely fit the three main smartphone brands, and less than half of them
18 can fit a wallet designed to fit in a front pocket. It has been a worldwide fight for a long time for more
19 reasonable pockets on clothes and the solution can begin with this bill.
20

21
22 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

23 Clothing stores throughout Louisiana will be taxed when selling bottoms or clothes that include bottoms
24 without pockets on them or pockets smaller than the requirement of 3.5 inches by 4 inches. These
25 clothing items include pants, trousers, shorts, athletic shorts, pajama shorts, skirts, form fitting-
26 designed dresses, leggings, spandex, onesies, joggers, sweatpants, jeans, overalls, and capris. A tax of
27 3.25% will be required from any business wishing to buy clothing without proper pockets from the
28 producers. Additionally, businesses that sell bottoms with pockets will receive a 2.25% reimbursement
29 as an incentive to sell clothes with pockets and to avoid customers being affected by this tax. This tax
30 will be put on any piece of clothing previously mentioned without pockets or pockets less than 3.5 by 4
31 inches. A purchase of a variety of clothing with and without pockets will still be taxed the 3.25% while
32 also being reimbursed the 2.25%. The money from this tax will be used by the textile industries to
33 produce more pockets on the items. This law does not apply to clothing for pets, dolls, decoration,
34 infants, and toddlers. This bill applies to youth sizing and up. The pockets must be found somewhere on
35 the outside of the clothing, with exception to shorts that line the inside of skirts or short dresses. The
36 dimensions of the pockets may not be less than 3.5" by 4".
37

38 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

39 The money required for this bill will be acquired through the penalty tax from businesses that do not
40 comply. The tax money will cover the reimbursement to businesses and the remainder will contribute to
41 the textile industry to cover the additional costs of manufacturing pockets on clothes.
42

43 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

44 If a business continues to sell any clothing items listed in Section II without pockets, they will be taxed
45 3.25% per item. This law works similarly to ASTM (American Society for Testing Materials) and will be
46 enforced under OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration).
47



2 **HOUSE BILL 141**

3 Edward Hasson Woodlawn High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Compensation for Chemicals

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 In southeast Louisiana, there is a well-known industrial corridor that runs between Baton Rouge and
9 New Orleans holding over 150 petrochemical facilities run by multinationals such as Shell and Formosa.
10 The emissions released by these plants include deadly carcinogens that can cause serious diseases,
11 affect the growth of children, and poison the surrounding environment. Despite this, the chemical
12 industry continues to grow in this corridor with state officials such as Gov. Edwards praising the
13 economic prosperity that these plants bring. The people that live in this corridor, a majority of them
14 African-Americans, are being unfairly disadvantaged as their homes are surrounded by chemical plants
15 that pose a danger to their lives. The effects of chloroprene include causing "DNA damage in the body's
16 cells. The resulting mutations increase the likelihood that a person will develop cancer throughout their
17 lifetime." The effect of diseases such as cancer on a low-income family can be devastating. The average
18 annual income across the industrial corridor ranges from \$28K-\$40K. The cost of treatment for a
19 disease such as cancer can easily surpass \$42,000, and that doesn't account for relocation for
20 treatment, transportation, or any other cost that may go into treatment. While insurance can help cover
21 many of these costs, over 82% of African-Americans in Louisiana were enrolled in Medicaid. Medicaid
22 will only cover chemotherapy costs. The only extra coverage offered within the Medicaid system is for
23 breast cancer.

24
25 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

26 A new tax will be created for petrochemical plants, with a total amount of money collected from this tax
27 totaling 2 billion dollars. The amount of money collected from each company will be based on the net
28 annual income of that company. This tax will also be exempt from any preexisting or future tax breaks
29 applied for by a company. Additionally, before January of the next year, the state will reexamine how
30 much money must be paid with this tax. The new amount will be determined by how much money is left
31 in the pool as well as the demand for the welfare the tax pays for.

32 Once collected, eligible residents of the state will be able to apply for a portion of this money.
33 Eligibility will be determined by a set of factors: you must have lived within a ten-mile vicinity of a plant
34 for at least 8 years, your annual income as an individual must be below \$50,000, and you or a
35 dependent must have a disease or condition that was reasonably caused by chemical emissions. The
36 starting amount is \$200,000, with an extra \$25,000 added for each dependent in a family unit.

37
38 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

39 No funding is required for this bill.

40
41 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

42 Attempts to claim for this welfare with falsified documents or in someone else's name (unless it is done
43 on their behalf) will be subject to existing laws and punishments regarding welfare fraud. Similarly,
44 companies that refuse to pay the new tax will be fined by the state. After an extended period of time of
45 not paying, the state may investigate criminal charges for tax evasion.



2 **HOUSE BILL 142**

3 Walker Prejean Lafayette High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Freedom to Practice Medicine for Physicians

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 In our state, if a physician chooses to leave their current practice to practice medicine elsewhere, they
9 are subject to non-compete clauses that force them to not join any competing practices within a
10 geographic region for a set period of time, usually one to two years. The practice of medicine should be
11 completely objective for the benefit of the patient and not influenced by conflicts or affiliates created
12 by employment and related non-compete provisions for healthcare professionals. The general public,
13 who are also consumers of healthcare services, should expect their healthcare provider to make medical
14 decisions in the best interest of the patient and not necessarily the employment obligations of a
15 contract with prohibitions of competition. States such as Alabama, Oklahoma, California, North Dakota,
16 and more have already created policies that discontinued the use of non-compete provisions. Some
17 other industries use similar non-compete clauses, but non-compete restrictions should not be a factor
18 in a medical setting because it can affect the well-being and health of their patient. The general public
19 is best served by physicians practicing medicine devoid of any influences, (financial or contractual), to
20 an employer that holds control over that healthcare provider's ability to make decisions consistent with
21 his or her Hippocratic Oath.

22
23
24 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

25 This bill will be enacted on January 1st, 2023. In Louisiana, holding physicians to non-compete
26 provisions will be null and void. Any ongoing non-compete contracts will become null. Physicians will be
27 free to practice where they please without restraint of non-compete obligations.

28
29
30 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

31 There is no funding required for this bill.

32
33 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

34 Those who continue to enforce the principles of a non-compete clause must pay damages to the
35 affected individuals. Damages will be determined by proof of lost income due to one's inability to work.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2022**



2 **HOUSE BILL 143**

3 Evan Patton Lafayette High School

4 Shiv Banga

5
6 **TITLE:** Alternative Energy Tax Incentive Act

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Greenhouse gas emissions are causing havoc in today's world. They cause heat to be contained in the
10 atmosphere causing global warming, forest fires, and damaging weather. This is a very big problem for
11 the world, and some states are taking measures to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. However,
12 Louisiana has not been one of these states. Louisiana is ranked 4th in the nation in amount of
13 greenhouse gas emissions; in 2021, Louisiana was ranked 40th in the nation for energy efficiency. We
14 cannot let this stand. Animals will lose their homes, our state will be at severe risk of damage from
15 extreme weather, and drought will kill many if we don't act now. Our bill will offer tax incentives to
16 encourage Louisiana residents to incorporate solar panels or other renewable energy resources into
17 their homes. This, in turn, will reduce our state's greenhouse gas emissions. This will ensure Louisiana
18 will have a safe and clean environment for the future generations.

19
20 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

21 To promote alternative energy sources, such as solar, wind, etc., the state of Louisiana will offer tax
22 incentives to those who implement one of these energy sources in their homes. Starting on January 1,
23 2024, homeowners will be able to apply for a tax cut if they meet a certain criteria. Currently, the
24 Louisiana property tax is about 0.505% for residential properties. This would be reduced to 0.38% for
25 those who have implemented renewable energy into their homes with the passing of the Alternative
26 Energy Tax Incentive Act. As another incentive, property owners will be able to write off half of any
27 expenses used to ensure their home is fully-functioning with alternative energy. Property owners must
28 provide all valid receipts of their purchases. To ensure legitimacy of the homeowner's implementation of
29 an alternative energy source in their home, the Alternative Energy Accountability Commission (AEAC)
30 will be created to inspect the homes of those who apply for the tax cut. If given the green light by an
31 inspector, the homeowner will have their taxes lowered for the next tax season.

32
33 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

34 To create and maintain the AEAC, 0.25% of annual income tax revenue will be allocated to this program.

35
36 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

37 There will be no penalties, as this is an opt-in program.



2 **HOUSE BILL 144**

3 Kourtnei Edwards Captain shreve High school

4
5 **TITLE:** Healthcare should be available to all patients that need it. Patients that can't afford healthcare
6 should be given healthcare without being expensive.

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Who- poor people that have diseases, can't afford healthcare should be given healthcare without paying
10 too much money for something that they have no control over. (evidence) " In an era of rising health
11 care costs, many

12 Americans experience difficulty paying for needed health care services." (Robin M Weinick)

13 What - healthcare should be taken away or summed down for people that can't afford it. (evidence) "

14 Not everyone can afford health insurance, nor do they have the resources to pay for expensive medical
15 treatments out of their own pocket. This means that a lack of free healthcare consequently poses a
16 threat to their lives." (Ella George)

17 Why- America is the most deadliest country when it comes to diseases.

18 Healthcare in America should be a

19 Human Right. It is very hard for patients that have curable diseases pay for the cure if they have no
20 money to give. (evidence) ""She was barely scraping by and trying not to get evicted. She gets what
21 appears to her as a basic cold or flu, didn't go to the doctor and risk spending money she didn't have,
22 and as a consequence she passed away.""

23
24 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

25 1. We should have higher taxes. Making taxes higher would help people that really need it.

26 2. We should start organizations that are willing to help campaign to raise and gain money for the
27 people of our country that are dying from the lack of money they have.

28
29 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

30 Funding for this bill will be given to the organization over the bill from outsiders that want to help, the
31 government, etc.

32
33 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

34 Penalties for my specific bill should be taking ones healthcare away from them and making them pay
35 their own out of pocket. This is only ir they refuse to adhere to the bill being established.

36 Penalties for people that just didn't pay their taxes one or many times, fine will between 300 to 1,000
37 dollar fine.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2022**



2 **HOUSE BILL 145**

3 Kate Shaw C.E. Byrd High School

4 Riley Quinlan

5
6 **TITLE:** Implement a required college and career class for high school students to take during one
7 semester of high school

8
9 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

10 At the young age of 17 or 18, students are asked to make a decision that will affect the rest of their
11 lives. They must choose a college or career path based on the information they learned from high
12 school. However, the information given at schools is usually lacking or sometimes non-existent. There
13 are roughly 70,000 unemployed people in Louisiana; if they learned more about careers from a younger
14 age, they might have a better chance of finding employment. Thus, a required class should be dedicated
15 solely to providing resources and information about a student's future choices.

16
17 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

18 Students would take this class during one school semester in place of the required one-semester gym
19 credit. Teachers of this course would split the semester between college and careers so that students
20 get a complete picture of both options and can decide what is best for them. Some aspects of this class
21 would include but are not limited to: hearing speeches from professionals in different fields, going on
22 field trips to job sites, and learning how to best prepare oneself for the college application process.
23 This course will first be required for the graduating class of 2027 so that they have four full years to
24 complete the class.

25
26 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

27 No extra funding will be necessary.

28
29 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

30 Any student that does not take this class will not be able to graduate starting for the graduating class
31 of 2027.



2 **HOUSE BILL 146**

3 Michael Burford

C.E. Byrd High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Eliminate the Inspection Sticker Requirement for Certain Motor Vehicles

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Car inspection stickers are a thing of the past. As of March 2020, only thirty-one of the fifty United
9 States require car inspection stickers. Car inspection stickers are solely required because they are used
10 as a cash grab by the government. The state of Louisiana could make so much more money in much
11 better ways than an inspection that changes nothing about the car. If your vehicle fails inspection, the
12 state of Louisiana gives you a temporary sticker that can be used for one month, further proving just
13 how useless the stickers really are. This bill will help to make driving in Louisiana much easier and also
14 help to protect Louisiana students. Students can be defined as anyone currently enrolled in high school
15 or college under the age of twenty-five.
16

17
18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 During the year after this bill is signed into law, the state of Louisiana will no longer require the annual
20 renewal of car inspection stickers. However, students in the state of Louisiana will be required to renew
21 their car inspection sticker biannually.
22

23 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

24 This bill will force the state of Louisiana to lose money that is gained from the car inspection stickers.
25 However, this bill will gain the state back the money lost through raising fines for certain traffic
26 violations. The fine for driving fifteen to twenty over the speed limit will be raised 6.25% from a
27 minimum of \$240 to a minimum of \$255. Tickets for cracked windshields will be raised from a minimum
28 of \$100 on the first offense 15% to a first time minimum of \$115. Second time offenders will be fined a
29 minimum of \$170, a 13.3% increase from the previous amount of \$150. The current fine for not having
30 an inspection sticker, or having an out of date inspection sticker is \$119 on every offense. This amount
31 will be raised 13.4454% to \$135 for each offense (note- only students are required to have an
32 inspection sticker). The current fine for drunk driving in Louisiana is \$1000 along with a 2 to 6 month
33 jail sentence. This fine will be changed to \$1,250, a 25% increase, and the new minimum jail sentence
34 will be one year.
35

36 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

37 Louisiana students who drive without up to date inspection stickers can be fined \$135, which is a
38 13.4454% increase from the previous amount of \$119.



2 **HOUSE BILL 147**

3 Riley Posey Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

4 Grace Ciesielski

5
6 **TITLE:** Mental Health Matters Act

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness 44,000 Louisianans, ages 12 to 17, struggle with
10 depression, KFF.org states that 14.1% of teenagers, ages 12 to 17 in Louisiana reported having a major
11 depressive episode just in the last year, 2021, and Louisiana Health Rankings shows that Louisiana has
12 one of the highest causes of teen deaths being by suicide over all 50 states. Mental health issues have
13 been on the rise, at rapid rates, over the past 10 years. A majority of suicide deaths are by teenagers.
14 Teenagers are constantly surrounded by triggers, those being school, life, work, and even family and
15 friends.

16 The average size of a Louisiana public high school is around 655 students, with the largest being
17 around 2,400. The average teenager attending a Louisiana public school has a household income of
18 roughly 20,000 to 30,000 dollars per year. Low-income families have to choose how to spend their
19 funds based on a wants and needs system. While seeking a therapist is a need for teenagers struggling
20 with mental health, most families cannot afford for their child to see a therapist regularly. With this bill,
21 teenagers will be able to receive a certain degree of free counseling for whatever fits their needs. This
22 bill helps families who live around the poverty line seek help for their children who struggle with mental
23 health, and also reassures students that they always have someone to go to during difficult times.

24
25 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

26 For this bill to work to its maximum capacity, we want to slowly introduce it into schools starting at the
27 beginning of the 2023-2024 school year. We will begin by taking the public high schools in Louisiana
28 that rely 100% on state funding to function. This will initially help us get closer to what causes such a
29 high teenage struggle with mental health. After the 2023-2024 school year, we will examine how this
30 bill inevitably helped students struggling with mental health issues. With these results, we can move
31 forward with putting this program into Louisiana public schools that rely less on state funding.

32 Introducing the Mental Health Matters Act this way will help the state of Louisiana know what this bill
33 is doing in schools, where it needs to be altered, and get closer to an answer as to why so many
34 teenagers feel as though they are in such a bad place that they turn to suicide as the answer. As we are
35 determined to see a decline in teen suicide rates, the following steps will be to put this act into middle
36 schools. The earlier we start to address mental health issues in kids, the quicker we can see a decline in
37 teenage suicide rates in Louisiana.

38 One mental health counselor will be assigned for every two hundred students. With this assignment,
39 each student will meet with their counselor once for fifteen to thirty minutes within a forty to fifty-day
40 time to have a mental health check-in. This translates to a one to a two-and-a-half-hour period over a
41 regular school day, meaning that the counselor will meet with four to five students a day. The counselor
42 will then be able to use the remaining hours of the school day at their discretion. This helps open the
43 door to showing teenagers that there are people who care about them and that there is always a safe
44 space to go to.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19

SECTION III: FUNDING

Funding for this bill will come from the American Rescue Plan. After COVID-19, a world epidemic, Louisiana public schools received 3.29 billion dollars from the American Rescue Plan in 2021, according to Greater Baton Rouge Business Report. The funds received went to funding schools coming back from not being in operation for over five months. We can take money from this plan and put it towards the rising epidemic of mental health issues and teen suicides. These funds will help schools hire more counselors as needed, depending on how many high school students attend, and provide the appropriate help students struggling with mental health will need.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

There are no penalties surrounding this bill. Public high schools that comply with these practices will receive benefits. These benefits can include more funding, more specialized counselors to address the specific mental health needs per district, better ranking in the schooling system, and giving the school more credibility when parents are looking to send their child to high school. These benefits can then lead state schools or institutions to reach out and talk to high schools all across Louisiana and bring more light on mental health issues surrounding the teenage population in Louisiana.



2 **HOUSE BILL 148**

3 Hope Juneau C.E. Byrd High School

4 Audrey Welch

5
6 **TITLE:** Remove local police rights to obstruct a citizen’s rights to buy, own, and use a firearm as it is
7 given in the Red Flag Codes.

8
9 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

10 The recently enacted Red Flag codes have caused a wave of controversy in the United States. Due to
11 the permissions they give to the family, doctors, and even the local police force to petition a judge to
12 restrict or take away a citizen’s right to buy or own a gun or other type of firearm. This is a statement
13 that directly contradicts the U.S. Constitution. The police force of any given area, state, federal, or
14 local, is a government entity, and according to the Second Amendment, there shall be no law infringing
15 upon “the right of the people to keep and bear Arms” as the keeping of a free and just state is
16 necessary and the protection of this right even more so. The thought process of this law is seemingly
17 beneficial, however, every administration has agendas, including factions such as police forces. History
18 has proven that sometimes agendas change, no matter what. So what is to happen when the agenda of
19 a party comes to contradict the ideologies of the people. If a government sanctioned outfit such as a
20 police force has the power to petition for the removal of the very institutions that have kept the
21 government in check for over two hundred years, who is to know what can begin after the era of
22 popular sovereignty is to end? The idea that a family member or a licensed doctor can petition on the
23 welfare of a relative or patient in the idea that they are a danger to themselves or others is fully
24 understandable and reasonable, however the idea that a police officer can and shall have the same
25 power is unconstitutional.

26
27 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

28 If this clause of the Red Flag codes were to be discarded, no officer of a police force can take away any
29 sort of firearm from a citizen. If someone were to be petitioned to have their right to arms removed for
30 reasons such as medical or mental health
31 problems, if and only if the petition has undeniable evidence of this right. Felons and other criminals,
32 as stated by criminal law, have abdicated their rights to weaponry of any kind and would not be
33 included in this decision. In addition to this bill, petitioners can state if any additional action needs to
34 be put in place regarding any mental health institutions.

35
36 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

37 There would be no change in the economic stature of the state(s) included in this bill. The officers have
38 a steady paycheck already, and the idea that those who succeed in their petitions of removal would
39 eventually make a totalitarian style removal on a scale the world has yet to see. The Red Flag codes just
40 give an unconstitutional power.

41
42 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

43 If anyone were to break this bill, then the state judiciary system would have to rule that that individual
44 be charged with theft. The infringement of this right would be on the same level as stealing someone’s
45 belongings on a regular basis. The normal amount of time someone goes to prison for stealing
46 someone’s firearm is 1–5 years, meaning any person who transgresses on this right would be charged
47 with this same form of punishment.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2022**



2 **HOUSE BILL 149**

3 Aiden Watson

C.E. Byrd High School

4 Cason Hughes

5
6 **TITLE:** Homework- Resource Not A Necessity

7
8
9 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

10 The effect this bill will have is that it will help towards students mental health while also giving them
11 more time towards other life activities. Students are often perceived to have school work at the
12 top of their priority list yet it is not always so, while school is a very big deal, some kids have other
13 things that they are working towards for life.

14
15
16 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

17 The Louisiana Department of Education would put a restriction on necessity for graded homework. This
18 law would take place immediately starting the next school year.

19
20 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

21 This bill adds no extra cost, no extra funding or tax will be needed for this bill to take effect.

22
23
24 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

25 If teachers are caught assigning homework (that isn't for bonus) they would have to give the grade back
26 that student formerly had. If this happens again, the teacher's position will be questioned
27 by the school board.



2 **HOUSE BILL 150**

3 Lola Avery St. Joseph's Academy

4 Margaret Johnson

5
6 **TITLE:** Get Away with Murder: Limiting Time on Death Row

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 In Louisiana, the average amount of time an inmate will spend on death row, waiting to die, is 17.6
10 years after having been sentenced. More than half of these years are spent in primarily, solitary
11 confinement, with prisoners being excluded from education and employment programs, restricted from
12 exercise and visitation rights, and subject to extreme mental health disorders. As well as wreak havoc
13 on the, already disturbed, mental state of some of the death row prisoners, studies suggest that it
14 costs the state of Louisiana at least \$15 million to sustain the capital punishment system per year,
15 even though the state has not performed an execution since 2010. In some states, the cost of
16 sustaining the death penalty, per inmate, is three times higher than the proposed cost to imprison them
17 in a maximum-security prison for 40 years. After many failed legislations attempts, the most recent
18 attempt at abolishing Capital Punishment having failed in April of 2022, the death penalty remains
19 active in Louisiana, regardless of its inhumane practices and expensive costs. By implementing a limit on
20 the amount of time inmates will be forced to await their execution, without any knowledge of whether
21 or not they will face execution in the coming weeks, the state of Louisiana can begin more ethical
22 practices regarding the provision of justice. This bill seeks to limit the number of years an inmate will
23 spend on death row, and then enter those inmates into a maximum-security prison for the remainder of
24 their life. The cost of the death penalty in Louisiana is outrageous and limiting the number of years one
25 can spend on death row will reduce government spending while still penalizing those who have
26 committed inhumane felonies.

27
28 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

29 This bill will limit the amount of time one can remain on death row, simply awaiting execution. In order
30 for this bill to be implemented, legislation must be passed by this, Louisiana Congress, limiting the
31 number of years one can spend on death row to 20 years. Should this bill be passed, it shall take place
32 beginning in January 2024. This additional year shall allow time for any and all prisoners having sat on
33 death row for upwards of 20 years to be transferred to the Louisiana State Penitentiary, a maximum-
34 security prison in Angola, Louisiana.

35 A common delay in the Capital Punishment system is the appeals process. Often times, death sentences
36 are appealed by the defendant, and there are several grounds, and two different appeals processes,
37 through a which a case may be reconsidered. A direct appeal, an appeal opportunity given to someone
38 sentenced to death, has three levels: Trial Court, State Appellate Court, and United State Supreme
39 Court. A direct appeal is made to the state's highest court but is limited to issues from the trial itself.
40 State Post-Convictions are appeals, first filed with the original trial judge, that can raise issues such as
41 ineffective assistance of counsel, juror misconduct, Brady violations, etc. With State Post-Convictions
42 come strict timelines that must be followed, otherwise a defendant's appeal process may end. Should
43 the defendant choose to appeal to the Unites States Supreme Court, they may file a writ of certiorari,
44 and should the writ be denied, the defendant has exhausted all of their options. At this point, the
45 verdict remains, and the twenty-years before the defendant is removed from death row will begin once
46 they have been entered into the detention facility. The inmate will remain on death row until the first of
47 two circumstances: an execution has occurred, or the inmate has served twenty-years after their

1 appeals process was completed. At this point, the inmate shall be transferred to the Louisiana State
2 Penitentiary, if they have not already been detained there. The inmate will be held to the restraints and
3 standards of a maximum-security inmate, while observing the same surveillance as well.
4

5 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

6 In order to implement this bill, no fees no additional taxes shall be imposed upon the residents of
7 Louisiana. This bill, regarding the term limit of death row inmates, will save the state of Louisiana
8 money, seeing as it can cost the state up to three times the cost of a maximum-security inmate for
9 every death row inmate. The average cost per maximum-security inmate in Louisiana, based on a study
10 from 2015, is just over \$16,000, and over \$50,000 per death row inmate. Even though Louisiana has
11 not conducted an execution since 2010, Louisiana invests \$15.6 million into the system every year. As
12 the number of death row inmates fluctuates, the difference in cost between those inmates transferred
13 to a maximum-security prison from the average cost of those inmates during their term on death row
14 shall be administered to the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections to be used as the
15 department sees fit. This legislation recommends that the funds be used to establish and enhance
16 behavioral correction programs, mental stability training, etc.
17

18 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

19 Should an inmate be forced to serve on death row for a time longer than twenty years, the prison
20 facility shall be fined \$16,000 for each additional year served by an inmate, and these funds shall be
21 administered to the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections to be used as the
22 department sees fit.



2 **HOUSE BILL 151**

3 Andrew Sharp Captain Shreve High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Labor for Criminals in the State of Louisiana.

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 This bill will provide current prisoners an opportunity to work instead of facing minimal sentences.
9 Prisoners sentenced for lower level crimes will be given probation as well as mandatory community
10 service. Allowing criminals to work instead of facing short jail time, such as monthly sentences, will
11 allow prisons to save money and eliminate the issue of overcrowding. Also, allowing prisoners to work
12 will positively impact various issues in Louisiana such as pollution, littering, and many other public
13 issues. Crimes such as minor drug possession, minor simple assault or battery, petty theft, and
14 vandalism are smaller crimes that criminals should be offered this alternative to short sentencing.

15
16 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

17 If this bill is passed, it will enter effect on January 1st, 2024. Once passed, I believe an organization
18 would need to be created to direct the work in the program. This work includes things like picking up
19 trash in public areas, planting trees, as well as working at places such as homeless shelters and dog
20 pounds. Community service leaders could lend a hand in directing these work operations. Also,
21 probation and parole officers will constantly monitor criminals accepted to do this work instead of
22 serving time. The amount of work sentenced to a criminal varies depending on the crime, such as
23 someone who has a traffic violation would work days, whereas someone who speeds to elude police or
24 distributes to someone under 21 would have weeks and possibly a month of service time.

25
26
27 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

28 Costs cut from prisons as well as portions of prison and police budget can be applied to this program to
29 allow these service projects to be carried out. The main needs for money in this program would be
30 transportation to and from work sites, as well as possible tools or devices needed to carry out the
31 work. Somewhere between 5-10 million dollars a year would be needed to pay those directing work
32 operations, transportation needs, and any other excess funds.

33
34
35 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

36 Those who join the program and do not do the required work should be promptly removed from the
37 program, as well as be sent to the correction facility to serve minor time. This program is meant to
38 provide an alternative to minor sentencing, as well as improve the decreasing natural state of Louisiana.



2 **HOUSE BILL 152**

3 Lorelei Robinson St. Joseph's Academy

4 Gabrielle Perrault

5
6 **TITLE:** Limit Sentences for Nonviolent Crimes

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 According to statistics from June of 2022, with around 27,074 current inmates, Louisiana's
10 incarceration rate is almost double the incarceration rate of the whole United States. More than half of
11 Louisiana's current inmates are incarcerated for nonviolent crimes, and 19.2% are convicted of drug
12 offenses. Limiting sentences for nonviolent crimes would reduce prison overcrowding. Louisiana, on
13 average, spends 30,168 dollars per inmate annually. By limiting sentences for nonviolent crimes,
14 Louisiana would actively be reducing the costs of maintaining its prisons.

15
16 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

17 Sentences for nonviolent crimes in Louisiana should have limits. Nonviolent crimes with major effects to
18 victims should be sentenced with prison time not exceeding 5 years without fines or hard labor.
19 Nonviolent crimes with minimal effects to victims should be sentenced with community service hours
20 not exceeding 32 hours for first time offenders and 240 hours for repeat for repeat offenders. Current
21 inmates sentenced with nonviolent crimes with major effects towards victims should be released if they
22 have served 5 years or more. If not, those current inmates should serve out the finishing 5 years.
23 Current inmates sentenced with nonviolent crimes with minimal effects towards victims and have served
24 5 years should be released. If not, current inmates should complete 32 hours of community service.
25 Inmates being charged with drug crimes should be required to go to rehab for 3 months. At the rehab
26 facility they would be required to check in with an officer. If absences occur, they will be required to
27 serve 10 hours of community service per absence. If 5 or more absences occur, two weeks will be added
28 to the 3-month rehab sentence. Bad behavior can also increase sentences by two weeks. Current
29 inmates charged with drug crimes should be sentenced to 3 months of rehab. At the rehab facility, they
30 would be required to check in with an officer. If absences occur, they will be required to serve 20 hours
31 of community service. If 5 or more absences occur, two weeks will be added to the 3-month rehab
32 sentence. Bad behaviour can also increase sentences by two weeks.

33
34 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

35 No funding is needed for this bill.

36
37 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

38 This bill has no applicable penalties.



2 **HOUSE BILL 153**

3 Sophia Edwards St. Joseph's Academy

4
5 **TITLE:** Prohibit Prohibiting

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 It has become apparent in our society that prejudices are becoming increasingly visible, even within our
9 legislation. There have been teachers in Louisiana that have refused to teach students material because
10 of their mentions of non-heterosexuality or even refuse to teach something because what they are
11 teaching has unspoken links to the LGBTQIA+ community. Denying students the ability to learn about
12 integral historical events, classic books, or even some mathematical theories will create an irreparable
13 rift in their education. Schools in Louisiana are required to teach a comprehensive United States History
14 class in which historical events and figures affiliated with the LGBTQIA+ community would be
15 mentioned, which would include mention of late President James Buchanan, the Harlem Renaissance, the
16 Holocaust, late President Harry S. Truman's Immigration Act, Oscar Wilde, and the Stonewall Riots. Only
17 20% of students say that they were taught positive representations of LGBTQIA+ people, history, or
18 events in their classes. More than half of students say they had no access to LGBTQIA+ - related topics
19 in their school library, through the internet on school computers, or in their textbooks. 25.9% of
20 students say that their administration was very or somewhat unsupportive of LGBTQIA+ students. Many
21 students do not feel comfortable talking to a teacher, counselor, faculty member, and/or other students
22 about LGBTQIA+ topics. Students must feel a sense of safety in the classroom in order for it to be a
23 healthy learning environment. Validation of teachers and space to develop inquiry into their own
24 identities is critical to their social development and learning. To be comfortable in a classroom setting is
25 asking for the bare minimum from our schools.

26
27 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

28 This bill will prohibit schools from prohibiting material taught in educational facilities due to mention,
29 affiliation, or allusions to non-heterosexuality and/or non-cisgender identity. Before the school decides
30 to ban certain material from being taught in that school, a board of volunteers will determine the
31 reason for the banning of material and if it is in accordance with this bill.

32
33 Please note that the school will be permitted to continue teaching the intended course material for the
34 remaining academic school year, and the implementation of the previously prohibited material will be
35 taken out of the course for the next academic school year.

36
37 If a teacher wishes to continue to not teach material that was deemed unlawful in accordance with this
38 bill, they must fill out a form explaining the reasoning behind the wishes to not continue to teach the
39 material.

40
41 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

42 This bill requires no funding.

43
44 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

45 If a school fails to comply with the guidelines of this bill, the institution will be fined \$350.00 for every
46 year the material continues to be not taught for the reasons of mention, affiliation, or allusion to non-
47 heterosexuality and/or non-cisgender identity.



2 **HOUSE BILL 154**

3 William Decuir

Catholic High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Coastal Erosion Stoppage Bill

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 In the state of Louisiana, our coastline is very important for us. It gives us added safety from
9 hurricanes by being a barrier, it gives many a job to sustain themselves, and it is overall very nice and
10 pretty. But unfortunately, we are losing it at a very fast rate. While many bills have been in plans or
11 been in effect, not many are working. But a resolution can be made with nature by making more
12 spillways close to the marshes. If we were to allow the sediments to flow naturally from the river to
13 where they want to be, land will eventually start to be gained. If we were to do this, we could see our
14 state gain back all the land we have lost since we have built the levees. While this may cost a good bit,
15 if we want to actually do what we have been saying for years, we need to do it now. We cannot just sit
16 back and lose more land. We need to make more spillways.

17
18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 This bill shall take effect as soon as the river permits us to start building. It will be determined in
20 special meeting held by state leaders and environmental experts on choosing the best spot that will
21 help the river and not move as many residents. It shall be made by contractors, and it will be inspected
22 thoroughly throughout the building stages in order to make sure we spend our money for something
23 that will last. We will also help affected residents by purchasing their land and helping them get money
24 to move somewhere else. Once finished, we will workers to do all the things needed to be done to main
25 operationality.

26
27
28
29 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

30 We will need 750,000,000 for the building of the spillway alone. We will take the money from various
31 taxes, including property and income taxes. We will also likely need more money over time to do repairs
32 and have workers all the time.

33
34 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

35 None



2 **HOUSE BILL 155**

3 Sofia Leo Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

4 Meredith Hill

5
6 **TITLE:** Drive Wise Act— Increased Penalty For Using a Handheld Mobile Device While Driving

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 In Baton Rouge, people who are on their cell phone while driving are endangering other drivers. If a
10 driver is caught driving while using a handheld device, they will be fined \$225 instead of being fined the
11 current fine of \$175. If you are caught a second time, you will be fined \$550 instead of the current fine
12 of \$500. The study produced by Zutobi, an online driver education resource platform, showed the latest
13 data released by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in March, 2022. The report ranked
14 each state from the best to worst. It stated that a total of 166 distracted driving fatalities occurred in
15 Louisiana in 2020. The state reported 4.86 distracted driving deaths for every 100,000 drivers, and
16 19.82% of all fatal crashes in the state were caused by distracted driving, resulting in a severity score
17 of 50.19, the third-worst in the country. We want to create a community where drivers feel safe on the
18 roads.

19
20 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

21 In order to implement this bill, police and other law enforcement will need to be informed of the
22 increase in the fine. This bill will take effect on January 1, 2023.

23
24 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

25 No funding is needed for this bill.

26
27 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

28 One will be fined \$225 for the first offense and \$550 for subsequent offenses.
29



2 **HOUSE BILL 156**

3 Denton Hester

Captain Shreve High School

4 Brex Lopez

5
6 **TITLE:** Mandatory recycling in the State of Louisiana.

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Because Louisiana is directly next to the Gulf of Mexico, both wildlife and human-life are directly
10 affected by garbage. We can minimize this impact by recycling. By making recycling recyclables
11 mandatory, we can minimize the amount of garbage that ends up in places it shouldn't, we can make
12 Louisiana just as beautiful as it once was. Sources state that recycled steel saves 60% production
13 energy, recycled newspaper 40%, recycled plastics 70%, and recycled glass 40%. Also, using scrap steel
14 instead of virgin ore to make new steel takes 40% less water and creates 97% less mining waste.
15 Therefore, recycling will be healthy for the state of Louisiana.

16
17 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

18 This Bill would be implemented starting January 1, 2024. For this Bill to be implemented we would first
19 need it to be passed. For the Bill to take effect it would need to be passed then the facilities would be
20 built. While the facilities are being built workers are hired for the facilities and to take the garbage
21 routes. Citizens will bring their recycling to the dump themselves, thus not requiring recycling bins. If
22 one does wish to acquire a recycling bin, they can personally purchase one. Because people bring their
23 recycled items directly to the recycling plants, there will be no need for recycling bins, trucks, or
24 workers other than at facilities.

25
26 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

27 Funding for this bill will come mainly from a 0.004% income tax. A very small portion of funding will
28 come from the penalties. Our budget is approximately \$500,000,000, leaving about \$60,000,000 for
29 miscellaneous costs. The \$500,000,000 budget will cover payment for workers, facilities, and labor
30 costs. These facilities will cost approximately 1.5 million dollars each, which includes payment for
31 workers, machinery, and the land itself. Workers will have an annual salary of \$50,000 for
32 approximately 22 workers in each facility.

33
34 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

35 If people leave any items that are able to be recycled in the garbage there will be two warnings,
36 notifying them that they need to be cautious of the recycling in their garbage. When garbage workers
37 dump trash into their trucks, they will be instructed to glance over the trash to see if there are a
38 minimum of five pieces of recyclable material. If there are five or more pieces in the garbage, they will
39 receive two separate warnings. After the second, there will be a \$25 fine for five or more pieces in their
40 garbage. Garbage workers will keep a record of the warnings given and assure that people are punished
41 accordingly.



2 **HOUSE BILL 157**

3 Shreya Kamath

Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

4 Sarah Theriot

5
6 **TITLE:** Make Personal Finance Courses a Graduation Requirement in Public Schools

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 The purpose of this bill is to make personal finance courses a graduation requirement for public schools
10 in Louisiana. This will be a semester-long course taken during a student’s senior year and will help
11 prepare them for dealing with finance during college and afterward. This course will focus on money
12 management essentials like opening and maintaining bank accounts, how to save and budget money,
13 and how to complete loan applications. In addition, it will teach students about leases for renting
14 apartments and mortgages when they buy homes. It will also teach them about taxes and how to file
15 them as well as how interest rates and inflation works. According to Forbes, this type of course has
16 already been required in seven states (Alabama, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Tennessee, Utah,
17 and Virginia) and is currently being implemented in Iowa. Four states (Florida, Nebraska, Ohio, and
18 Rhode Island) are preparing to implement this requirement in the near future.

19
20 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

21 If passed, the personal finance course will start in the 2024-2025 school year.

22
23 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

24 The school will need to hire a part-time teacher for this course if their current teachers do not have the
25 room to teach this course. Since the teacher will be part-time, there will be no need for additional
26 funding because the school’s budget should be able to cover payroll for the additional teacher.

27
28
29 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

30 The penalty for refusing to implement the personal finance course will be the same as if a school
31 refuses to add another graduation requirement course.

2 **HOUSE BILL 158**

3 Kamar Hachem

Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies

4
5 **TITLE:** Hanging on to a Thread: Creole French6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 You eat gumbo and red beans & rice. You go to parades and listen to jazz music. You enjoy Louisiana's
9 lively culture. Hence, you might feel that this representation of Louisiana culture is sufficient. However,
10 something is missing: the LANGUAGE. Who were the people that invented these things? The Creole
11 French. Back in the 18th century, the term Louisiana Creole meant anyone who was native to Louisiana,
12 French-speaking, and Catholic. It is these people who contributed to the rich culture that we see in
13 Louisiana today. It was the Creole language that connected people from different ethnic backgrounds to
14 communicate. However, the percentage of French speakers in Louisiana dropped from 30% in the 1960s
15 to less than 3% in 2010. Kids used to get spanked in the 1920s for speaking French, their own native
16 language. It used to be illegal to speak anything but English in Louisiana schools, but is that really who
17 we were? Just a bunch of English people with English roots? Actually, the Creoles had been here before
18 Napoleon sold Louisiana to the United States. They are what made Louisiana stand out from the rest of
19 the states. It is no coincidence that our state is the only one in the nation that celebrates Mardi Gras.
20 How can you walk in the city and enjoy New Orleans culture without even caring about keeping that
21 culture alive? Language is just as important as the food. We cannot cherry-pick what we want to keep.
22 To make it worse, some schools do not have French education implemented. According to data, there
23 are not enough students who are interested in learning the language, so teachers are not really needed.
24 Only 5,500 students are enrolled in French Immersion programs throughout Louisiana. They are forced
25 to take Louisiana history in 8th grade but cannot learn basic words that our people used to use
26 frequently. A lot of the street names we have "Bourbon, Belle, LaPlace" etc have French roots, but
27 barely anyone acknowledges them. It is time we start holding on to this thin piece of thread instead of
28 letting it slowly break away.

29
30 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

31 Every Louisiana student in middle school (usually in 8th grade) takes a year-long Louisiana history class
32 as part of the curriculum to graduate. That class already contains Colonial French Louisiana in its
33 curriculum; however, students are not required to learn the meaning of basic French words and their
34 significance. In addition to that class, they would be required to learn some basic French grammar and
35 vocabulary. It will not be an intense course, but they will learn enough to understand a little bit of the
36 French language that is present throughout Louisiana. They would be able to recognize French words in
37 street signs, food, and places with numbers and the alphabet being taught first.

38 For example:

39 "LaPlace" means the place

40 "Point Aux Chenes means Oak Point"

41 "Cher means sweetheart"

42 "jambalaya" is a shortened version of "jambon à la yaya", meaning "ham with rice"

43
44 This will not be a separate course or require any additional school time; rather, it will be incorporated
45 into the Louisiana history class in 8th grade. Since some Louisiana schools do not have French teachers,
46 a certified French teacher is not required for this as only basic phrases and words will be taught.
47 However, the history teacher must look over what is going to be taught the same way they prepare to

1 teach other curriculums before the start of the school year begins. Because the curriculum is very basic,
2 the pronunciation of words can be obtained easily through a google search and can be played for the
3 class.

4 However, if there is a French teacher at the school present, that person will teach the French language
5 part of the curriculum to help students pronounce things correctly. Either way, the main point of this is
6 to recognize the words and their meanings; pronunciation is less important.

7
8 Additionally, the students will be required to complete a project at the end of the year with the French
9 words, names, and places that they learned and the role they play in Louisiana's history and culture.
10 Whatever they learn in this extra-curriculum will NOT be present on the LEAP exams at the end of the
11 year. This bill will go into effect after the year it is approved.

12
13

14 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

15 School districts get the majority of their funding from local property and income taxes; however, they
16 also rely on federal funding. Since teachers will be given online handbooks of the additional mini-course,
17 no funding will be required to give textbooks out. However, if a teacher wants to print papers and
18 provide other materials for his or her students and needs extra money to do so, the school district can
19 request federal government grants if they do not have extra money from taxes. It is unlikely that they
20 would need a lot of extra money given that this course is simple.

21
22

23 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

24 Failure for any school district to implement this would result in a fine of \$2,000 per year.



2 **HOUSE BILL 159**

3 Sumaiyya Baig

Haynes Academy For Advanced Studies

4
5 **TITLE:** Teacher Education

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 This bill addresses how some teachers are uneducated on things that offend a certain race, religion,
9 ethnicity, etc. Teachers are here to teach kids in order to give them an education for a civilized life, but
10 what if a teacher makes a microaggression towards one of their students? This bill mitigates this
11 problem by educating teachers as to what is right and wrong. Teachers must be educated on racism,
12 homophobia, islamophobia, etc. A teacher shouldn't be making microaggressions towards a student
13 because their job is to teach and not to say something offensive that can affect that student in a
14 negative manner. Teachers are using their authority to spread misconceptions to kids recently. In recent
15 days, about 77% of teachers are implicitly racially biased towards students. In order to mitigate this
16 issue, teachers should be educated on racism, homophobia, and many more things that can make
17 students feel offended or wronged.

18
19 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

20 In order for this bill to be taken into effect, teachers need to be confronted on the behavior they have
21 towards students and initiate if they need to be educated on the rights and wrongs of offending a
22 student. If a teacher makes a racist remark to a student, the student can report it to the counselor and
23 the teacher would get a warning. If the teacher makes another remark without learning their lesson,
24 they are put into an education system where they are educated on racism, homophobia, etc. They would
25 also have to pay an additional \$50 for every class they are sentenced to take by the government. The
26 law would take place towards the end of the year. Since microaggressions and things such as
27 homophobia and racism are normalized in Louisiana, the bill would be implemented as soon as it's
28 accepted. In Louisiana, teachers are unintentionally or intentionally saying offensive things that can
29 really affect students, so we should be able to mitigate this with this bill.

30
31 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

32 In order for this bill to be implemented, it needs about \$10,000 to find teachers who can teach
33 uneducated teachers and for a place where they can be educated on important topics, such as racism,
34 homophobia, islamophobia, etc. This money will come from the government. The money will also come
35 from the fees being given with breaking this law.

36
37 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

38 The consequences of making offensive comments to a student is a learning opportunity the first time it
39 happens, but if it happens multiple times, the person would get put into an education where the person
40 is educated about racism, homophobia, etc. With being put into this education, the fee is to pay \$50
41 dollars for every day you are sentenced to be taught.



2 **HOUSE BILL 160**

3 Grace Johnson Captain Shreve High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Teens and Children should have more readily available Psychologists and Therapists

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Around the world, around two-thirds of people with a mental disorder go untreated. Untreated mental
9 health conditions can result in unnecessary disability, unemployment, substance abuse, homelessness,
10 inappropriate incarceration, suicide, and poor quality of life. If Teens and Children have more readily
11 available psychologists and therapists it can help to lower the rate of untreated/undiagnosed, which will
12 therefore help to lower the suicide rates and improve the quality of life for many.

13
14
15 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

16 In order for this bill to be able to take effect an increase in mental health professionals would be
17 needed. This law would take place after more mental health professionals are found. This law would be
18 implemented by giving each and every Teen and/or Child a chance to see a psychologist.

19
20
21 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

22 The overall cost varies, but most psychologists and therapists cost around \$60-100+ per session. The
23 money for the implications of this bill will come partially from the people and partially from the state.
24 The people would pay 50% of the needed funds for more psychologists and therapists, and the state
25 would in turn pay the other 50%.

26
27
28 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

29 There shall be no penalties as this is voluntary.
30
31



2 **HOUSE BILL 161**

3 Ava DeVillier Lafayette High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Sex Education Reform

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 The students of Lafayette Parish schools have the option to take a one week course where they
9 primarily receive knowledge centered around the inner workings of their sex organs. While said
10 knowlege is fundamental to the complete comprehension of sexual reproduction, this information could
11 be condensed into one class session rather than the whole week of the class. The remainder of the time
12 should be used to teach about the importance of consent, protection, contraception, pregnancy with
13 personal illness, etc.

14
15
16 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

17 The implementation of sexual consent, protection, contraception, and pregnancy with personal illness is
18 extremely crucial in the sense that these elements are at a low in todays society. This additional
19 knowledge could make a major and impactful difference in the course of somebody's life. Males shall
20 learn the proper protection to use in order to prevent pregnancy in their sexual partners. They shall
21 also learn how to receive and ask for consent, regardless of the females willingness to bear a child.
22 Females shall learn what to do in sexually abusive settings and situations. They shall also be taught the
23 different types of contraception ass well as the possible illness, whether mental or physical, that they
24 could pass onto their offspring, if they so wish to have any. Either of these genders shall learn the risks
25 of STI's and teenage pregnancy, since, in fact, Louisiana has some of the highest rates of such in the
26 country.

27
28 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

29 Due to the fact that these are new areas of sex ed being taught, the state may require professionals
30 with these areas of expertise. I believe that this education should remain free of charge to the target
31 age group of grades 7-12. This is one of the main appeals in the sense of it already being free, there is
32 little reason, other than belief, to avoid taking this one week class. A slight tax raise may be necessary
33 to acquire the appropriate funds in order to hire these professionals.

34
35
36 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

37 There is no applicable punishment for not abiding by what has been stated in this bill.



2 **HOUSE BILL 162**

3 Brooke Richards

Mandeville High School

4 Abby Dennison

5
6 **TITLE:** Require schools to instruct reformed sex education

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Sex Education is not a required part of education in the state of Louisiana. When it is taught, it can be
10 ineffective due to the outdated regulations it is subjected to follow. As many as 84% of parents in
11 Louisiana believe sex education is an important part of school curriculum. Louisiana sex education
12 needs serious improvement. In 2018, Louisiana ranked 3rd for the highest teen birth rate. Despite the
13 high birth rate, Louisiana over the years has decreased unwanted pregnancy and STD rates; however,
14 enacting and enforcing an effective curriculum is critical to continue this downward trend.

15
16 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

17 If Sex Education is not already taught in a school, it will be implemented in the required health or
18 science education curriculum. This reform, and required curriculum, will newly enforce: consent
19 education, addiction, safe sex practices for the LGBTQ+ community, instruction of STD and HIV
20 prevention, and mention local resources where students can further educate and improve sexual health.
21 Schools will also be allowed to distribute safe, non-abortive, over-the-counter contraceptives. (Ex:
22 condoms)

23
24 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

25 The Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education will be required to allocate funding
26 for instruction materials that align with the new curriculum. Any additional funding can come from other
27 government grants such as the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program (TPP), an evidence based program
28 that aims to reduce teen pregnancy, or the State Personal Responsibility Education
29 Program (PREP) which gives grants to state agencies to educate youth on abstinence and contraception
30 to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections

31
32 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

33 Punishment for teachers and schools that refuse to follow the updated curriculum will be decided by the
34 school board of that parish.



2 **HOUSE BILL 163**

3 Sheridyn Carr

St. Joseph's Academy

4 Brinkley Bennet

5
6 **TITLE:** Federally Fund School Supplies

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 School is stressful enough for students, what about teachers? Should teachers have to worry about
10 their student's needs or the amount of money they have for the month? A study conducted in 2006
11 shows that 90.4% of teachers in Louisiana spend \$371 on average for school supplies and décor out of
12 pocket. Sixteen years later, the amount has gone up. Teachers do not have enough resources to spend
13 money out of pocket for school supplies and their classroom décor. We all know at least one teacher
14 who said, "I pay for everything out of pocket."
15

16 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

17 In this bill, teachers will have access to resources, and they will also get the support that they always
18 needed. Teachers will not have to worry if they can get the right supplies they need or how much
19 something would cost. This dream can be a reality if we, as a community, work together to bring this to
20 life. We can give back to teachers who spend their time and patience teaching and spending their hard-
21 earned money on their lovely students. If this bill passes, teachers will get the supplies by the amount
22 of money given to the school, which will make it much easier for teachers to get what they need for
23 school.
24

25 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

26 The funding of this bill will come from a Federal Grant. If not, we will add a tax of 0.5% on a tax from
27 Video Game Poker. The money will go directly to the schools, the amount will be determined by the
28 number of teachers in the school. The money will go to the teachers' classroom needs, like school
29 supplies and classroom décor. The money left over will to the teachers' other needs like classroom
30 décor. If there is any money left over, it will be returned to Video Game Poker
31

32 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

33 There are no penalties for this bill.

2 **HOUSE BILL 164**

3 Bella Toups Haynes Academy

4 **TITLE:** Reform Restrictions Involving the Catching of Speckled Trout5 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

6 Cynoscion nebulosus, also known as speckled trout or spotted sea trout, is an extremely popular
7 saltwater fish thought the state of Louisiana. Not only are they coveted by southern and southeastern
8 Louisiana restaurants; they are the aim of most recreational fishermen in the high seasons of April
9 through November. Speckled trout are unlike other common saltwater fish in Louisiana because they are
10 suffering from severe overfishing coupled with overall habitat changes. These extreme issues cause an
11 unhealthy and rapid decline in population. When conducting the 2021 stock assessment, the Louisiana
12 Wildlife and Fisheries Department found that speckled trout have been suffering from overfishing since
13 2016. We can see the results of overfishing because when too many fish are removed the population
14 cannot replenish itself. Overfishing is not a new topic when it comes to speckled trout; in fact,
15 overfishing has been allowed and even supported by the state of Louisiana.

16 As a result of biological and technical data, Louisiana revised statute 56:325.1, otherwise known as
17 "Size and possession limits; recreational saltwater finfish; penalties" under Title 56 Wildlife and
18 Fisheries. Regarding Spotted Sea trout this legislature states (1) the legal take, daily bag, and
19 possession limits are 25 fish daily, and (2) the legal size, daily bag, and possession limits are that the
20 minimum size for spotted sea trout is twelve inches total length when measured with the mouth closed.
21 Biologically these fish do not grow to 12 inches until about 1 year of age, and they do not reproduce
22 until about 1 to 2 years of age. Considering these conditions, in October of 2022 the Louisiana Wildlife
23 and Fisheries Commission adopted a notice of intent to increase the minimum size limit and to decrease
24 the daily bag limit. However, since the notice of intent was proposed, no action has been taken to
25 change the current law. The speckled trout of Louisiana need a daily catch and size limit that will allow
26 them to reproduce sustainably. To better accomplish this there should be a take limit of 5 fish per day
27 and a size limit of no smaller than 15 inches and no larger than 20 inches. This bill aims to allow the
28 aforementioned sea trout to be able to live and thrive in their own environment again.

29 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

30 The current law regarding speckled sea trout states (1) the legal take, daily bag, and possession limits
31 are 25 fish daily, and (2) the legal size, daily bag, and possession limits are that the minimum size for
32 spotted sea trout is twelve inches total length when measured with the mouth closed. If passed, this bill
33 will change the requirements to (1) the legal take, daily bag, and possession limits are 5 fish daily, and
34 (2) the legal size, daily bag, and possession limits are between 15 and 20 inches. This will go into effect
35 in one month. During this month establishments that sell fishing licenses will inform all customers
36 hoping to purchase a new license of this new law. All boat launches, bait shops, and marinas will
37 communicate the news of this new law to fishermen who visit or receive services. Along with this the
38 Wildlife and Fisheries Department will inform all prospective fishermen on their website and in person.
39 Once this month is over the Wildlife and Fisheries Department will be enforcing the new legislature.

40 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

41 There is no funding required for this bill.

42 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

43 If a recreational fisherman is found to violate the requirements regarding speckled sea trout that (1) the
44 legal take, daily bag, and possession limits are 5 fish daily, and (2) the legal size, daily bag, and
45 possession limits are 15 to 20 inches, they shall be punishable by a fine of seventy-five dollars per fish
46 under 15 inches or over 20 inches in total length or higher than the limit of 5 fish per day. Once a
47 fisherman is caught and fined 2 times their fishing license will be revoked.



2 **HOUSE BILL 165**

3 Allison Riley St. Joseph's Academy

4 Hayley Cavalier

5
6 **TITLE:** Create Income-based Fines

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 In 2020, the median household income in Louisiana was \$50,800. The average income per capita was,
10 however, \$29,522. That is only \$11,212 above the 2022 federal poverty line. According to census.gov,
11 the poverty line for a family of 2 is \$18,310 and \$26,500 for a family of 4. The fines in Louisiana are
12 fixed towards the average citizen, but the citizens who are either below or above average receive the
13 same exact fines. Even though it is the same fine, it has many different effects on low, average, or high-
14 income families. In fact, 19.6% of Louisiana's citizens are in poverty just trying to provide their families
15 with the low income they receive. These fines add to the struggle they already face, and this needs to
16 stop. The revised statute title 14 lists all actions considered criminal offenses, and the offenses that
17 include fines. The punishment or fine the offender receives should fit the offense for that specific
18 person. Because of income inequality, it makes more sense for offenders to have fines that correlate to
19 their wealth.

20
21 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

22 The purpose of this bill would be to hold the citizens of Louisiana more accountable for their fines and
23 penalties by making all fines for laws listed under Revised Statute Title 14 relative to the individual's
24 federal taxable income bracket for the year the crime was committed. In addition, all fines for laws
25 listed under Revised Statute Title 14 assigned to a person who lies below the federal poverty line will
26 be transferred into an appropriate and proportional time of community service to the law the individual
27 is convicted of. Furthermore, any person whose taxable income is above the federal poverty line must
28 pay a minimum fine, which is relative to the current fines set for that penalty and must be regulated.
29 Any person whose income for the year the crime was committed is below the average income for that
30 year will have a proportional decrease in their fine. In addition, any person whose income for the year
31 the offense was committed is above the average income for that year will have a proportional increase
32 in the price of their fine. Any person whose income for the year the offense was committed is in the
33 average income range for that year will be incurred a baseline fine. Once the income exceeds five times
34 the average income for that year, they will receive a fine of no more than five times the baseline fine.

35
36 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

37 No funding required.

38
39 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

40 United States Court Judges are subject to the Code of Conduct for United States Judges.



2 **HOUSE BILL 166**

3 Grace Buras St. Joseph's Academy

4
5 **TITLE:** Simplify Voting

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Voting dates and locations in Louisiana are too difficult to find. People can spend hours on the internet
9 trying to find where and when voting takes place. Major elections are publicized everywhere, while the
10 smaller elections that affect taxpayers and commuters are rarely, if ever, announced. It creates a biased
11 vote if time and locations for votes are released in closed locations. Only certain groups of people
12 would be able to see the dates and times, meaning they would be the majority of people voting. It
13 makes it all too easy to influence the outcome of the vote.

14
15 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

16 Voting dates and locations should be open to everyone and easy to locate. The best way for all people
17 around the state to be aware of voting is if the state makes a public website where information for
18 voting can be found and also if there were announcements on bulletin boards in public shopping areas
19 and hangouts that would be clearly visible.

20
21 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

22 The funding for this bill would come from the HAVA Election Security Funds. This funding provides
23 states with additional resources to secure and improve election systems.

24
25 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

26 If there is failure to provide updated information for elections, the hired employee is to be dismissed
27 and a new employee installed.



2 **HOUSE BILL 167**

3 Ella Chapman Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

4 John Luke Boagni

5
6 **TITLE:** Mandatory Clerk for Special Education Teachers in Public Schools

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Special education teachers devote time and effort to educating kids with mental or physical learning
10 disabilities. On top of developing specialized lesson plans unique to the group of students that they
11 teach, these teachers are often burdened with strenuous paperwork regarding their positions. With a
12 short staff and multiple students per class, these teachers have little time to devote to a large number
13 of secretarial tasks and paperwork required of them. Under Louisiana's IEP Handbook for Students with
14 Exceptionalities, each special education student has an Individualized Education Program (IEP) through
15 which they set goals and plans for how they will reach these goals. Sometimes these progress reports
16 can reach up to 25 to 30 pages, and they must be replaced once the student reaches that goal. These
17 programs require special education teachers to constantly communicate with their students' families to
18 monitor each child's academic and functional progress. Additionally, special education teachers must
19 collaborate with service providers to establish specialized services and ensure that targeted skills are
20 supported throughout all the environments these students will encounter throughout their school day.
21 Therefore, the amount of work required for them in terms of classwork, education, and management
22 does not give them sufficient time to complete all of the requirements of the IEP process to the best of
23 their ability.

24
25 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

26 This bill will propose the addition of clerks to support special education teachers through the
27 Individualized Education Program process. These clerks will be responsible for managing this program's
28 secretarial work and paperwork. Some of these responsibilities will include setting up progress check
29 meetings with parents and other IEP team members, communicating with the IEP facilitators assigned to
30 each school, and filling out the paperwork required for the goal-based portion of this program. This bill
31 entails adding another member to the IEP team that already consists of the parents, students, general
32 education teachers, special education teachers, and other administrators. To ensure that the public
33 schools fill this new position with qualified individuals, this bill will require that the local education
34 agency in which the student resides will check up on implementing these clerk positions once every four
35 months. Furthermore, the clerks will be required to have finished either a high school or college level of
36 education, and they will be subject to a detailed interview process carried out by each school.

37
38 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

39 There will be a 2.5 percent increase in the state property tax to fund this bill. The funding from this tax
40 will pay these hired clerks a manageable salary of \$30,240 per year that they are employed. These
41 clerks will receive a starting salary of \$21/hour.

42
43 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

44 If public schools across the state do not implement the requirements of this bill within six months of
45 this bill going into effect, the school will receive a \$150 fine which doubles per month that the bill is
46 not followed.



2 **HOUSE BILL 168**

3 Ava Doucet St. Joseph's Academy

4 Caroline Thomas

5
6 **TITLE: GIVE BACK TO SMALL BUSINESSES**

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Small businesses are everywhere with blooming entrepreneurs trying to make their company
10 successful. Unfortunately, people are more and more drawn to consuming from large companies,
11 therefore not buying from smaller businesses . Because of the pandemic, many small businesses had to
12 close down. A small business that was a local favorite in Baton Rouge was Poise'n Ivy. Poise'n Ivy was a
13 women's boutique that sold casual and special occasion clothes for mature women. The business was
14 not able to get back on its' feet after the pandemic when Amazon started to sell more clothes. During
15 the pandemic, many people started shopping online, which left many of these boutiques struggling to
16 stay open. If there was a rewards system implemented, people would be more drawn to buying from
17 small businesses, and helping these people grow their living.

18
19 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

20 This Bill will be implemented next billing season in the annual taxes to be paid. It will provide tax
21 deduction percentage rates based on the amount spent on small businesses. The rates of deduction will
22 be 7% off the total amount for every \$750 spent small businesses.

23
24 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

25 No funding is required for this bill.

26
27 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

28 There are no penalties.



2 **HOUSE BILL 169**

3 Mia Carlson St. Joseph's Academy

4 Charlotte Rabb

5
6 **TITLE:** Helping Healthcare

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Insurance companies in Louisiana don't provide healthcare for less fortunate citizens who could not buy
10 lifesaving medicine. Louisiana has the fifth-highest individual health insurance costs and is ranked 50th
11 in health care in the United States. In 2020 around 8% of Louisiana could not afford healthcare and
12 that percentage keeps going up. A bottle of insulin that is not covered by insurance can cost about \$50
13 to over \$1,000, which is too much for anyone. An average surgery could cost \$4,000 to up to
14 \$170,000. People without a stable income will die with these prices.

15
16 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

17 To help Louisiana, the state government will create a free healthcare organization and clinic to which
18 citizens can send in an application to join the program. The program will provide free lifesaving
19 medicine and procedures to the Louisianian who could not pay for it. The application will have questions
20 about your salary, what medicine or procedure you or whoever would need, who needs it, how many
21 people will be on the plan are providing for -like children, and the severity. If accepted the citizen is
22 provided with the medicine and procedure needed to help out, with money provided with state taxes.

23
24 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

25 The funding for the free healthcare will be 0.5% added to all excise taxes.

26
27 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

28 No penalty



2 **HOUSE BILL 170**

3 Lorelei Robinson St. Joseph's Academy

4
5 **TITLE:** Build Inflation Relief Program

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Louisiana is not accommodating for its growing population and inflation spike. This bill will freeze the
9 government union budgets to help create a program for those who are suffering from the growing
10 population and inflation spikes in our country.

11
12 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

13 The program will start fundraising immediately. When the program gets their budget for the
14 government, they will then start to accept applications for families in need and will give help to
15 Louisiana citizens that have an income of \$120,000 or lower. The program's employers, which will be
16 chosen by the governor, will determine whether or not the applicants will receive help and how much
17 help they are eligible to receive based on their income level, age, relationship status, living conditions,
18 and # of children.

19 Government unions will get a budget that adapts to the rising inflation rates so that they will not have
20 any problems working their program. All the extra money that the government unions would have
21 gotten will go to building the inflation relief program to help people who have lower income salaries.
22 This bonus for accepted applicants will go out monthly and the amount that the applicant receives will
23 depend on the information listed above (income level, age, relationship status, living conditions, and #
24 of children).

25
26
27 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

28 This bill will get its funding from the new fundraiser program that will be made in Louisiana and the
29 budget from the Government and State of Louisiana as well as from fundraising.

30
31 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

32 Because this is a government-run program, there are no penalties.



2 **HOUSE BILL 171**

3 Arun Cacodcar Episcopal School of Acadiana

4
5 **TITLE:** The Manufacturing of Coastal Wetlands

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Louisiana currently receives one of the highest annual rainfall per year in the United States. Louisiana
9 has the highest coastline loss in the United States. Louisiana accounts for 80 percent of the total
10 shoreline loss in the nation. Currents and drainage often erode the land, which destabilizes the
11 ecosystems. Erosion has led to the displacement of many homes in Louisiana, and it has become a
12 prevalent problem. Many protective measures have been placed, but coastline erosion still happens.
13 Since 1932, Louisiana has lost around 1,900 square miles of the coast. Barrier Islands also protect and
14 buffer Louisiana, but they have significantly eroded. They are expected to disappear, which will lead to
15 more erosion. The creation of natural barriers, coastal wetlands, that hold the land in place and act like
16 buffers is effective. Such coastal wetlands, such as salt marshes, contain plants like needlegrass, which
17 roots' stabilize the ground. The implementation and sustainment of such structures can help diminish
18 the ongoing problem.

19
20
21 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

22 The creation of wetlands on Louisiana's shoreline, planted with natural vegetation, will be utilized to
23 prevent erosion.

24
25 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

26 Funding will be provided by taxing oil drilling companies' revenue by 0.09 percent per year.

27
28
29 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

30 No penalties are enforced on this bill.



2 **HOUSE BILL 172**

3 Perry Joseph Episcopal School of Acadiana

4
5 **TITLE:** Diversion of Unnecessary Educational Capital (DUEC)

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 In Louisiana, around 63% of incoming college students take out a loan of around \$21,000 over their 4
9 years at college. This loan can be extremely difficult to pay back for many students. Though the
10 unemployment rate may be incredibly low in Louisiana right now (around 3.5%), the unemployment rate
11 does not include people who are not actively looking for a job. However, around 33% of all college
12 graduates in the U.S. are not actively using their degree. Of course, college is useful not only for
13 obtaining jobs, but it also enhances its students' worldview, which is important in creating educated and
14 informed citizens. In order to remedy this extreme debt placed on students, while having a strong work
15 force and producing educated and informed citizens, we should greatly increase the number of
16 community colleges and trade schools in Louisiana.

17
18
19 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

20 By increasing the number of trade schools and community colleges in Louisiana, many students would
21 not have to take on nearly as much debt and could most likely work for around the same salaries, while
22 still possessing an education. This could also give a chance to many people who have given up on
23 searching for a job an opportunity to receive an education with which they could be employed easier,
24 meaning they would be able to join the workforce without having to take on the extreme amount of time
25 to obtain a college degree and not having to repay that debt. It could also be extremely beneficial to the
26 United States, as an increase in trade schools would boost the United State's ability to become self-
27 sufficient if necessary, like in the event of a war with a foreign nation. The state of Louisiana would
28 directly fund and supervise community colleges and trade schools, to ensure that they would be on par
29 with standards necessary to creating good graduates. This bill would take effect on January 1, 2023.
30 After this bill takes effect, Louisiana would equally disperse funds towards community colleges and
31 trade schools throughout the state according to population and need in each parish and community.

32
33 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

34 A vocational school student has to pay a tuition of less than \$7,000 to earn a degree, whereas a
35 college student would have to pay around \$50,000 to earn theirs. By diverting around \$5,000,000 per
36 year from schools such as LSU and other flagship schools in Louisiana to community colleges and trade
37 schools, around 750 new community college students could be given the opportunity to be trained
38 through the expanding of current community schools and the opening of new ones per year. When these
39 new students enter the workforce, more tax base would enter into the government, which could provide
40 more funds to community schools. Flagship schools such as LSU would not suffer from this, however;
41 LSU has been prone to not using its funding for the best of purposes (such as its 85 million dollar
42 recreational center). Those schools would simply have to focus more on spending their funding on
43 actual education as opposed to superfluous expenditures.

44
45 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

46 No penalties apply for this law.

2 **HOUSE BILL 173**

3 Adam Gombos

Episcopal School of Acadiana

4
5 **TITLE:** Increasing the Inspection Frequency of Restaurants to Reduce the Spread of Disease6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 According to the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Louisiana is estimated to have roughly
8 165,000 cases of foodborne illnesses annually. In addition, the department estimates that about 17%
9 of all meals consumed in Louisiana are consumed in commercial food establishments, such as
10 restaurants. Given these statistics, it is evident that restaurants can have detrimental health effects on
11 consumers by spreading diseases. In order to combat the spread of such diseases within such
12 establishments, the Louisiana Department of Health currently requires all restaurants to have up to 4
13 inspections annually. To further reduce the spread of disease within restaurants and to improve the
14 general health of consumers, this bill will require restaurants to undergo and pass inspections on a
15 more frequent basis. The spread of foodborne disease can be lessened by more regularly examining the
16 quality of both the kitchen and the inventory of a restaurant.

17 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

18 Restaurants in Louisiana will have 6 unannounced inspections yearly. A health inspector will go to every
19 restaurant to evaluate whether or not the requirements—including a clean kitchen, well-organized
20 inventory, and a neat eating area—are met. If restaurants do not meet the necessary standards
21 required by health inspectors, they will be subject to penalties. This bill will be implemented starting
22 January 1, 2023, which will give restaurants over a month to prepare for their first inspection under
23 the new regulations.

24 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

25 This bill will require no funding since health inspectors are already on the payroll of the Louisiana state
26 government.

27 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

28 Penalties will fall under two categories of violations: severe and non-severe violations. Severe violations
29 will be those that contribute significantly to the spread of foodborne illness. In contrast, non-severe
30 violations will be those that are not immensely harmful to consumers and can be resolved in a short
31 period of time.

32 If a health inspector determines that a restaurant has committed a non-severe violation, then the
33 restaurant will be given 2 weeks to correct the violation. After two weeks, the inspector will return, and
34 if the violation is corrected, the restaurant will not be penalized; however, if the restaurant does not
35 correct the violation, then it will be given Penalty #1 under the severe violation category.

36 If a health inspector determines that a restaurant has committed a severe violation then it will be given
37 up to a severe penalty. A restaurant will be able to receive up to 3 severe penalties. In addition, a
38 restaurant will retain its penalties for a period of 5 years. Afterward, the restaurant will lose all of its
39 penalties.

40 Penalty #1 - The restaurant will have to give 10% of its revenue from that month to the Health
41 Department of Louisiana.

42 Penalty #2 - The restaurant will have to give 15% of its revenue from that month to the Health
43 Department of Louisiana.

44 Penalty #3 - The restaurant will have to give 25% of its revenue from that month to the Health
45 Department of Louisiana.

46 If a restaurant receives more than three penalties within 5 years, it will be required to shut down.
47



2 **HOUSE BILL 174**

3 Addison Manning Episcopal School of Acadiana

4 Siyeon Joo

5 **TITLE:** Be Like Oregon: A Plan to Cut Drug Arrests

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 According to the CDC, Louisiana’s drug overdose death rate as of March 2022 is at 42.7 per 100,000,
8 compared to Oregon, which stands at 18.7 per 100,000. It is clear that measures must be taken to
9 decrease drug overdose death rates and that may come in the form of preventing drug arrests.

10 Louisiana’s overwhelmingly severe drug penalty includes days in jail and a small fine, and even a small
11 possession charge will earn someone a minimum of four years in prison with hard labor and
12 accompanying fines will also be much higher.

13 This is where Oregon comes into play. In November 2020, Oregon voters passed Measure 110, which
14 decriminalized the possession for personal use of small amounts of all drugs, including cocaine, heroin,
15 LSD, methamphetamine, and oxycodone and also cut their drug arrest rates in half. The only U.S. state
16 to have implemented this policy, minor possession in Oregon became a civil infraction. The Oregon
17 Criminal Justice Commission estimates decriminalization will reduce racial and ethnic disparities in
18 arrests and convictions. In other words fewer Oregonians will struggle securing jobs, loans, professional
19 licenses, and other necessities for a successful life.

20 Decriminalization means that a once-banned drug is still prohibited by law, but the legal system will no
21 longer prosecute or criminalize a person for carrying under a certain amount.

22 This is not to be confused with legalization, which is defined as a once-banned drug that is made legal
23 under federal or state law.

24 This bill aims to not eliminate serious penalties for personal use or legalize production and sale of
25 drugs. For instance, manufacturing or distributing heroin is a felony punishable by up to 20 years in
26 prison and a \$100,000 fine, plus twice the amount gained through dealing. But because federal law still
27 bans possession of all amounts of drugs, the black market remains because producing, selling, and even
28 possessing drugs remains illegal. 110 was not designed to eliminate the black market; its purpose was
29 “to stop criminalizing drug use and addiction” and arrest fewer people.

30 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

31 There is no saying this will completely work in the state of Louisiana, so starting from January 1st 2023
32 to January 1st 2024 this will be a pilot program across the state. A bill similar to Measure 110 will be
33 enforced and monitored for any benefits or drawbacks to the state’s arrest rates in regards to drug
34 usage and overdose rates. If drug arrest rates and death consequently caused by overdose decreases,
35 the bill will be presumed as effective and will stay implemented as a law. However, if the converse
36 occurs, the bill will be removed and other opportunities and plans to achieve similar goals for the state
37 may replace this one.

38 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

39 This bill requires no funding, but instead the money saved from over policing drug crimes will be instead
40 used as funding for rehabilitation centers and therapies if the pilot program works according to the
41 plan. A major part of this bill is redirecting funds towards programs that directly help those struggling
42 with drug and substance abuse instead of imprisoning them.

43 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

44 Instead of the current, overly harsh penalties enforced by the state government, people found in
45 possession of an ounce or less of any substance receive a citation and \$100 fine, which can be waived
46 by calling a hotline to screen for substance use disorder.



2 **HOUSE BILL 175**

3 Max Ross Episcopal School of Acadiana

4
5 **TITLE:** Stopping Literary Censorship in Schools

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 In recent years book banning has risen in popularity and affected students who primarily read books
9 from school. This practice has also limited the scope of education some teachers can provide, and
10 unfairly regulates what students can and can not intellectually consume.

11
12 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

13 The purpose of schooling, both public and private, is to educate future generations and to prepare them
14 to manage the world we leave behind. The life lessons learned through books can not always be easily
15 taught in the real world, and it is essential that children receive an equal opportunity to any and all
16 literature, unrestricted by their school or state.

17
18 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

19 This bill would cost no money.

20
21 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

22 Schools that maintain book banning will not be eligible for all available funding, and in addition private
23 schools will be fined.



2 **HOUSE BILL 176**

3 Spencer McNeely Episcopal School of Acadiana

4
5 **TITLE:** Bringing Power Back to The Parishes

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Since 1936, Louisiana has been the only state in the nation to grant a state-level board the authority
9 to approve corporate exemptions from local property taxes, without the approval, or even knowledge,
10 of the local entities paying the cost of those exemptions. This state-level board, the Board of
11 Commerce and Industry, has granted these corporate exemptions through the industrial tax exemption
12 program, the largest program of state subsidies to corporations in the nation. The industrial tax
13 exemption program is Louisiana’s most expensive economic development program, by a significant
14 margin. In 2017 alone, the program cost \$1.9 billion in foregone tax revenue to local taxing bodies.
15 Under the Board of Commerce and Industry, the industrial tax exemption program has consistently cost
16 billions of dollars in property taxes through corporate exemptions, depriving cities, parishes, sheriff’s
17 departments, fire districts, libraries, and parks of billions of funding. This loss of funding and revenue
18 has kept Louisiana perpetually poor and has prevented the expansion of essential services and
19 programs within local parishes. Additionally, it has prevented any substantial increase in quality of life
20 for the majority of Louisianans and has caused Louisiana to be ranked last in the nation for social and
21 economic outcomes. In 2016, Gov. John Bel Edwards signed an Executive Order giving local school
22 districts, sheriff departments, parishes, and cities the authority to determine for themselves whether to
23 approve industrial tax exemptions and on what terms. However, the Executive Order still gives the
24 Board of Commerce and Industry the authority to approve corporate exemptions. The Executive Order
25 fails to protect local control over the industrial tax exemption program and continues to deprive local
26 Louisiana parishes of property taxes. This bill calls for the industrial tax exemption program to be
27 redelegated from the Board of Commerce and Industry to the local parishes of Louisiana.

28
29
30 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

31 Under this bill, the industrial tax exemption program will be redelegated from the Board of Commerce
32 and Industry to the local parishes of Louisiana, allowing each parish to control tax exemptions within
33 its borders. This will allow for each parish to present tax exemptions as they deem appropriate and
34 allow for a greater opportunity to control local government revenue and property taxes.

35
36
37 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

38 No funding will be required for the redelegation of the industrial tax exemption program. Instead,
39 revenue generated from property taxes after tax exemptions will operate in the same manner as it does
40 now going toward different programs/services within the parish and to the state of Louisiana itself.

41
42
43 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

44 Any violation of this bill will result in state prosecution under existing guidelines for corruption, fraud,
45 or any illegal business activity.



2 **HOUSE BILL 177**

3 Alma Shahid Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies

4
5 **TITLE:** Reform and Minimize the Financial Impacts of Sexual Abuse in Louisiana

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Sexual assault is defined as sexual contact or behavior that occurs without the explicit consent of the
9 victim. In the United States, there are on average 463,634 rape and sexual assault victims above the
10 age of 12. With 17.6% of American women and 3% of American men having been victims of rape or
11 attempted rape in their lifetime; accordingly, 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men experience sexual violence in
12 their lifetime. In Louisiana, the rate of both sexual assault and attempted sexual assault continues to
13 rise. Considering the damage of sexual assault can last a lifetime, it is imperative to ensure the victim
14 to the best of the state's ability to maintain a stable life. Currently, crimes of rape in Louisiana are
15 defined by three degrees; first-degree rape or "aggravated rape" has no statute of limitations, second-
16 degree rape or "forcible rape" has no statute of limitations, while third-degree rape or "simple rape" has
17 a 6-year statute. In order to guarantee victims justice, it is essential to dissolve the statute of
18 limitations for third-degree rape. According to Louisiana Act 487 passed recently, victims should
19 receive a maximum of 15 thousand dollars for crime-related expenses. The average cost of childbirth in
20 Louisiana is \$16,012; in light of recent events regarding inaccessibility to abortion, 15 grand is not
21 enough to cover the cost of childbirth and tests (including rape kits) for uninsured victims. To better
22 warrant a minimal financial burden on the victim the maximum reimbursement should be increased to 20
23 thousand dollars.

24
25
26 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

27 This bill will be implemented in two ways: dissolving the statute of limitation on third-degree rape in
28 Louisiana and amending Louisiana Act 487. The dissolving of the statute of limitation on third-degree
29 rape in Louisiana should be effective immediately in all state courts and consist of all sexual assault
30 cases that are yet to reach the previous statute. The amending of Louisiana Act 487 should occur in a
31 matter of 3 months.

32
33
34 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

35 This bill will be funded by a 2% increase in income taxes for those with an income above 200k in
36 Louisiana if necessary.

37
38
39 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

40 If rulings are not adjusted properly, the county will be fined \$250.



2 **HOUSE BILL 178**

3 Kalen Williams

Southern University Laboratory School

4 Alaysia Raymond

5
6 **TITLE:** Mandatory background check and retreat clause in Stand Your Ground Law

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Previous "Stand Your Ground" laws also known as "justifiable homicide" or "shoot first" laws were
10 associated with increased homicides each year. Studies show that there was an 8% to 11% national
11 increase in monthly rates of homicide and firearm homicide. These laws allow you to assault somebody
12 or enforce use of a deadly weapon if you feel threatened without an obligation to retreat and apply to
13 the protection of your home, place of business, or vehicle.

14
15 You must reasonably believe that the perpetrator is going to use any unlawful force against you, or is
16 attempting to use such force while committing or attempting to commit a burglary or robbery. The word
17 "reasonable" is vague and hard to define. What is reasonable to one individual may not be considered
18 reasonable to another. How do you defend "reasonable" in the court of law? Furthermore, these laws
19 do not require you to retreat or escape the situation. Under those circumstances, it encourages to
20 shoot first then ask questions later with no regard to human life.

21
22 There are many cases where criminals have gotten off because of the "law". Consequently, many lives
23 were lost and perpetrators were able to walk free due to the stand your ground laws. In addition, the
24 state of Louisiana does not require an individual to have a background check before purchasing a gun.
25 Therefore, the stand your ground law should be modified to include a mandatory background check and
26 retreat clause.

27
28 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

29 It should be required that everyone who owns a weapon for protection take a self-defense class(20
30 hours), get certified to use a weapon properly and have a background check. In addition, all persons
31 who plan to purchase a gun should have to do the same. Training should emphasize shooting to slow
32 down and/or eliminate the threat before choosing to shoot to kill. If there is a chance to escape or
33 retreat from danger without being harmed, it should be required that they retreat instead of shooting
34 first. With this modification, less lives will be lost.

35 This bill will go into effect January 1, 2023 and will be implemented by the Louisiana Department of
36 Justice. Every individual who owns a gun will have a period of time to obtain the certification, class
37 hours and background check. Any citizen who kills someone and claims it was due to the Stand Your
38 Ground Laws, will have to prove that it was following all stated requirements.

39
40 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

41 There is no funding for this bill.

42
43 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

44 If the citizens do not adhere to the bill and purchase or own a weapon without certification, attending a
45 self-defense class and a background check, they should be fined \$500 on the first offense, \$1000 on
46 the second offense and jail offense after. In the event a homicide should be the result of someone
47 under this new law, the ruling will be determined by the court of law.



2 **HOUSE BILL 179**

3 Dynastee' Jacobs Jacobs
4 Harmony Grant

Southern University Laboratory School

5
6 **TITLE:** Citizens who have been diagnosed with a mental health diagnosis will not be allowed to purchase
7 or own a firearm

8
9 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

10 Gun violence has plagued cities across Louisiana. Louisiana had major incidents involving gun violence
11 and no one has really found a way to stop it. In 2021 approximately 453 people in Louisiana died by
12 gun violence; thus, having the 21st highest rate in the country. An average of 492 people in Louisiana
13 die by gun violence every year. A rate of 10.8 homicides per 100,000 people. Louisiana has the 3rd-
14 highest rate of gun homicides and gun assaults in the US. In Louisiana, 83% of all homicides involve a
15 gun. Furthermore, guns are the leading cause of death among children and teens in Louisiana.
16 Ultimately, there has to be a solution to this problem and it needs to be dealt with now. We are losing
17 teens, adults, even babies due to gun violence at an alarming rate. By placing some parameters around
18 gun ownership, it could decrease gun violence significantly.

19
20 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

21 Beginning January 2023, anyone who has been diagnosed with a mental illness will not be allowed to
22 purchase a firearm. Now most gun stores let you purchase a firearm without doing a background check
23 into your history. If you have a mental health condition, you SHOULD NOT purchase or own a firearm.

24
25 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

26 No funding is needed for this bill.

27
28 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

29 Businesses who sell firearms to individuals who have been diagnosed with a mental illness will be fined
30 for the first offense and subject to closure subsequently.



2 **HOUSE BILL 180**

3 Brailyn Dumas

Southern University Laboratory School

4 Talyn Saulsby

5
6 **TITLE:** Remove the possibility of parole from convicted rapists

7
8
9 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

10 In Louisiana, convicted rapists are offered parole after serving 75% of their sentence. In 2019, 2,273
11 reported rapes in Louisiana causing Louisiana's crime rate to rise to 3,711 crimes per 100,000
12 residents. If this bill goes into effect, convicted rapists will have to complete their prison sentences
13 without the possibility of parole.

14
15 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

16 If this bill is passed, It will be implemented on January 1st, 2023. This law will go into effect to cover all
17 parishes and all courts of law will have to follow this law. All convicted rapists will have to complete a
18 full prison sentence. If full sentence is complete and convicted sex offenders commit sex crimes again
19 such as, battery, molestation, and sexual assault etc. they will have to serve double their previous
20 prison sentence.

21
22 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

23 No additional funding is needed for this bill.

24
25 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

26 Not Applicable



2 **HOUSE BILL 181**

3 Ariel Leatherwood-Garrett

Southern University Laboratory School

4 Troy Murphy

5
6 **TITLE:** Increase restrictions on Gun Ownership

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Gun violence in Louisiana is a horrendous issue that continues to escalate. In fact, as of 2020,
10 Louisiana was ranked 3rd in gun violence. Additionally, the death rate due to gun violence in Louisiana
11 was 26.3 per 100,000 people. Everyday in Louisiana somebody is either shot , injured or killed due to
12 gun violence and it is now time to make a change. The current Louisiana law for guns is that Open carry
13 of firearms in Louisiana are permitted without a permit, as long as the user is of at least 21 years of
14 age and legally able to possess a firearm under state and federal law. Although that is the Louisiana law
15 for guns, it should not be allowed for a person to be able to receive a gun with no permit.

16
17 To make changes to this law, those who wish to own a gun should not have a felony offense and
18 should be able to legally own a firearm. Additionally, people who wish to own a gun should be properly
19 trained and undergo a screening process to receive a permit. The screening process will include a
20 background check of the individual such as (felonies, jail time, age, mental status, connections to
21 family, etc ..) Equally important, those who wish to own a gun will only be able to have a handgun, not
22 any extravagant guns such as automatic rifles, automatic pistols, shot guns, etc. With this bill it can
23 help put gun violence to a halt and drop the death rates.

24
25
26 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

27 This law would be put into place January 1st , 2023. We plan to implement this law in Louisiana by
28 getting citizens to vote for it. Then we will speak about all of the good things that this bill will bring to
29 the state, minimizing gun violence and saving the lives of millions in the future.

30
31 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

32 This bill does not need to be funded, it is a simple screening that needs to occur to minimize gun
33 violence .

34
35 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

36 The consequences of breaking this law is 5 years minimum. Years will be added onto the 5 years if a
37 crime is committed with the firearm. The restrictions will not allow potential owners to purchase or own
38 a firearm.



2 **HOUSE BILL 182**

3 Jamya Cain Southern University Laboratory School

4 Bre'Shaun Murry

5
6 **TITLE:** Increase State Workers' Pay

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 In Louisiana the cost of living has gone up tremendously. In 2022, a recent survey shows that Louisiana
10 ranks 49th in average annual pay. Salaries range from \$70,199 to as low as \$14,440. With such low
11 pay, it makes it harder to survive with transportation, food, and other personal needs. Since the prices
12 on everything have increased it is harder to supply your needs with resources being so high in price,
13 while getting paid at a very low rate. According to resources the price of gas has gone up 25% and
14 food has gone up more than 10% in the last couple of years in Louisiana. This bill should help pay state
15 workers at least \$15 dollars an hour to support their living needs due to prices rising. State workers in
16 Louisiana as of now only get paid \$7.25 per hour, but the average income for a person in Louisiana to
17 survive is \$38,547 / \$19 an hour. Then even the 25th percentile of workers makes \$23,009 a year /
18 \$11 an hour, proving that what the state workers make is almost below average making it impossible to
19 even have a basic living off of what they're making.

20
21 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

22 In order for this bill to take place the state of Louisiana needs to increase their pay by \$15 dollars to
23 help supply the needs of the state workers because of the cost of living. This law needs to take place by
24 May 23, 2023.

25
26 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

27 The funding will come from increased income taxes on household incomes in excess of \$250,000 per
28 year.

29
30 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

31 Not Applicable



2 **HOUSE BILL 183**

3 Mekelle Parker

Southern University Laboratory School

4 Khaleb Smith

5
6 **TITLE:** Limit the number of opioid prescriptions to patients

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Opioid Abuse is the over/misuse of painkillers. In 2010, the death rate from opioid-involved abuse rose
10 from about 20,000 to nearly 100,000 Nationally. Louisiana owns about 42 per 100,000 people.

11 Dosage directions are labeled across painkillers but are not usually followed. Overconsumption in a
12 short amount of time can cause a shortage of painkillers, which can cause the consumer to ask their
13 doctor to refill their prescription. Repeating this over-consumption action frequently can cause an
14 addiction. This is why there should be a limit on how often and the quantity that a prescription can be
15 released.

16
17 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

18 This bill could limit how much an opioid doctor can prescribe or release to patients because some can
19 cause an addiction to the feeling that they give off. Such as a Euphoric feeling which can block off the
20 pain receptors in your body. Many people also gain these pills to sell on the streets where many times
21 the pills are cut with fentanyl which then creates a lethal dose. Many people come up with false
22 reasons to even get their hands on this prescription for that same euphoric feeling. A common
23 misconception about opioids is that many people want to do them. What happens is that they get
24 prescribed the pill and then get hooked on the feeling as it is an addictive drug.

25
26 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

27 No funding needed

28
29 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

30 Doctors who over prescribe opioids will be punishable by law.



2 **HOUSE BILL 184**

3 Victoria Dekeyzer

St. Joseph's Academy

4 Claire Ann Chustz

5
6 **TITLE:** Grant Adoptive Parents Equal Parental Leave

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Parental leave is not available for parents who are adopting. This is a problem since the first couple of
10 weeks spent with adopted children are the most valuable; it is the time the parents and child get to
11 know each other. It is when they bond and not having leave for this critical time can cause troubling
12 effects such as: delaying immunizations, postpartum depression, behavioral issues in the child, and
13 trust issues in kids who already struggle to trust. Adoptees are twice as prone to developing
14 Opposition Defiant Disorder (ODD). These rates could go down if trust and communication are
15 established at the beginning of the adoption through getting parental leave. Full parental leave is
16 already difficult to access even when the parents go through childbirth; it is even harder to access for
17 parents who are adopting. This is unfair since caring for an adopted child is just as crucial.

18
19 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

20 This bill will give adoptive parents the same rights to parental leave as biological parents.

21
22 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

23 This bill requires no funding.

24
25 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

26 If a company does not give adoptive parents, the same rights to parental leave as biological parents a
27 fine of \$5,000 will be imposed upon the company.



2 **HOUSE BILL 185**

3 Cameron Wilkinson St. Joseph's Academy

4
5 **TITLE:** Expanding Prison Cells

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 As of December 31, 2019, Louisiana's prison population was 31,609, jail population was
9 32,730, parole population was 28,283, and probation population was 33,741, and as of 2019, there
10 were 111 jails and 9 prison facilities in 64 parishes. With a total of 64,339 people in prison and jail
11 and 62,024 under parole and probation, Louisiana has one of the highest incarceration rates in the
12 country. As a result of having one of the highest incarceration rates, Louisiana has some of the most
13 overcrowded prisons in the country.

14
15 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

16 This bill will expand number of cells in facilities. This will be done by adding another section of
17 the prison and building cells in there. The only problem with adding cells is that there is a need for more
18 staff members, and the solution is to raise their salary. Another problem is the funding for the
19 construction, but to fix it instead of doing all the construction at once the prisons could do a small
20 amount per year. An alternative and less expensive way to do this is to build dormitories for the less
21 violent criminals.

22
23 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

24 The funding for this bill will come from the Department of public safety budget. The average cost
25 per inmate is \$30,168 per year, and the budget for each year through the Department of Public Safety
26 is \$734,795,732 per year. With the cost of about \$170,00 per cell and each prisoner being about
27 30,00 a year with only \$734,795,732 a year, cells could be built a few at a time and the dormitories
28 would cost about as much as a cell so they could be built at once. The salary raise for the staff
29 members would come from the DPS and if the prison is housing a federal prisoner, then they get funds
30 from the federal government and can use that to pay either the employees or pay to build cells or
31 dormitories.

32
33 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

34 There are no penalties.



2 **HOUSE BILL 186**

3 Hannah Lagarde

Southern University Laboratory School

4 Reginald Ellis

5
6 **TITLE:** Mandating safety protocols and procedures in Louisiana public schools

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Students shouldn't have to worry about their safety at school more than their education. There are high
10 percentages of shootings, parent/teacher alertactions, and student/teacher altercations. Here are
11 some things that will lower these situations.

12
13 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

14 Schools will establish a barrier from the front office to the hallway that accesses the classrooms. All
15 bags and students should be checked before entering school buildings by authorized staff and security
16 officers. Any visitors will be "buzzed" in. Gates and any doors that lead from the outside will be locked
17 during school hours. If there are any fights students will be escorted from the front office to the vehicle
18 outside of the gate by authorized staff or campus security. All parent/teacher conferences will be
19 videotaped. If any verbal and/or physical threats are made by a parent/guardian towards a staff
20 member or teacher they will be escorted off campus and will not be allowed back on campus. Parents
21 can be arrested.

22
23 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

24 Districts will utilize state and local revenue to implement the safety measures in their schools. Districts
25 will have a 3 year time period to implement the necessary changes.

26
27 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

28 Districts who fail to meet this requirement will lose access to federal dollars.



2 **HOUSE BILL 187**

3 Hannah Champagne St. Joseph's Academy

4
5 **TITLE:** Mandate Public Schools to Teach About Sexual Violence

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 A National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey found that around 43.6% of women and 24.8%
9 of men have experienced some form of sexual violence. Around 81.3% of female victims and 70.8% of
10 male victims experienced their first attempted or completed rape before the age of 25. Rape is one of
11 the most underreported crimes, with only 16-40% being reported to law enforcement. Many people
12 don't report rape because of the fear of not being believed, and low prosecution rates. However, one of
13 the reasons people don't report rape cases is because they have been manipulated into believing the
14 incident is their fault. The National Women's Study conducted a study that found that 31% of all rape
15 victims develop PTSD. Also, victims are 3 times more likely to experience major depressive episodes,
16 and 33% of victims have seriously considered committing suicide. Unfortunately, victims are also more
17 likely to have major alcohol and drug problems in the future. Rape has become extremely prevalent in
18 recent years and most people do not know what to do after this occurs, which is why this bill is aimed
19 at teaching people what to do if a rape occurs.
20

21 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

22 This bill is going to mandate public schools add rape and what to do if you get raped to the current
23 curricula being taught in health classes from freshman year to senior year. This curriculum would
24 include the definition of sexual assault, sexual violence, and rape. This class will teach how to identify
25 partner violence, and what to do if you feel endangered. It will also teach what you should do if you are
26 raped such as visiting a hospital immediately to attain a forensic medical exam to gather evidence, don't
27 shower at the risk of removing evidence, contacting the police, and considering legal options, seeking
28 out therapy, etc. Teachers who want to teach health/ currently teach health would be required to go
29 through additional training pertaining to rape education prevention.
30

31 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

32 The funding will come from the CDC's Rape Prevention and Education (RPE) Grant Program who provides
33 more than 42 million dollars for teaching rape prevention. The funding will be used to train health
34 teachers on the curricula. The remaining funding will be used to create a program that will ensure that
35 the educational standards are being met.
36

37 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

38 Any school found not teaching the curriculum/not teaching it to the set standards will have 10% of
39 their annual sports budget withheld until they meet the standards.



2 **HOUSE BILL 188**

3 Lauren Williams

Mandeville High School

4 Brooke Richards

5
6 **TITLE:** Allow people to be able to have hands free phone calls in their vehicle, without getting a ticket

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Hands free zones means no use of any form of cell phones. There are signs to give motorists notice
10 that using cell phone(s) while driving is illegal. If you are caught on your cell phone in a hands free zone
11 you will get fined. This law would be changed to grant the action of hands free phone calls. This
12 includes, having your cell phone in your hand while driving, having your phone connected to the car's
13 speaker and talking on the phone through there, or having your cell phone held to your ear to talk on
14 the phone. Making a phone call on your phone requires you to grab your phone, dial the number, and
15 hold it with one hand. In contrast to if a person wants to make a call through their car speaker all they
16 have to do is press a button and state who they would like to call and it does the work for you. Making
17 hands free calls means you don't have to take your eyes off the road, or take a hand off the wheel.

18
19 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

20 Using hands free phone calls is a safer way of making calls, and people should not be penalized
21 for this. The current law of, being on any form of your cell phone while in a hands free zone, would be
22 changed to allowing hands free phone calls in any areas on the road.

23
24 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

25 No funding is necessary for this bill.

26
27 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

28 If someone is caught holding their phone, or using their phone by the law enforcement you will receive a
29 ticket. These tickets can be up to \$500 on the first time offense and around \$1000 on the subsequent
30 offenses. In some situations you will be sent to make a court appearance.



2 **HOUSE BILL 189**

3 Matthew Truehart

Mandeville High School

4 Chris Pederson

5
6 **TITLE:** Protect Louisiana's Youth

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Louisiana youth are falling victim to drugs at an alarming rate. Just this year, two-year-old Mitchell
10 Robinson died from a fentanyl overdose. In the months before his death, Robinson was hospitalized
11 twice for similar overdoses, and the Louisiana Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) received
12 three reports about Robinson. It takes the Louisiana DCFS an average of 127 hours to open a child
13 welfare investigation after receiving a report of abuse or neglect - more than double the response time
14 of the Alabama and Mississippi DCFS. Louisiana's struggling DCFS has undoubtedly put numerous
15 vulnerable children in further danger. Between 2008 and 2016, former Louisiana governor Bobby Jindal
16 cut the DCFS budget by over 50%. As a result, the Louisiana DCFS has systematically failed to protect
17 Louisiana youth from dangerous situations such as exposure to hard drugs.

18
19 Unfortunately, many Louisiana youth are battling addiction. Between 2015 and 2019, the use of e-
20 cigarettes by high school students tripled to 32%. Vaping has extremely harmful effects on the heart
21 and lungs; even more alarmingly, there remains little research on its long-term health effects. In
22 addition, more than 28% of Louisiana high school students report using some form of drugs in their
23 lifetime. Louisiana's traditional methods of preventing youth drug and alcohol use have been ineffective
24 - in part due to pro-cigarette and pro-alcohol lobbying efforts. It's time to adequately fund existing
25 youth drug-prevention programs and create new, innovative programs to protect Louisiana's youth.

26
27 In 2010, the ACLU estimated \$46,450,368 was spent in Louisiana enforcing adult marijuana laws; last
28 year, 9,367 costly arrests were made for marijuana possession. Marijuana-related arrests can ruin lives
29 and destroy families, and black people are three times as likely to be arrested for marijuana possession.
30 It's time to permit the responsible adult use of Marijuana and address the issues truly impacting
31 Louisiana's population.

32
33
34 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

35 No further arrests shall be made for adult possession of fewer than 200 grams of marijuana.

36 In addition, all prisoners currently incarcerated for the possession of fewer than 200 grams of
37 marijuana shall be pardoned upon the approval of the Louisiana Pardon Board.

38
39 The actions below shall be executed in the order they are listed; actions 1-4 are mandatory, while
40 actions 5-7 are contingent on available funding.

41
42 1. The Louisiana DCFS budget will be increased by \$22,300,000 (10%) for a total budget of
43 \$245,300,000 in the next fiscal year. The Louisiana state legislature will review the performance of the
44 Louisiana DCFS to target funding in future years.

45 2. The Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education will be given a one-time \$100,000
46 grant to produce or adapt materials to create an optional supplementary curriculum about the history
47 of drug use and the biological response to drug use. These materials may be incorporated into social

1 and physical science classes at the teacher's discretion. Examples of potential lessons include the opium
2 wars in eastern Asia, the history of cigarette regulation in the US and its effects on cancer rates, or the
3 neurological response to addiction.

4 3. The representative of the Alcohol industry shall be immediately removed from the Louisiana Drug
5 Policy Board.

6 4. The Louisiana Drug Policy Board will be given a \$50,000 grant to produce a comprehensive annual
7 report detailing Louisiana youth drug use. This report shall include numerous age demographics and
8 consider youth surveys and local law enforcement statistics.

9 5. Remaining funding, up to a maximum of \$10,000,000, shall be distributed in grants to local police
10 departments based on the Louisiana Drug Board's judgment of need. These grants may only fund youth
11 drug law enforcement, youth drug education programs, or tiplines to report drug use.

12 6. Remaining funding, up to \$5,000,000, shall be distributed as grants to incentivize the construction
13 of new facilities that contribute to the health of youth and the community. These grants shall be
14 distributed by the Louisiana Office of Economic Development along the criteria of feasibility,
15 accessibility, impact on youth, and impact on the broader community. Preference for these grants will
16 be given to public projects, but private businesses are also eligible.

17 7. Remaining funding will be added to the Louisiana DCFS budget.
18
19

20 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

21 The Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections will produce a report detailing the annual
22 cost savings of prison, court, and officer costs resulting from the decriminalization of marijuana
23 possession of fewer than 200 grams. The cost savings will be allocated toward the provisions located in
24 section II.
25

26 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

27 No penalties are necessary for this bill.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2022**

2 **HOUSE BILL 190**

3 Ava Byon Alexandria Senior High School

4 Grace Vidrine

5
6 **TITLE:** Tobacco vs. Us: Who Will Win?

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Tobacco is a severely addictive substance that teens in Louisiana have been given many opportunities
10 to abuse, and increasingly in the past years. 4.6 percent, 5 of every 100 highschool students, reported
11 in 2020 that they had smoked at least 1 cigarette in the past 30 days. By prohibiting the use while
12 continuing to support the teens that are addicted to tobacco, not just they and their families will be
13 positively impacted, but the community as a whole will grow to strive away from the toxicity it brings,
14 amongst education, healthcare, and etc.

15
16 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

17 Rules will be enforced by no later then the Final Adjournment to make the selling of tobacco products to
18 minors or those who do not carry proper I.D. with them to be illegal.

19 Taxes will therefore be increased by the next stock of tobacco products throughout the country, for
20 more then it costs to buy them to produce in the gas stations and etc. that they go to for consumers.
21 Schools will be instructed to enforce harsher rules and thorough searches regarding the use, trade, etc.
22 of tobacco products on or near campus.

23
24
25 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

26 Taxes will be increase on any tobacco products by as much as gas prices have been brought to be in the
27 past 3 years.

28
29 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

30 If passed, the penalties of this law will be no more than 2 months of juvenile detention for adolescents
31 with up to 1 year of probation, and up to 2 years of jail for 18+.



2 **HOUSE BILL 191**

3 Nicholas Pecquet Catholic High School

4 Alexander Traylor

5
6 **TITLE:** Youth background and Gun Purchasing Bill

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 The legal age to buy a gun is 18. The only other right you gain at the age of 18 is the ability to vote
10 and get drafted. Our bill would reduce an 18-year old's ability to buy and sell a gun and raise those
11 ages to 21. We also plan to stop clearing youth's backgrounds when they turn 18. If you can remember,
12 in past years many teenagers have committed heinous crimes and then were tried for those crimes.
13 When you turn 18, your background is cleared. This may not seem like a problem since many youths do
14 not commit heinous crimes, but some commit very severe crimes that seemingly go away when they get
15 to be 18. Then, as soon as they turn 18, they can go out and legally buy a gun since they have no
16 previous crimes that are recorded. So, how could we combat this? Well, the legal age to buy and sell a
17 gun would be raised to 21. If you think about it, that is also the age to drink alcohol and buy cigarettes.
18 I believe that gun buying should be permitted at the same time as you are legally permitted to drink.
19 Also, we should not just clear any youth's background when they turn 18. If you think about it, a youth
20 could murder someone at 17 and then, if possible, a year later go out and buy a gun. Would you really
21 trust a youth to change in 1 year? Of course not. Not clearing backgrounds would help prevent crimes
22 from happening by our youths. Our bill would stop youths from buying guns until they turn 21, and we
23 would also stop clearing their background when they turn 18.

24
25 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

26 For this bill to be implemented into the Louisiana legislature, the bill would need a simple majority as
27 well as formally signed. The law would take effect as soon as the bill is voted into law.

28
29 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

30 Implementing this bill would not cost any money. We would not need any money for this bill because the
31 background checks of the buyer/seller will still be mandatory and the number of people to perform
32 these checks would stay relatively the same. The only reason the number of workers would change is if
33 the government were to hire new workers for the position.

34
35 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

36 There will be a punishment for all those who do not comply with this law. If you are at a company who
37 sells guns, and you knowingly sell a gun to a youth, you and the youth will be in big trouble. First, you
38 and the youth will be arrested. If convicted, the seller will be put in prison for 10-20 years, and not
39 have the ability in any cases for parole. You would also pay a fine of 5000\$. If you purchased it, you
40 spend 1 year in jail, and pay 1000\$ in fines. This would count as a felony for both parties, so neither
41 party could purchase a gun again. Also, the company would face no repercussions for the acts
42 committed by an employee.



2 **HOUSE BILL 192**

3 Bay Palmer Archbishop Hannan High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Ban Corporal Punishment in Louisiana Schools

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 "Corporal punishment is using physical force to discipline a student, with or without an object, and
9 includes hitting, paddling, striking, spanking, slapping, or any other physical force that causes pain or
10 physical discomfort."(Convention on Rights of a Child) Currently, Louisiana is one of 15 states that
11 allow corporal punishment in school districts, and over half of Louisiana parishes allow it. Corporal
12 punishment has been shown to have huge adverse effects on students' physical and mental health
13 including the following: impaired cognitive, social, and emotional development. This form of punishment
14 has also been shown to lead to poor educational outcomes, like lower IQ and lower test results, and
15 increased aggression in students. Louisiana must abolish this form of punishment before it affects
16 anyone else.

17
18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 This bill requires any Louisiana schools currently utilizing corporal punishments to replace it with
20 alternative, non-harmful forms of punishment. Other punishment methods should be implemented, such
21 as talking to the student and explaining why something is wrong. If this does not work other actions
22 could be taken such as removing the student from the classroom, scheduling a meeting with the
23 guardians, of this student, and the principal to talk about the student and what actions should be taken
24 in the future to ensure this student would correct the student's behavior.

25
26 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

27 There are no costs associated with this bill.

28
29 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

30 If a teacher is found in violation of this bill they will receive one verbal warning, and upon the second
31 reported offense, they are suspended. During the suspension, an investigation will be conducted by the
32 school about the teacher's behavior. If the teacher was found to truly be in violation of the corporal
33 punishment ban, they will be fired and potentially charged criminally, should a mistake have been made
34 a teacher is reinstated and compensated for the period of suspension. If a school is found to promote
35 a violation of this bill, they will have to report to the Board of Regulates and may be fined up to 10% of
36 the government-provided funding based on what they receive.