

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020



SENATE BILL 1

Cameron Dilney

Northwestern Middle School

TITLE: Pharmaceutical Price Gouging and How to Stop It

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Our country has one of the, if not the, best economies in the world. However, we still pay inflated drug prices compared to other countries. For example, the Hep C drug Sovaldi was proven to be a cure for Hep C, but it cost over 18000 dollars per bottle. In other countries, the price of the generic brand is less than 500 dollars per bottle. So what's the problem? Pharmaceutical greed. These drug companies make drugs no better than other previously made drugs, but in order to market these drugs, they raise the price, so it seems to work better qualitatively. This has set off a drug price war that has make our current healthcare system corrupt. The solution: single payer healthcare system, with a drug price review board, which will help control drug prices as well as prevent pharmaceutical industries from becoming too greedy.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This plan would have to be implemented slowly in order to account for our nation's vast population, but we can start with a medical drug price review board. This would be easily paid for by federal budget, and most other countries do it anyway, so it's a beginning. The second part of this ambitious plan is restrictions on pharmaceutical industries. This would be easily accomplished by executive order and lawmaking. Lastly, we would implement a single payer healthcare plan slowly. Taking many years to fully operate but will run smoothly when operational. This wouldn't raise taxes, contrary to popular belief because the tax would simply replace the inflated amounts we pay for insurance, and it would be slightly less than the average amount. This plan would make our healthcare system more just and bring a freer market to the American nation.

SECTION III: FUNDING

The first step of the three steps would not be very hard to implement, using some of the FDA's annual budget as well slightly raising tax rates by about ten dollars. The second step wouldn't require tax at all, just a series of executive orders and lawmaking in order to implement the restrictions efficiently instead of drawing it out. The last step of the process would require a small tax hike replacing the amount we pay for healthcare insurance, so it wouldn't impact the average family's wealth too much, but it may raise tax slightly.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Penalties of this program include a slight tax height, which shouldn't be too much to worry about, but more serious concerns are public outrage and pharmaceutical industries legal action. These shouldn't be too much to solve with legal advice, but it may impact the economy slightly. One more penalty of the program is slightly higher waiting times. Some countries with this system have higher waiting times, but with efficient management, this problem should be solved too.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **SENATE BILL 2**

3 Victoria Walker

Dutchtown High School

4 Christian Jones

5 **TITLE:** Drugs and Alcohol in Drivers Education

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 This bill will require driver's education programs to include a mandatory 3 hours of drug and alcohol
8 education within the scheduled courses. The purpose of this bill is to give awareness to new drivers
9 about the danger Drugs and Alcohol can cause to themselves and to other drivers. Adding these classes
10 would educate new drivers about the effects of drugs and alcohol on their ability to operate a vehicle and
11 possible dangers to themselves and how they can pose a threat to other drivers on the road. The driving
12 student will be given a mandatory test as well as their original test in order to pass the course and get
13 their license.

14
15 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

16 Driver applicants will not be allowed to get their licenses until this portion of the driving course is
17 complete and they pass both tests. This part of this bill will require Driver's Ed students to take a
18 separate test in order to complete the overall driver's education part of the course.

19
20
21
22 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

23 No funding will be necessary for this bill. The original price the driving student pays to take the course will
24 cover the test.

25
26 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

27 Driver education schools that do not comply with this requirement will be charged a \$500 fee in the first
28 year, the second offense will be a \$1000 fee, and the last offense will be a revoking of the business
29 licenses plus an additional \$1000 fee.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020



SENATE BILL 3

Matthew Pellittieri Archbishop Hannan High School

TITLE: An Act To Educate the Population of the State of Louisiana through the Erection of Statues Depicting Historical Events

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

While recognizing the validity of the argument calling for the removal of statues and monuments commemorating historical figures and events, this legislation seeks to educate the citizens of Louisiana on its history through the use of statue displays without endorsing the events depicted in them. These statue displays, designed with the input of both the state executive and legislative branches, historians, local governments, and talented artists, would display important historical events that occurred in the state of Louisiana over the course of its history. Through interaction with these statues, Louisianians will better familiarize themselves with the history of their home and gain valid context of how the state has evolved over the course of its history. These statues may generate pride but may also generate anger. Onlookers will know their history in a vivid and obvious way; they will come to know the good but also perhaps the bad. Whatever the result, the state will be better for it.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Upon the passage of this legislation, the governor will announce, in a time period he sees fit, the nomination of ten historians to serve on a committee to determine the events that will be depicted in statues as part of this initiative. The state House of Representatives and state Senate would then have 30 days to approve the nominees by simple majorities in each chamber. If one or both of the chambers of the state legislature reject a nominee, the governor will have thirty days to appoint a new nominee and the state legislature will then have thirty days to approve the nomination. If a nominee is not approved in 30 days, they are considered rejected. Upon the approval of ten nominees, the group of historians will have until the last of day of the sixth month following the approval of the last of the nominees to submit their recommendations for ten historical events that took place in Louisiana that they believe should be depicted in statues around the state in the locations in which the events occurred. No parish will have more than three such statues erected in its boundaries and at least five parishes will have a statue erected in their boundaries. At least one statue each will be designed to teach Louisianians about the history of Louisiana before Europeans arrived, during French control of the area, during Spanish control of the area, and during Louisiana's time in the United States. At least one statue will depict an event that occurred at some point in the last thirty years. Both chambers of the state legislature, by simple majority, and the parish governments wherein a statue would be placed must approve of the contents and location of a statue within 30 days. If both chambers and the parish government do not approve the statue within the allotted time, the proposal will be considered rejected. Parish governments will be responsible for the manpower needed in the design, creation, installation, and upkeep of any statue residing within their jurisdictions. The state government will provide the funding necessary for the creation, installation, and upkeep of all statues erected as a result of this legislation. It is required that a plaque be placed on or near each display reading: "This display is intended to educate citizens on local history. The State of

1 Louisiana in no way endorses or promotes the values or actions of those involved in the depicted event.”
2 In the event either a parish government or one or both of the chambers of the state legislature reject a
3 proposed statue, the committee of historians will be reconvened and will have 30 days to provide a new
4 proposal.

5 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

6 To accommodate for the cost of the commission of the artists who will design and create the statues, the
7 installation of the statues, and the upkeep of the statues, the state government will reallocate funds from
8 one or both of the Department of Education and the Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism on
9 an individual basis at the same time at which the state legislature approves a statue. In the event of
10 damage to a statue, both houses of the state legislature will agree reallocate funds from one or both of
11 the Department of Education and the Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism following the
12 damaging incident. The amount of money required in the design, creation, installation, upkeep, repair, and
13 replacement of statues will be handled on a case by case basis and may vary wildly depending the
14 properties of a statue and the severity of damage inflicted upon it in the event of vandalism or naturally
15 occurring damage.

16 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

17 Previously existing laws regulating the damage of public property apply to those who vandalize or raze
18 the displays that are constructed as a result of this legislation.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **SENATE BILL 4**

3 Kaylen Davis Archbishop Hannan High School

4
5 **TITLE:** An Act To Remove the Tax on Women's Sanitary Products in Louisiana

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 A study conducted in 2019 showed that women spend an average of \$6,360 on their period in their
9 lifetime. This price may seem jarring, but is the harsh reality for people who menstruate all over the world.
10 In the state of Louisiana, women's sanitary products are taxed as a luxury item, which means there is a
11 4.45% additional tax on these essential items. The problem with this is that it can lead to "period poverty"
12 which is when these people do not have access (or adequate access) to the sanitary products they need.
13 This bill aims to provide a sales tax exemption on these products (included but not limited to the
14 following: pads, tampons, menstrual cups, and liners) to ensure all of our citizens who need these
15 products, have access to them. Bills similar to this are starting to take effect in New Jersey, Pennsylvania,
16 and Maine which have seen great support from the people. These hygiene products are an essential item
17 for women and girls all across the state and thus should not be considered a "luxury" in the eyes of the
18 government.

19 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

20 This bill will go into effect in January of 2021 and will exempt women's hygiene products from sales tax in
21 the state of Louisiana.

22
23 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

24 This bill does not require funding because while there would be a financial loss, it is by far recouped in the
25 improved quality of life for all people who need these products. Additionally, the "loss" is not in money
26 spent, but rather in money saved.

27
28 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

29 There are no penalties for this bill as the tax exemption will be acknowledged statewide.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **SENATE BILL 5**

3 Gonzales Nicholas

Archbishop Hannan High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Louisiana Police Funding Protection and Increase of Policing Education and Sensitivity Training

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 In the wake of recent events in the United States of America regarding police officers and the public, it
8 has become widely recognized that many police officers lack training. According to Proceeding of the
9 National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, "people of color, face a higher likelihood of
10 being killed by police than do white men and women." In addition, approximately 52 of every 100,000 men
11 and boys in the U.S. will be killed by police use of force and in 2018 there were 996 fatal police
12 shootings. Regarding the lives of police officers, according the FBI, 89 law enforcement officers were
13 killed in the line-of-duty- in 2019. In present day America, the climate with media rhetoric, relevant
14 studies, and recent killings has created a negative perspective on police officers and their training or lack
15 of. In 2015 in Baton Rouge, after the killing of B. Sterling, a gunman opened fire, leaving three law
16 enforcement officers dead and at least three others wounded. In order to improve the climate and to end
17 killings of innocent civilians, the training of police officers must be enhanced and increased and the way
18 the police departments operate must be changed. Also, police departments should not be defunded;
19 instead, more in-depth training will bring an end to violence and may require additional funding.

20 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

21 Additional training will be provided by the state and police training academies. Training will include
22 historical studies on previous cases, de-escalation, proper handling of body cameras, and actions (non-
23 aggression or non-lethal force if necessary) without the use of firearms. The training will include race and
24 gender training. This bill will also protect the funding that the state and local police receive. Framework
25 consists of training, diversity, engagement, and accountability in hope of decreasing crime, safety of
26 police officers, safety of civilians, and restoration or implementation of community trust and engagement.

27 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

28 If any additional funding that is required for training of officers is necessary, it will derive from state
29 taxes. This bill will ensure that the increase of officer training will be a mandatory funded program and
30 the funds will be protected. Appropriate budgeting will be conducted by the state.

31 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

32 No penalties.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **SENATE BILL 6**

3 Jackson Murphey University Laboratory School

4 Ava Heims

5 **TITLE:** Abolish Solitary Confinement in Louisiana's Prisons

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 77% of respondents had been in solitary confinement over a year .The respondents described negative
8 health effects such as "anxiety, panic attacks, depression, visual and auditory hallucinations, etc". Inmates
9 are also subjected to harassment from guards tasked to tend to them. Conditions such as these
10 contribute to further deterioration of mental health and continue the cycle of recidivism. In relation to
11 solitary confinement, a study conducted by psychologist Harry Harlow placed rhesus monkeys inside a
12 custom-designed solitary chamber. Harlow found monkeys kept in isolation wound up "profoundly
13 disturbed". "Effects of Outpatient Treatment on Risk of Arrest of Adults With Serious Mental Illness and
14 Associated Costs," entails treating mentally ill is less costly than incarcerating them. Reducing arrest rates
15 for people with mental health problems and saving taxpayers money.

16
17 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

18 Inmates would be in a separated enclosure within a mental institution rather than confined with other
19 inmates, a larger space would be required in order to create a non-claustrophobic environment. Funding
20 for specialized attendants to look after each inmate. In turn for holding inmates responsible, guards
21 should be responsible for their reckless behavior and listen to inmates' testimonies/complaints. If a guard
22 has a repeating track record, they should be suspended from duty or released. Track records aren't only
23 for criminals but also for the reputations of those supposedly keeping law and order. Lastly, stop
24 subjecting prisoners to weeks at a time in solitary confinement, deterioration of mental health is a cruel
25 and unusual punishment. Rather than that, ensure those who suffer from mental illness be given the
26 proper medication to return them to a state of normality; this way they are less likely to ensue more
27 misconduct.

28
29 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

30 We would place a sin tax on alcohol and tobacco products, neither are healthy on the body so it would
31 deter large quantities from being bought and contribute to a good cause. Secondly, the public is calling for
32 the government to defund police departments due to a string of racial discrimination incidents across the
33 United States; a portion of their yearly budget can be transferred to louisiana prison systems

34
35 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

36 It would be required for those who act out or have a continuing streak of verbal or physical violence to be
37 seen with a counselor of sorts whether it be a psychiatrist or a therapist until the repeated behavior
38 appears to come to a halt.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **SENATE BILL 7**

3 Molly Bush University Laboratory School

4 Mari Adams

5 **TITLE:** Raise Teachers' Pay or Louisiana is Doomed

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Currently, public school teachers in Louisiana make an average of \$50,359 annually. The highest a teacher
8 can make is \$72,484 and the lowest is \$42,394 annually. The average national teacher's salary is
9 \$60,642, over \$10,000 more than Louisiana's average. Louisiana is ranked 38 out of 50 in how much
10 teachers are paid, and is well known for having a lacking and ill-funded education system. Raising the pay
11 for teachers will help to break some of these stereotypes.

12 Paying teachers more has obvious benefits; higher wages attract better teachers, and teachers are
13 more likely to continue teaching. There is also a correlation between countries who pay their teachers
14 more and student performance: countries that pay teachers more than the U.S. such as Switzerland and
15 Germany have high-school graduation rates of nearly 100%. The U.S. is also part of the top four countries
16 whose teachers work the most hours (over 900 hours per year). Teachers should be paid for the work
17 they're doing.

18
19 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

20 Public school teachers will receive a 2.75% pay raise. It should be enacted by January 1st of 2022. The
21 Louisiana Department of Education will give all public teachers a raise.

22 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

23 The funding, taken from government money and taxes, will be taken from the military budget.

24
25 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

26 If teachers fail to be paid more, the school administration and faculty will also be denied a raise.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **SENATE BILL 8**

3 Carson Thorpe

Mandeville High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Allow all voters to participate in primary elections if they will be 18 years old by the general
6 election

7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 This bill would allow for anyone eligible to vote in the general elections, whether local or national, to vote
9 in the primary elections. Many states throughout the country already have this in place, so Louisiana
10 would simply be adopting the language set forth by other state constitutions.

11 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

12 Add an amendment to Article I Section I10 the Louisiana Constitution to include the following statement:
13 Any citizen who has not yet attained the age of eighteen years but who will have attained the age of
14 eighteen years on or before the day of a regular election, who is otherwise qualified to be an elector and
15 who has applied for admission as an elector in such manner as may be prescribed by law, may vote in any
16 primary election, in such manner as may be prescribed by law, held for such regular election.

17 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

18 N/A

19 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

20 Failure to allow for a person to vote in the primary election if they are registered to vote will result in the
21 same felony charge that is currently in place.

1 LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020



2 SENATE BILL 9

3 Ava Creel University Laboratory School

4 Lucy Nguyen

5 **TITLE:** Minimum Wage, Minimum Social Justice

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 According to <https://www.minimum-wage.org/louisiana>, Louisiana's current minimum wage is \$7.25 per
8 hour, while the estimated living wage resides around \$11.43 an hour, taking into account that said person
9 is working full time, and has no dependents that must be provided for. This can be fact checked at
10 <https://livingwage.mit.edu/states/22>, which provides wage information for many family situations. The
11 idea that one can survive on this low salary is incorrect, as it is not enough for the necessities of one
12 person, never mind a growing family. This does not promote a sustainable lifestyle, and workers are less
13 likely to put effort into a job that they cannot use to make ends meet. With less dedicated and energized
14 workers, the companies lose money from unsatisfied customers, which may lead to adults being laid off of
15 their jobs and having no source of income. Adults cannot afford to be laid off, considering 7.6 million
16 people in the United States who worked for at least 27 weeks were living below the poverty line, as found
17 in the 2016 U.S. Census Bureau. If the minimum wage was to be increased to the living wage of one adult,
18 the system of people in poverty would greatly benefit, with no worry of going further in debt from a
19 failing social justice system.

21 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

22 In order to get the minimum wage up to the living wage, private companies would pay employees at least
23 \$4.18 more every hour in order to adhere with our law. This would be followed by private companies in
24 order for them to receive a reward, such as government assistance.

26 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

27 Private companies that comply with the new living wage for all employees will be given tax breaks each
28 year during tax returns. This will not only not require no additional funding from the government, it will
29 also encourage these businesses to strictly adhere to the law.

31 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

32 All private companies that are found to be paying their employees below living wage will receive one
33 formal warning per employee. After three formal warnings the private company will be taxed 5% of their
34 annual profit. After ten formal warnings, the business will be taxed 10% of their annual profit.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **SENATE BILL 10**

3 Sheel Shah Dutchtown High School

4 Keegan Carmouche

5 **TITLE:** Legalizing prostitution would decrease the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, violence, and
6 bring in millions of dollars.

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Prostitution: "the practice or occupation of engaging in sexual activity with someone for payment." Legal
10 prostitution in brothels would benefit Louisiana because it would lower crime rates, lower the spread of
11 STDs and bring extra revenue to the state. Legalizing brothels would remove prostitutes off the streets
12 and give them a place to work. Research published by the Public Library of Science finds in 130 studies
13 from 33 countries, that prostitutes who had been exposed to repressive policing were 3x more likely to
14 experience sexual or physical violence by clients or partners. As far as HIV rates go, Louisiana has a rate
15 of 20.9% per 100,000 people, the 4th highest in the country. Therefore, since contraceptives like plan Bs
16 and condoms are a normalcy, the HIV rate in Louisiana would decrease. If you look at the Nevada brothel
17 industry as an example of legalized prostitution it profits approximately \$35-50 million annually, which is
18 used towards state chosen funding. Thus Louisiana can choose to spend these millions on infrastructure
19 and other statewide programs, which can give Louisiana tax payers leisure. Overall voting this bill would
20 save lives and add extra money in Louisiana's pocket.

21
22
23 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

24 These brothels must pay \$100,000 annually as a license fee to their respected district courts in order to
25 operate in a parish.

26
27 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

28 No money required by the state. These brothels fund themselves by paying employees, upholding their
29 workplace, and paying license fees.

30
31 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

32 Prostitutes found working outside the restricted licensed area would result in closure of the brothel for 6
33 months as a deterrent to keep prostitutional work off the streets.

34

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **SENATE BILL 11**

3 autumn sommers Caddo Parish Magnet High School

4 autumn sommers

5 **TITLE:** End Human Trafficking by Teaching Students how to Spot, Avoid, and Report Instances of Child
6 Exploitation.

7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Every day, defenseless children are sold into human trafficking. According to the Child Liberation
9 Foundation, roughly 25% of American human-trafficking victims are minors, with the average age of child
10 victims at just 12 years old- and the youngest victims being only months old. In 2019, over half of all
11 American human-trafficking cases involved only children. Louisiana in particular is a hotspot for child
12 exploitation through human-trafficking. A 2017 report from The Department of Children & Family Services
13 has shown a 25% increase in human trafficking rates in Louisiana- with major cities such as Shreveport,
14 New Orleans, and Baton Rouge being hotspots for child trafficking. Major sources such as the FBI have
15 determined that a lack of education is a major contributor to the rising rates of child exploitation. To curb
16 this issue, this bill intends to implement mandatory education for Louisiana public schools about human
17 trafficking, so that minors are more aware of the severity of this issue- and how to combat it.

18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 This bill will be enacted on January 1st, 2021. Louisiana public schools will be given a curriculum
20 comprised of a series of videos made by the Department of Education that will go over how to spot, avoid,
21 and report human trafficking in a child-friendly manner. This course will be taught over the span of
22 approximately a week to ninth-graders during their health classes. A state-wide exam will be administered
23 to the students at the end of the course; schools will need at least a 60% pass-rate in order to meet the
24 standard.

25 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

26 This bill requires funding of approximately \$1,000 to be taken from the Department of Education fund,
27 which would cover the cost of a camera and production elements.

28 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

29 This course would be mandated by the Louisiana Department of Education, which will penalize public
30 schools that fail to teach the curriculum. Each school that fails to meet the standard will have their
31 funding cut by 15%.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **SENATE BILL 12**

3 Abigail Auchard

Caddo Magnet High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Start Highschool School Days At A Later Time

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Currently many students find the start time to the school day to be very early. Teens biologically are
8 made to sleep in and stay up later. Too many students lack the amount of sleep needed to function
9 optimally. Starting school everyday at a later time such as 10 am would allow for students to get more
10 rest and perform better academically.

11
12 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

13 This bill will be enacted on July 1, 2021 in order to prepare for the next school year.

14 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

15 There is no funding required.

16 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

17 If a school refuses to participate the district/city may take action as they see fit.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **SENATE BILL 13**

3 Catherine Brown Caddo Magnet High School

4
5 **TITLE:** The Right to a Free and Appropriate Public Preschool Education Program For All Louisiana School
6 Children

7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 This bill will set up a mandatory state-wide public preschool education program for all Louisiana children
9 before beginning their K-12 education. Statistics show that children who attend preschool are more likely
10 to be at the top of their classes and show significant achievement gaps compared to children who did not
11 attend preschool. Children that begin their education sooner develop cognitive abilities, increase their
12 vocabulary development, and strengthen their social and emotional development. There is a huge academic
13 achievement gap between children in lower versus higher socioeconomic backgrounds. According to the
14 Louisiana Department of Education, 52% of schools for the 2018-2019 school year received a ranking of
15 C or below on the annual school report cards. Twenty-three percent of these schools received a ranking of
16 D or F. Under the Every Student Succeeds Act, which is a new federal rating metric, 219 schools in
17 Louisiana have been identified as "persistently struggling" after achieving low marks for at least two
18 consecutive years. In an effort to address the large number of failing schools across Louisiana, this bill
19 will provide the right to a free and appropriate education to all 4-year-olds in order to improve school
20 rankings and their overall academic readiness.

21
22 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

23 This bill will be enacted starting in the 2023-2024 school year. Children at the age of four-years-old will
24 be required by law to register for this school year. New classrooms will be built at existing elementary
25 schools and new teachers will be hired.

26
27 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

28 It is anticipated that capital expenditures of 3 million dollars would be required for the first two years to
29 build the classrooms and purchase proper furniture and equipment. Once preschool classrooms have been
30 established in every public elementary school in Louisiana, it is anticipated that continuing operational
31 costs for the program would require only an approximate increase of 7.5 % in the Louisiana Department
32 of Education's annual operating budget. This bill could be funded through operational savings due to a
33 change in enhanced virtual learning on Fridays for all highschool students.

34
35 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

36 Parents who fail to enroll their four-year-olds in preschool programs and maintain attendance
37 requirements will be subject to existing truancy laws applicable for grades K-12 which are enforced
38 through the local school boards and the office of the parish district attorneys.

39
40

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **SENATE BILL 14**

3 Hermen Vasquez Caddo Parish Magnet High School

4 Ali Alqam

5 **TITLE:** Cease the Use of Corporal Punishment in Public Schools of Louisiana

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 In Louisiana, it is legal for teachers to enact corporal punishment on students- meaning they are allowed
8 to physically punish students in the classroom. This is most commonly practiced by teachers using a
9 wooden paddle to hit the defiant child. A national study showed that use of corporal punishment within
10 schools leads children to be more defiant and aggressive in the future, thus rendering the practice of
11 corporal punishment counterproductive. In addition, many studies have shown the use of corporal
12 punishment on children leads to harmful psychological effects on said children. This bill would ban all use
13 of corporal punishment, leaving children with a safer, brighter future.

14 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

15 To be enacted on January 1st, 2020. Louisiana public schools will no longer be allowed to exercise
16 corporal punishment.

17 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

18 This bill requires about \$ 1000 to be taken from the Louisiana Department of Education fund. This money
19 would cover the cost of the production elements of the penalty course- which will consist of a short
20 series of informative videos.

21 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

22 School administrators that violate this bill by means of corporal punishment will be sent on mandatory
23 leave without pay for a week and required to take a short course on the importance of helping children
24 properly develop by disciplining them in a dignified manner.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **SENATE BILL 15**

3 Adam Azmeh Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

4
5 **TITLE:** No Taxation without Representation

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Louisiana operates its national primary elections through the method of closed primaries. Closed primaries
8 only allow registered voters of a particular party to vote in the party's primary. With this system, an
9 overwhelming 813,392, over a quarter, registered Louisiana voters are excluded from taxpayer-funded
10 party primaries. The system would operate more effectively as a semi-open primary. In this type, non-
11 affiliated voters may participate in parties' primaries without registering with that party.

12 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

13 The semi-open primary will take effect in the next national presidential election, 2024. The Secretary of
14 States' office, the operators of Louisiana elections, will set up the contests to allow non-affiliated voters
15 to vote in taxpayer-funded party primaries.

16 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

17 No changes will take effect on funding.

18
19 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

20 No Penalties should occur as the Secretary of State runs the Louisiana elections.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **SENATE BILL 16**

3 Maria-Sofia Sotiropoulou

Episcopal School of Acadiana

4
5 **TITLE:** Amend Article II, Section 1, Clause 2 of the United States Constitution to abolish the Electoral
6 College for the Presidential elections.

7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Introduce a bill in the U.S. Congress to abolish the Electoral College by amending Article II, Section 1,
9 Clause 2 of the U.S. Constitution and elect the President and Vice President of the United States based on
10 the nationwide popular vote. The Electoral college was ratified as an Amendment to the Constitution in
11 1804 because people worried that a group of citizens with a common interest would either violate the
12 rights of other citizens or would harm the nation as a whole. The founders of the Constitution were afraid
13 that such factions would encompass more than 50 percent of the population. James Madison said that
14 factions could "sacrifice to its ruling passion or interest both the public good and the rights of other
15 citizens". However, such factions are very unlikely to occur and the Electoral College brings to the surface
16 a very serious issue of social justice and democracy. Every citizen's vote should be counted equally,
17 independently of one's state of residence; a one-man-one-vote. The Electoral College prevents this as
18 some citizens' votes end up not having the same amount of impact in the elections. There have been
19 multiple examples of injustice in the United States Presidential elections. In 1876, Democrat Samuel
20 Tilden beat Republican Rutherford B. Hayes by more than 200,000 popular votes but didn't reach the
21 required 185 electoral votes and eventually lost the President's position. Similar were the cases of
22 Democratic President Grover Cleveland who lost to Republican Benkamin Harrison in 1888, Democrat Al
23 Gore who lost to Republican George W. Bush in 2000, Andrew Jackson, who won the pluralities of both
24 the popular vote and the Electoral College but not a majority in 1824, and the most recent such case in
25 2016. Democratic candidate Hilary Clinton received 48.2% of the popular vote while Donald Trump
26 received 46.1% of the popular vote. However, President Trump won with 304 Electoral votes while
27 Senator Hillary Clinton lost with 227 Electoral votes. This is not fair to all American citizens.

28 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

29 It will be difficult to pass this or any amendment to the Constitution since 11,000 amendments have been
30 proposed from 1789 until today and only 27 have passed. The two thirds majority required both in the
31 House of Representatives and in the Senate in order to pass an amendment is what makes this a very
32 difficult task. However, once the amendment is passed, it will be implemented starting from the following
33 Presidential Election.

34 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

35 Funding is not necessary for the implementation of this bill.

36 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

37 Citizens who decide to vote will have no choice as to the way that the President and Vice President are
38 elected since the bill will have already been passed. The same holds true for the election officials. Any
39 action against this bill in deciding the lection will be an action against the democratic nature of the United
40 States and it will be considered treason, punishable by life imprisonment.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **SENATE BILL 17**

3 Jackson Cantrell Mandeville High

4
5 **TITLE:** Ensure the legislative oversight of the sale of State Park lands

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 In a 2018 amendment to State Law 36:204 (initial law approved in 2011), legislative oversight was
8 removed from the selling and leasing of land within State Parks. According to the original law, the
9 Lieutenant Governor could: "...sell, lease, or sublease state park lands only after receiving approval for
10 such sale, lease, or sublease by the legislature of the state of Louisiana and only after publishing an
11 advertisement in the official journal of the parish or parishes in which such land is located setting forth a
12 description of the lands to be sold, leased, or subleased..."

13
14 As the law now stands, the Lieutenant Governor is the sole authority when it comes to the sale and/or
15 lease of State Parks. According to the revised law, the Lieutenant Governor can: "Grant leases, subleases,
16 and concession leases and enter any related contract or agreement, hereafter in this Paragraph
17 collectively referred to as a "lease", on any portion of the immovable property under the department's
18 supervision, jurisdiction, or management..."

19
20 This bill attempts to reenact all provisions of said law prior to the amendments made in 2018, and will
21 essentially bring back the legislative oversight and approval necessary to make sales of park lands.

22
23 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

24
25 Upon approval by the two legislative bodies (the House and Senate) and the signature of the Governor,
26 this legislation would go into effect immediately.

27
28 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

29 This bill does not require funding.

30 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

31 If any governmental official attempts to sell land within State Parks without proper oversight or approval
32 by the legislature, that official will be imprisoned and removed from that position.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **SENATE BILL 18**

3 Siya Kumar Baton Rouge Magnet High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Carbon Emissions in Cars

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, "Our vehicles are a major cause of global warming.
8 Collectively, cars and trucks account for nearly one-fifth of all US emissions, emitting around 24 pounds
9 of carbon dioxide and other global-warming gases for every gallon of gas." A typical personal vehicle
10 releases about 121.5 g CO₂/km. However, some cars are worse than others. Vehicles like: Audis, Jeeps,
11 Jaguars, and Land rovers, release more than 200.0 g CO₂/km. Since global warming is a critical issue that
12 will affect every generation and generations to come, Louisiana should tax cars 6% of their total cost if
13 they release more than 150.5 g CO₂/km. The tax money should then go to creating eco-friendly energy
14 sources and preserving Louisiana's important landscape.

15 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

16 This bill upon passage shall take effect one year from the selection. A team within the Louisiana
17 Department of Revenue will be created in advance to ensure that everything runs smoothly.

18
19 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

20 To fund a 2% increase in alcohol and tobacco taxing and funding that already goes to Louisiana's
21 Department of Revenue.

22
23 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

24 Any person who does not comply with this bill's implementation will have a 5% increase in taxes per
25 month up to 25%. If they still refuse to pay, a warrant will be commissioned for their arrest.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **SENATE BILL 19**

3 Maudry Nichols

Episcopal School of Acadiana

4
5 **TITLE:** Squash the Squat

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 The odds of colliding with a squatted or a lifted vehicle is much higher than with any other commercial
8 vehicle. Raised trucks are more common now than ever before and accidents involving them have
9 increased accordingly. Squatted trucks and extremely large SUVs pose more danger than standard
10 vehicles. Some of the main issues include poor driver visibility, higher risk of flipping, and oncoming
11 headlight blindness. These issues could cause close calls and minor collisions to become life-threatening
12 incidents that not only affect other drivers but also the lifted vehicle drivers and passengers as well. The
13 larger the lift on the vehicle, the more likely other cars will encounter higher-grade damages with higher-
14 grade injuries. Additionally, oncoming drivers are not accustomed to the angle of the headlights on lifted
15 and squatted vehicles. The new angle at which the lights shine increases the likelihood of blinding other
16 people on the road, and can also cause an impaired line of sight for the lifted vehicle's driver. The main
17 cause of this modern vehicle modification is the common accessibility of lift kits. Lift kits have a large
18 range of lifts—varying from three inches to twelve inches. While the lower grade lifts, such as 1-inch to
19 5-inch, barely raise the vehicles, the higher lifts, 6-inch and beyond, are more dangerous and more likely
20 to cause a wreck. This bill would deem all vehicles illegal that have a 6-inch or above lift on the front
21 and/or the back. This would limit the most extreme lifted vehicles and thus also the rate of the most high-
22 risk accidents.

23
24 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

25 This bill would deem all vehicles illegal that have a 6-inch or above lift on the front and/or the back. This
26 would limit the most extreme lifted vehicles and thus also the rate of the most high-risk accidents.
27 Implementation will occur six months after the passing of the bill. The time frame will allow everyone time
28 to modify their vehicles to be the legal suspension.

29
30 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

31 None

32 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

33 If pulled over by any law enforcement with a vehicle that has a 6-inch lift or higher, the driver will be fined
34 \$150 for a first offense and their vehicle will be flagged digitally. A second offense without removal of the
35 lift is \$250 and suspension of the license until removal. All subsequent offenses are \$400 and without
36 removal and license suspension.

37 **Notes:**

38 Have you ever been driving at night, while in front of a squatted or tilted vehicle? If so, you probably
39 know how it feels to be blinded by the vehicle behind you.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **SENATE BILL 20**

3 Lauren Gachassin Episcopal School of Acadiana

4
5 **TITLE:** Tax incentives for hotels and other companies to install Tesla electric car superchargers

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 From the 2017 to 2020, there has been a 18% percent increase in the total number of Tesla cars bought
8 in the United States. As a result of the increase in car sales, Tesla as a company has also improved on its
9 modeling and innovation in the field of electric cars. One such example of this innovation is Tesla's
10 introduction of the super charger, which can allow for a car to charge to 50% battery in only 20 minutes.
11 One way that Tesla ensures these super chargers are useful to their customers is through automatic trip
12 planning within their vehicles. When putting a destination into the navigation, a Tesla will automatically
13 plan a route that passes through the maximum number of superchargers to ensure that the car never dies.
14 As a result, there are clearly favored areas by Tesla and Louisiana is not one of them. If there were more
15 superchargers in the state, then there would be an increase in Teslas moving through the state and a
16 boom in the economy.

17
18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 When a business that is a part of the traveling accommodation industry installs a supercharger, they will
20 receive a 5% tax cut to the total financial amount they pay in yearly taxes to the state whereas a retail
21 business will receive a 4% tax cut on their total financial amount of yearly taxes. The state will determine
22 who will receive these tax cuts through a mixture of the list of superchargers provided by Tesla and
23 through state investigation of companies when necessary. This bill will take effect at the beginning of the
24 2022 fiscal year in order to give companies and businesses the opportunity to weigh the business
25 opportunities presented to them.

26
27 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

28 There is no cost for this bill as a result of tourism from other industries counteracting the tax incentives
29 provided for superchargers.

30
31 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

32 There are no penalties for this bill. There is only a tax incentive, non mandatory.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020



SENATE BILL 21

Alexia Hasenbeck St. Joseph's Academy

Maisie Jones

TITLE: Enforce the Current Academic Standards and Further Promote Academic Growth

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Every year approximately 720,000 kids attend 1,303 public schools across 70 districts. The State of Louisiana consistently falls behind when it comes to academics ranking 48th-50th in 4-8th grade reading and math, 45th on the ACT, and 49th for overall academic achievement. Mike Faulk, executive director of the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents states, "Education has not been adequately funded." Currently, funding is a problem with schools, but the other problem is the lack of enforcing Louisiana's academic standards. Regarding academics, Louisiana sets standards for seven subject areas which are English, math, science, social studies, foreign languages, and physical education and health. For each subject there is specific content and topics that must be covered during the academic year. Every grade level has specific standards set by the Education Department. In 2016, Louisiana adopted a different academic approach in hopes of furthering the academics of students. The new standards set to encourage higher academic achievement have been in place for years, but there has been no concrete example of increased academic performance. A consistent problem in academics for Louisiana has been the implementation and execution of academic standards, which is overall holding students back from learning, developing higher level thought processes, and advancing their academic careers.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill would be to conduct public school inspections 3 times a year to make sure schools are following the current academic requirements, and if schools pass all 3 times during the year they will qualify for increased funding.

This bill will be carried out by the Louisiana Education Department which already conducts yearly inspections of public schools, but this bill will make these inspections more frequent. This bill will not change the way the inspections are carried out. This increase in frequency will create jobs as more employees are needed to conduct these inspections. About 30 more employees are needed to carry out these extra inspections. The Education Department will inspect schools every 4 months to make sure they are complying with Louisiana's set academic standards. At the end of the year, the 3 inspections will be considered to see if the school consistently follows the academic standards. If so, the Education Department will present the school with bonus funds on a yearly basis. This bill would go into effect at the beginning of the 2021-2022 academic school year.

SECTION III: FUNDING

The necessary funding for this bill will come from a 2% increase on tobacco products in Louisiana. This increase will bring in approximately 9 million dollars per year dedicated towards this incentive-based program. These 9 million dollars will be split into two categories: employee salary (2.3 million dollars) and school funding (6.75 million dollars). The amount of bonus funds allocated to the schools will be decided by an allocation formula. This formula divides the total funds from the tobacco tax by the number of

1 schools that pass all 3 inspections for that year. A school can receive \$10,000 at most, even if the
2 allocation formula allows for a higher figure. Any money left over after schools receive their bonuses will
3 be allocated to employee salary. Louisiana public schools are permitted to use these funds to further
4 academics such as upgrading textbooks or implementing new courses and pay for school maintenance.
5 This money is an incentive for public schools to develop their academic system and follow the current
6 guidelines.

7 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

8 The penalty for failing the inspections and not meeting the academic standards set by the State of
9 Louisiana will be the same punishment as currently stated under Louisiana law. Schools who qualify for
10 extra funding must spend it on efforts to further academics and pay for school maintenance in the ways
11 described above. 1 year after a school receives this extra funding, it must submit an audit to the
12 Education Department to ensure it is allocating these funds to the places described above. If a school is
13 caught funding anything that does not fit into the two categories described above, they will be fined the
14 amount they spent on the unapproved expenditure. These fines, should they be collected, will go back into
15 the amount of money used to fund this program.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **SENATE BILL 22**

3 Margaret Moe

St. Joseph's Academy

4
5 **TITLE:** Remove the LGBTQ+ Panic Defense in Louisiana Courts

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 The LGBTQ+ Panic Defense has allowed many people who would have otherwise been convicted murderers
8 to walk free. This legal maneuver allows a defendant to claim they acted in a state of violent, temporary
9 insanity, committing assault or murder, because of unwanted same-sex sexual advances. A defendant may
10 allege to have found the same-sex sexual advances so offensive or frightening that they were provoked
11 into reacting, were acting in self-defense, were of diminished capacity, or were temporarily insane.

12
13 The allowance of this encourages the stigmatism that some lives are worth less than others and
14 practically encourages violent acts and hate crimes with the possibility of not receiving any punishment.
15 The state motto, "Union, Justice and Confidence", does not represent this practice. With these laws in
16 place, our state is not unified on the view of equal rights for all, our state cannot give justice to those
17 who commit assault on the basis of sexual orientation, our citizens do not have confidence that they can
18 keep their lives because they have chased "certain unalienable rights, among which are life, liberty, and
19 the pursuit happiness".

20
21 States that have already banned this include California (2014), Illinois (2017), Rhode Island (2018),
22 Connecticut (2019), Hawaii (2019), Maine (2019), Nevada (2019), New York (2019), New Jersey (2020),
23 Washington (2020), and Colorado (2020). As of July 2020, Texas, New Mexico, Georgia, Massachusetts,
24 Pennsylvania, and Minnesota are considering banning it. In addition to banning it, California has also
25 passed legislation requiring judges and attorneys to complete anti-discrimination and anti-bias training in
26 order to practice law.

27
28 LGBTQ+ people face high rates of homelessness, joblessness, and discrimination almost everywhere in the
29 US. 20% of all homeless youth (ages 12-18) and 40% of homeless adults (ages 18 and up) identify as
30 LGBTQ+. This is shockingly high, considering that LGBTQ+ people only make up 4.5% of Americans. In a
31 study done looking at job discrimination of LGBTQ+ people, a net rate of call backs on people who
32 submitted resumes that showed no indication of being LGBTQ+ was 42% higher than people who
33 submitted resumes that suggested they were LGBTQ+. The study looked at people who had the exact same
34 qualifications and equivalent job experience. In addition to all this, LGBTQ+ people are more likely to have
35 hate crimes committed against them and to be harassed. In 2016, 1 in 4 LGBTQ+ people reported being
36 victims of significant discrimination.

37
38 With all of this against them, we still have laws in place that can cause them to fear for their lives. On
39 average, people who used the LGBTQ+ Panic Defense received sentences 5 years less than the average
40 prison terms for convicted murderers. They also typically received less harsh fines and less community

1 service hours. By using this legal defense, several people who should have been convicted murders have
2 also walked completely free. This leads to the endangerment of thousands of lives of those who live in
3 Louisiana and identify as LGBTQ+.

4 5 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

6 Effective January 1st, 2021, all courts will be prohibited from using the LGBTQ+ Panic Defense in any and
7 all legal proceedings within the state of Louisiana. Additionally, at this time, all people in the state of
8 Louisiana will be explicitly given all rights included in the constitution, it is amendments, and any future
9 amendments made to it. Every single person will be given these rights, regardless of gender (or lack
10 thereof), race, sexual orientation, anatomical status, proof of abortion, marital status, or any other factor
11 that may be a basis for discrimination. This also protects the rights of those who are sick, have a
12 detrimental disease (genetic or not), are in a coma, or are in any way, a living member of the Homo
13 sapiens species in the state of Louisiana.

14 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

15 No funding is necessary for this bill.

16 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

17 Any court found to be allowing the use of this legal defense will be fined for up to \$50,000 and no lower
18 than \$10,000. From this money, 20% will be given to state low-income housing projects, 50% will be
19 donated to homeless shelters across Louisiana, and the remaining 30% will be given to Louisiana schools
20 that have GSA clubs (Gay-Straight Alliance) or who actively teach and accept LGBTQ+ people into their
21 school community. Any accused persons attempting to use this legal defense will, effective immediately,
22 have no possibility of parole and will serve out the entirety of their sentence should they be found guilty.
23 In addition to this, the accused, if found guilty, will need to complete 40 additional community service
24 hours.

25
26 The funding from fines is allocated to low-income housing projects and homeless shelters because of high
27 LGBTQ+ homelessness rates and to Louisiana schools that have GSA (Gay-Straight Alliance) Clubs and/or
28 who have specific anti-discrimination school-wide policies in place because 38.5% of discriminated
29 LGBTQ+ people reported hate coming from their schools and school communities. The penalties on the
30 accused, should they be convicted, are put into place because the majority of those who use the panic
31 disorder and are sentenced are released on parole in the first half of their sentence. They are also
32 commonly given very small amounts of community service hours, which are minuscule in comparison to the
33 sentences of convicted murderers.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **SENATE BILL 23**

3 Patrick Chu Lafayette High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Legalize voluntary suicide and provide reasonable access to physician-assisted suicide

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 The choice to end one’s own life is a right. No human being should be forced by their society or their
8 government to continue living their life if they don’t want to. Currently, Louisiana criminalizes suicide and
9 any actions that assist suicide. While it is critical to provide as much mental health support to people as
10 possible, Louisiana residents should also be allowed to end their own life with dignity in any way that they
11 so choose. Likewise, family, friends, and medical professionals should not be hindered from providing the
12 assistance necessary to do so safely.

13 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

14 For the purposes of this Section, “suicide” means the intentional and deliberate act of taking one’s own
15 life through the performance of an act intended to result in death.

16 1. Any previously enacted legislation criminalizing suicide or the assistance of suicide is hereby repealed,
17 and all penalties for doing so are likewise removed.

18 2. Any previously enacted legislation criminalizing physicians from administering or prescribing drugs
19 aimed at ending a patient’s life voluntarily is hereby repealed. Before undergoing physician-assisted
20 suicide, patients must demonstrate that they are of sound mind and give their full informed consent to the
21 procedure. A 15-day minimum waiting period is required between the initial request and the writing of the
22 prescription.

23 3. Insurance companies operating in Louisiana are hereby required to cover physician-assisted suicide
24 medications as well as any appropriate mental health screenings.

25 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

26 No funding is necessary for the implementation of this act.

27 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

28 No penalties are necessary for the implementation of this act.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **SENATE BILL 24**

3 Ellie Pryor Saint Joseph's Academy

4 Alexis Harvey

5 **TITLE:** Require all inmates in the state of Louisiana are paid no less than eighty cents per hour of work

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution abolished slavery in the U.S. with the exception that slavery
8 can be used as a punishment for crime. The exception to the 13th amendment is what contributed to the
9 establishment of prison labor. Inmates in Louisiana are paid as little as four cents per hour of work, and in
10 Angola Prison, a former slave plantation, inmates are paid twenty cents per hour of work. Based on the
11 current system of payment, an inmate working eight hours a day will make a little under nine dollars a
12 month. Female inmates, in order to buy a single box of feminine hygiene products, would have to work
13 two-hundred and twenty-four hours every month. According to current Louisiana law, the minimum a
14 prisoner can be paid for work is four cents per hour and based on skill set or work performed, inmates can
15 make up to one dollar per hour of work. There is no proof that prison labor helps improve inmates' lives
16 once they have been released, despite the arguments that prison labors emotionally and psychologically
17 benefits prisoners. In fact, according the World Health Organization, some of the rampant mental illness in
18 prisons may be, in part, caused or contributed to by prison labor.

19 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

20 The secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections may establish various rates of
21 compensation as an incentive to inmates incarcerated in state correctional facilities. The rates shall be
22 according to the skill, industry, and nature of the work performed by the inmate; however, no inmate shall
23 be paid less than eighty cents per hour of labor performed. Inmates who are assigned to Prison
24 Enterprises' industrial, agricultural, service, or other programs may be compensated at a rate up to one
25 dollar per hour and inmates who are Certified Academic Tutors and Certified Vocational Tutors may be
26 compensated at a rate of up to one dollar thirty cents per hour, in accordance with rules established by
27 the secretary of the department and adopted pursuant to the provisions of the Administrative Procedure
28 Act. Such wages shall be subject to state and federal taxes and mandatory deductions required for a
29 Private Sector/Prison Industry Enhancement program.

30 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

31 This compensation may be paid from the following sources:

32 (1) Inmates who are assigned to any state agency which operates from self-generated revenues shall be
33 paid from those self-generated revenues.

34 (2) The Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Prison Enterprises Fund.

35 Inmates assigned to a certified Private Sector/Prison Industry Enhancement program shall be paid by
36 either the private sector company or by Prison Enterprises in accordance with the operational model used.

37 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

38 Any inmate not paid in accordance the provisions of this bill shall have a direct cause of action against
39 the institution in which they are incarcerated and shall be entitled to penalties equal to three times the
40 amount of money not paid.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **SENATE BILL 25**

3 Michelle Edavettal Lafayette High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Raise Teacher's Salary

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Teachers in Louisiana make around \$40,000 a year. With the increase in cost of living, this is barely
8 enough for them to support themselves and their families. On top of that, they have a set salary, and they
9 have to hope for a raise to keep up with inflation. Also, teachers must have college degrees to be able to
10 teach, and most people have to take out loans to pay for their degree. With such a low salary and minimal
11 increases over time, it will take them decades to pay off those loans. The low salary and minimal step
12 increases discourages the best and the brightest from becoming teachers. Do we really want below
13 average students teaching Calculus, Physics, and AP English? So with the prospect of not being able to
14 support themselves and being in crippling debt most people do not want to go into teaching. Around 12%
15 of teachers left the profession in 2018-2019 according to the Louisiana State Department of Education.
16 Moreover, studies show that with an increase in pay, students' performance goes up. With COVID-19,
17 teachers went the extra step to ensure students were getting the support and the education they needed
18 at the risk of their and their family's lives. So we should support our teachers by raising their pay.

19 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

20 All schools in Louisiana would have to raise all teacher's salaries by \$3000 each year for the first three
21 years and then \$1000 every year until it equals the southern regional teacher's salary.

22
23
24 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

25 The funding would come from the taxes on sports betting.

26
27 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

28 There will be no penalties.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **SENATE BILL 26**

3 Patricia Sims St. Joseph's Academy

4 Alessandra Purnell

5 **TITLE:** New Term Limits for Gubernatorial Position

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 In the Louisiana Constitution, Article IV, Section 3b states, "A person who has served as governor for
8 more than one and one-half terms to two consecutive term shall not be elected governor for the
9 succeeding term." This means that a former governor can be reelected infinite amount of times, if the
10 candidate takes a "gap year" between one and a half or two terms. Having these simi-unlimited term limits
11 leaves room for tight alliances to be made between the candidate and other government officials, ensuring
12 that the present candidate will have a better chance of winning when their next eligible election comes.
13 Government officials that have been in a position for a long period of time tend to become stagnate in
14 their work and progression will take a halt. When there are new faces in positions, progress tends to take
15 effect in a timely manner and because of the edited term limits a sense of pressure is felt to deliver
16 results in their time in office. Shortened term limits also prevents corrupt government officials for being
17 able to be reelected numerous amounts of times due to their alliances within their peers.

18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 The governor's term limits will be edited to a two-term maximum, no matter if there is a gap year taken
20 after the two terms are completed. The governor is allowed to have a gap between their first and second
21 term, they are not required to fulfill their terms consecutively.

22 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

23 No funding is required.

24 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

25 No penalties are will be administered

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **SENATE BILL 27**

3 Mia Blanco Haynes Academy of Advanced
4

5 **TITLE:** Require all food vendors to donate otherwise edible food to some sort of food redistribution
6 organization instead of throwing product away.

7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 The food industry throws away approximately 72 billion pounds of perfectly edible food per year before it
9 even reaches the consumer, mostly due to unnecessary aesthetic issues. Produce, for example, is most
10 likely to be wasted due to an “imperfect” physical appearance, while the product itself is absolutely safe
11 to eat. Landfills and incinerators are being overwhelmed with products that are perfectly safe to consume,
12 wreaking havoc on our environment. 21% of the world’s freshwater supply is used to produce discarded
13 food, and 7% of greenhouse gas emissions are a result of the production of trashed food, contributing to
14 global warming. Environmentally, the effects of food waste is disastrous, and economically speaking, food
15 waste is the easiest liability to solve. Restaurants spend approximately \$162 billion annually on food that
16 is never eaten. Ironically, while these food vendors are dumping tons of untouched food , 751,920
17 Louisiana residents (269,650 of which are children) suffer the effects of food insecurity, and these
18 numbers are only increasing with the lingering effects of COVID-19. With lost jobs, pay and hour cuts,
19 millions are unsure of the source of their next meal. Yet, the food industry continues to fill incinerators
20 and landfills with food that many need to feed their families. This bill provides a simple solution to both
21 issues.
22

23 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

24 Grocery stores, restaurants, hospitals, schools, any other food vendors, and any establishment that
25 possesses a food vendor license shall be required to redirect their unnecessary food waste to a local
26 organization that distributes food to people in need (food bank, homeless shelter, soup kitchens, etc).
27 Redirected food must be untouched by the consumer, as a health precaution, and must not be
28 spoiled/expired. In general, the food donated must be safe to eat. Information on what foods are
29 considered to be safe and donatable will be given by the organization that accepts the food waste.
30 Resources exist within the Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry (LDAF) and the Louisiana
31 Department of Environmental Quality to enforce bills such as this.
32

33 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

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

35 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

36 Fines and penalties for those who fail to be in accordance with this bill will be determined on a case by
37 case basis by the aforementioned institutions in the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry and
38 Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **SENATE BILL 28**

3 Joseph Paine Furman

Lakeshore High School

4
5 **TITLE:** The Aquifer Act

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 For generations, Louisiana residents have used wells daily to clean, produce goods, and water crops. All of
8 this water, for hundreds of years, has been drawn from aquifers, massive accumulations of water
9 underground in porous stone. When water is drawn from an aquifer, it is slow to return, as it needs to
10 seep through soil and stone. In past years, the water was able to keep up with the demand that we put on
11 it, but recently, with the expansion of industry and the increase in population, the demand for the water
12 has increased exponentially while the rate at which it returns to aquifers has only diminished. This leads
13 to a fall in the water table, causing wells to go dry as they can't reach the aquifer anymore, and it takes
14 more power for the wells to draw up water. The quality of the water drawn also declines, and the stone
15 that once held water becomes fragile, leading to sinkholes and land subsidence. To avoid these disastrous
16 outcomes, we must encourage responsible water usage. With profit being the motivator behind the
17 wastefulness, a tax on water will encourage mindfulness in how people use their water. This tax is not
18 intended to strangle businesses reliant on use of water, but to push them in the direction of conservatism
19 and responsible use. The implementation of this bill will also be put off until 2023, so that businesses
20 that would be sensitive to this tax will have time to adjust and adapt.

21 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

22 Beginning in 2023, new taxes will be laid on water usage. In industrial zones, water drawn from aquifers
23 will be taxed 15%. In agricultural zones, it will be taxed 10%. In all other zones, excluding residential
24 zones, there will be a 5% tax. On wells that bypass utility companies, a water meter will be installed, and a
25 tax based on the standard value of a unit of water (100 cubic feet) will be paid per unit, still in
26 accordance with the zone taxes aforementioned. For the installation of the meters, a private company will
27 be contracted. These taxes are to be paid yearly.

28
29 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

30 The funds for the installation of the meters will be taken from the State General Fund, and will be repaid
31 after the taxes come into place. 5% of revenue will be set into a fund for the continued upkeep of the
32 meters, and the rest will be allocated to the Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation Fund.

33
34 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

35 Refusal to allow a meter to be installed will result in a fine of up to double the expected revenue
36 generated from the tax, yearly. Any evidence of tampering or intentional damage to the meter will result in
37 a fine of up to two double the expected revenue generated from the tax.

38

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **SENATE BILL 29**

3 Daniela Garcia

Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies

4
5 **TITLE:** Restore Voting Rights for Ex-Prisoners

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 The current law in Louisiana states that convicted felons on community supervision are allowed to vote,
9 so long as they haven't been in prison in the last five years. This bill, once passed, would automatically re-
10 enfranchise people convicted of felonies as soon as they're released from prison. This follows the steps
11 taken by 16 other states and DC when it comes to restoring voter rights for ex-prisoners. When the
12 current Louisiana law was first implemented, it restored the voting rights for approximately 36,000
13 people.

14 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

15 This bill, once passed, will go into effect as of June 1, 2021. The released person would be responsible for
16 re-registering to vote through normal processes, but would otherwise follow the same protocol as regular
17 citizens.

18
19 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

20 This bill will not require any additional funding.

21
22 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

23 There will be no penalties for this bill.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**

2 **SENATE BILL 30**

3 Emma Long Lafayette High

4
5 **TITLE:** Legalize Inter-Familial Marriage

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Currently, Louisiana law has restrictions on marriage and sexual relations for familial relations. However,
8 these laws are discriminatory because their justification is on possible genetic disorders in the offspring.
9 Were this the reason, it opens up the door for people with genetically heritable disabilities or
10 predispositions for disease to also be discriminated against. This brings our government position close to
11 eugenics, and can lead to a slippery slope of relationship discrimination.

12 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

13 Any previously enacted legislation criminalizing marriage or sexual relations on the basis of family
14 relations is repealed, and all penalties for doing so are likewise removed.

15 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

16 No funding is necessary for the implementation of this act.

17
18 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

19 No penalties are necessary for the implementation of this act.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020



SENATE BILL 31

Jack West Haynes Academy

TITLE: Reform Louisiana Forfeiture Laws

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Louisiana earns a D+ rating in their civil asset forfeiture laws, civil asset forfeiture being a process in which law enforcement seizes property suspected of having involvement in a crime without necessarily having charged the owner with any wrongdoing whatsoever. Louisiana law justifies civil forfeiture if “after preponderance of the evidence, there is probable cause for the item’s involvement in a crime.” In these cases, law enforcement may seize property that was somehow suspected to be involved in a crime, even if the owner had no knowledge or involvement in said crime. Law enforcement has always been known to use the term “probable cause” very loosely, and when 80% of the cash seized goes directly to their funds police have every incentive to seize property regardless of an owner’s guilt or innocence. Most of the value of seized assets comes from pure cash, but forfeited property is still a large issue, stripping citizens of the cars and houses they’ve owned for years. When property is seized, the police department auctions it off and pawns the cash for their use. This process is responsible for millions of dollars stolen every single year in Louisiana alone, and over 2 billion dollars in the last 20 years nationwide. With no right to attorney in these cases, citizens are expected to pay extensive legal fees for month-long court battles after having just been stripped of their cash and assets, disproportionately affecting already low-income individuals.

Due to this, 9/10 of these seizures go uncontested, and law enforcement is rarely held accountable. New Mexico, on the other hand, which is the highest ranked state in this regard, requires proof beyond a reasonable doubt along with a criminal conviction to seize any asset. 43 states, including Louisiana, have yet to recognize the clear problem that this bill addresses.. Eliminating civil asset forfeiture will require that law enforcement prove the owner is guilty of usage or of intended usage of any items in a crime before seizing anything, therefore, protecting innocent civilians from having their assets taken. This bill will redirect funds from any forfeited assets, eliminating police incentive to seize property, and finally, will create a state database so that constituents can hold their law enforcement accountable for what is seized.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill will be implemented at the beginning of the next fiscal year, abolishing civil asset forfeiture and requiring all proceeds derived from the sale of forfeited assets and seized cash to go directly into Louisiana’s state general fund. All seizures, sales, and usages of seized assets will be recorded and made public domain in a state database.

SECTION III: FUNDING

This bill requires no funding.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Enforcement of this policy will be handled by the Louisiana Department of Justice. Agencies can also be held accountable by their constituents via aforementioned database

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **SENATE BILL 32**

3 Carson Cooper

Lakeshore High School

4
5 **TITLE:** To make voting compulsory through a streamlined, universal mail-in system in order to protect
6 democracy

7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 The United States of America is a self-proclaimed beacon of freedom, a shepherd of the free world,
9 bringing democracy and prosperity to all. These sentiments echo through the Pledge of Allegiance and the
10 National Anthem, but do not ring true in everyday life for many Americans. Despite the country touting
11 democracy and representation for all, America's election system is dated and even the record breaking
12 2020 voter turnout of 66.4% lags behind that of similar developed countries. Voter suppression has
13 turned from spraying voters with hoses to spreading misinformation and sewing chaos in communities.
14 The poll tax reaches from beyond the grave, with long polling place lines stealing voters' time instead of
15 their money. Louisiana is a perfect microcosm of America when looking at what is wrong with the election
16 and voting system. Louisiana's voter turnout ran nearly equal to the whole country in 2020, at 63.9% of
17 the Voting Eligible Population. In order to increase voter turnout and democratic involvement, particularly
18 in the youth, a compulsory voting system should be implemented. Many countries, such as Belgium,
19 Australia, and Turkey, already utilize a compulsory voting system, with full-scale mail-in voting already
20 existing in states like Oregon, Colorado, and Washington. Louisiana's adoption of these policies will
21 increase democratic participation and understanding, reduce recidivism rates for felons, create a more
22 educated public, raise the quality of political candidates, and situate Louisiana as a front runner in
23 election reform across the country. In order to facilitate this transition, election infrastructure in
24 Louisiana will be greatly improved, featuring a robust Mail-in voting process and required voter
25 registration.

26 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

27 This bill, if passed, will mandate that voter registration will be mandatory for all eligible citizens, except
28 for senior citizens, where it will be opt-out. Each parish's registrar of voters shall be held responsible for
29 ensuring that all eligible voters are in fact registered. In order to accommodate the large number of votes,
30 mail-in voting will become the default mode of voting. Mail-in voting will become an opt-out system,
31 where voters will be allowed to opt-out and vote in person at normal polling places for early voting and
32 Election Day voting. The Louisiana Voter Registration form will be modified to include this opt-out option.
33 Registered voters will be required to vote on all national, state, and local elections, including propositions
34 such as amendments, initiatives, and referendums. Mail-in ballots should be submitted by mail, fax, or
35 hand-delivery, in accordance with current Louisiana absentee ballot guidelines. Additionally, all election
36 ballots must provide an option for the voter to abstain for each choice on the ballot. Upon passage, all of
37 the preceding changes will go into effect March 1, 2021.

38 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

39 Any funding necessary for additional personnel for the counting of mail-in ballots, the distribution of
40 ballots, or general expansion of services shall be appropriated from the budget of the Secretary of State.

1 All fines collected will flow back into the Secretary of State's budget. The Department of State's budget
2 shall not be reduced in response to revenue gained by these fines.

3 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

4 If a parish registrar of voters dramatically fails in their duty of registering all eligible voters, they will be
5 punished in accordance with the Louisiana Election Code, resulting in a removal from office (La. R.S.
6 18:53(A)). Citizens that refuse to register or registered voters who fail to vote shall face a \$25 fine for
7 the first offense, increasing by \$25 for each subsequent offense. Citizens who fail to register and vote for
8 five years will face up to 60 days of jail time, at which point the punishment will reset. This money will be
9 collected by each parish's board of election supervisors.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **SENATE BILL 33**

3 Zoe Robillard Lafayette High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Changing Louisiana Sex Education reform to be more inclusive to LGBTQ+

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 In Louisiana, many young people who take Sex Ed are taught the only way to safely prevent things like
8 unwanted/early pregnancy or STD's is to just simply not have sex. Furthermore, the abstinence-only sex
9 education taught all across the state does not include any information on prevention within the LGBTQ+
10 community. Young queer people in schools all across Louisiana deserve better comprehensive ways to
11 learn about sex and a better prevention of sexually transmitted diseases. This bill will also include a
12 better (and optional) way of learning about safe sex without just being taught abstinence. According to
13 the Louisiana Public Institute, sexual health education in all public and private schools "may not include a
14 utilization of any sexually explicit materials depicting male or female homosexual activity." This pushes a
15 heterosexual and cisgender agenda towards young, impressionable students to be confused and end up
16 not knowing anything when it comes to sex. According to the Center for American Progress, "Many sex-
17 education curricula do not mention sexual orientation or gender identity at all, and some that do discuss
18 it only in a negative light. This not only prevents LGBT students from learning the information and skills
19 they need to stay healthy, but it also contributes to a climate of exclusion in schools, where LGBT
20 students are already frequent targets of bullying and discrimination." This bill will help any members of the
21 LGBTQ+ community and/or students who do not wish to learn that the only way for prevention of the
22 negative effects of sex before marriage, as that is mainly implausible and outdated for students of middle
23 school or high school age. Many young people who have been taught from a very young age that if you
24 have any type of sex before you are a married adult will face many physical and psychological
25 consequences, which simply isn't true, they just need the correct sex education. Further proving this,
26 LiftLouisiana.org states that in 2015, Louisiana had the 2nd highest rate of cases of chlamydia AND
27 gonorrhea among young people ages 15–19 in the United States, with an infection rate of 3,456.4 cases
28 per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 1,857.8 per 100,000. This needs to be changed to help
29 young confused children who will then grow up to resent all of the incorrect information they received.

30 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

31 This bill will be implemented within the new year, and will start on January 1, 2021. This optional policy
32 for all inclusive sex education will be implemented in every public, private, and charter schools in the
33 state.

34 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

35 Funding would come from certain government programs that are already implemented (any of the 7 that
36 are already in place). These fundings will go to educating people/teachers about the different types of sex
37 education and prevention of STD's, STI's, etc. for members of the queer community for proper education
38 to the said students.

39 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

40 No penalties for this bill, as it is optional for the specific inclusive sex education

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **SENATE BILL 34**

3 Pierson Murray

Lakeshore Highschool

4
5 **TITLE:** Prohibit the "Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag" in Louisiana Public Schools

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 The pledge of allegiance is an exercise in futility that is forced upon public school students every day.
8 Current legislation states that public schools in Louisiana have permission to allow for group recitation of
9 the "Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag" and most public schools do participate in this indoctrination, making
10 students mindlessly pledge allegiance to a flag and therefore a country from a very young age. On top of
11 this, some parishes even have laws requiring students to stand during the pledge. This simply will not do.
12 On top of brainwashing our youth the pledge also wastes precious time. The pledge takes several seconds
13 to say and while that may seem like a negligible amount of time over the course of a lifetime it adds up to
14 tens of thousands of seconds of a student's life they will lose listening to a useless piece of propaganda
15 because most students do not even say the pledge and some even sit for it. In order to stop this
16 indoctrination the "Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag" shall be prohibited in public schools. This bill will not
17 stop schools from teaching the pledge or stop students from saying it in their own time, it will simply
18 prohibit schools from having group recitation times for the pledge during normal school days.

19
20 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

21 Public Schools in Louisiana will no longer be allowed to have a group recitation of the "Pledge of
22 Allegiance to the Flag" during normal school hours.

23 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

24 This bill requires no funding.

25 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

26 School principals will be held responsible for any and all transgressions. A first transgression will grant
27 the offending principal a warning. A second transgression will grant an offending principal up to a 250
28 dollar fine and a third transgression will grant an offending principal up to a 1500 dollar fine with any
29 further transgressions leading to up to a 2500 dollar fine.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **SENATE BILL 35**

3 Eliza Casey Mandeville High School

4 Kelly Sullivan

5 **TITLE:** To ensure rape victims are not billed for their rape related medical expenses

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Louisiana is one of six states that's individual parishes has to cover the cost of forensic medical exams
8 for rape victims. Since 2005, Louisiana has received \$17.3 million in federal dollars predicated on the idea
9 that victims are not paying any out-of-pocket costs for their sexual assault forensic exams. However,
10 many women in the state are still having to pay for their medical expenses due to strict limits on
11 qualifications and vast variation in the laws enforcement parish to parish. Many victims end up having to
12 seek nonprofits and nongovernmental organizations for assistance with bills, while some victims end up
13 discouraged and do not seek assistance at all. By setting standards on the state level for the parishes to
14 follow and using the federally granted money appropriately, it will allow for consistent standards across
15 the state and a larger group of victims to be helped.

16 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

17 This bill will be implemented January 2021. This bills set qualifications will supersede any of the parishes
18 current requirements to have victims medical exams paid for. The bill will only require victims to send their
19 medical bills and general personal information in order to have their medical expenses covered (no other
20 qualification will be required). Parishes will not be allowed impose any other standard onto the victims
21 request. The only requirement for parishes in this bill is to uphold the new state requirement listed in this
22 bill. The current Louisiana Sexual Assault Task Force members will track the the enforcement of this bill in
23 each parish.

24 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

25 STOP Formula Grant Program which has given millions of dollars to Louisiana over the past 10 years
26 stipulates 30% of the money granted to the state must go towards victim services. The 30% will go
27 directly towards paying sexual assault victims medical bills. The oversight board (the Louisiana Sexual
28 Task Force) will be paid by their current salary and part of the 25% of money set aside for law
29 enforcement in the STOP Formula Grant Program.

30 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

31 Parishes found not complying by continuing to charge victims will have to pay the sexual assault bills for
32 those who were originally denied payment.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **SENATE BILL 36**

3 Matthew Bickham Episcopal High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Louisiana Firearm Owners Protection Act

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 For many years, the Second Amendment has been trampled on by the NFA Act of 1934, the Omnibus
8 Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, and the Firearm Owners Protection Act. Despite their
9 intended purposes of keeping the country safe, they have shown no immediate and measurable effect on
10 the rate of crime. In fact, many foreign countries that have instituted any form of gun control during their
11 recession of crime have seen either a stagnation or increase in violent crime.

12
13 In addition to this, studies have clearly shown that the possession of firearms by the general population
14 actually decreases the amount of violent crime that occurs. For example, a 2013 study ordered by the
15 CDC reported that defensive uses of firearms have prevented between 500,000 and 3,000,000 violent
16 crimes.

17
18 However, the clear evidence that shows that general gun possession lowers violent crime does not explain
19 the increased numbers of mass shootings that are occurring on a monthly basis. The explanation for this
20 increase in mass shootings can clearly be seen in the prevalence of gun free zones. In fact, 86% of all
21 mass shootings (shootings that include the death of 4 or more people) occur in gun-free zones when
22 gang-related activity is excluded.

23
24 Lastly, there is a clear constitutional protection on the possession and ownership of firearms. The Second
25 Amendment had and still has the clear purpose of allowing individual citizens to bear any arm in which
26 they prefer in order to defend against a tyrannical government. Because of this, any and all Federal
27 legislation that limits the ability of citizens to possess or own firearms is unconstitutional even if its
28 power to legislate comes from the Commerce Clause of the Constitution.

29
30 Therefore, the intended purpose of this bill is to allow the citizens of Louisiana to carry any firearms in
31 which they see fit, while also circumventing the Federal legislation that has limited the natural right to
32 keep and bear arms.

33
34 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

35 All law abiding citizens within the state of Louisiana are not required to obtain a concealed carry permit in
36 order to carry concealed in public areas. However, citizens can still obtain a concealed carry permit in
37 order to meet the requirements of other states.

38
39 All private businesses have the right to choose whether their patrons or guests are allowed to possess
40 firearms.

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All public schools in the state of Louisiana have the choice to regulate the possession of weapons on their campuses. However, by default, weapons will not be allowed on the grounds of public schools. This is up to the discretion of the individual school districts.

All firearms or firearm accessories that are manufactured, sold, and stay in the state of Louisiana are not subject under the provisions of the NFA. This is to ensure that the citizens of Louisiana can defend themselves from a tyrannical government while also staying within the bounds of previous Supreme Court precedence.

SECTION III: FUNDING

No funding required.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Any Louisiana citizens that are caught manufacturing weapons with the purpose of distribution to other states without first being registered under Federal provisions will be prosecuted. Citizens that are prosecuted under this legislation face a minimum sentence of 5 years, and a maximum sentence of 15 years. This does not apply if the person in question has already been convicted federally.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **SENATE BILL 37**

3 Corbin Nguyen Baton Rouge Magnet High School

4 Jeremiah Cummings

5 **TITLE:** Improved Education

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Currently, Louisiana is ranked as one of the lowest states when it comes to education. This bill will work
8 to fix that, along with other issues that can be solved by bettering our education. This bill would handle
9 the state's overall education problems while also creating a better environment for the students, providing
10 a better future for our state. Currently, our schools are either too controlling or too relaxed on issues
11 that need to be addressed. While many of these changes take place in some schools, they need to be
12 implemented everywhere so we do not have uneven levels of education due to where you live. Schools
13 would be required to both do have more for the students and better what they currently have.

14 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

15 The following changes are to be implemented into schools before the start of the fall 2021 or before the
16 2022 school year (for the changes that require funding). These are the changes to be made:

17 Schools would be required to present accurate factual information that does not attempt to skew the
18 truth in all topics

19 Sex education and home-ec classes should be available for students to take

20 In-class work should be encouraged while homework discouraged

21 Students should be allowed to listen to music, with headphones, when working on independent work

22 All political talk should be discouraged outside of classes and clubs relating to politics or debate

23 All schools will be required to have one bathroom designated as gender-neutral

24 Mental health checks will be required every semester (Private information unless action must be taken)

25 Students cannot be required to dispose of their own property, but they can be asked to put it away

26 Teachers must give a trigger warning before showing or talking about topics that they perceive could
27 cause an attack, and students are to be allowed to step out of the room

28 School dress codes would be changed to:

29 Never mention hair of any kind

30 Never force students to hide shoulders

31 Never require skirts or pants for any students, each student should have a choice of legwear

32 Jackets or hoodies of any kind should be allowed

33 Strictly Political wear, offensive wear, clothes with inappropriate words or imagery should not be allowed
34 on any clothing or accessory of the students

35 Students cannot be held after school if a parent or guardian does not agree

36 Teachers should not use any form of collective punishment

37 If a student's phone goes off during class but there is no evidence that the student was using the phone
38 then the teacher is to tell the student to turn it off. The teacher may not take the students phone in this
39 situation

1 Students caught on their phone are to have 2 warnings before it is taken, but it may only be taken for the
2 class

3 If a student would like to contact their parent or guardian on one's own phone they must ask an authority
4 near. If the student would like to call then the authority is allowed to make sure they are speaking with a
5 parent or guardian, however, the conversation is to be private if requested

6 Testing is not to be the majority of a grade in any class

7 Classes should push for understanding rather than testing

8 Most missed questions on tests are to be reviewed

9 Classes should be structured to have the students understand with help and then progress to do
10 everything independently by the end

11 Small, non-disruptive food/snacks are to be allowed inside the classroom (some classrooms have to option
12 to not allow this, such as science rooms), the student must be required to clean their own mess if any

13 Students should be allowed to use the restroom if they ask, however, teachers should put reasonable
14 restrictions on this

15 2 days each semester designated for solely doing work and destressing. Teachers are not allowed to give
16 new assignments on this day nor make assignments due on this day. Each class is to act as a study hall or
17 social time with destressing games encouraged

18 Teachers are to encourage students out of their comfort zones slowly, but nothing far out of a comfort
19 zone, which may be determined by the mental health checks

21 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

22 The funding for the new programs and other materials will be taken from sin taxes and 0.08% of the
23 current Louisiana Police budget because better education will cause fewer crimes and thus a lesser need
24 for the police force

25 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

26 Those schools that do not meet these expectations will not be punished but those administrators that
27 stopped these changes from happening would be demoted or let go.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **SENATE BILL 38**

3 Joey Blanchard Catholic High School

4 Bailey Faulk

5 **TITLE:** Visibility and Distinction for Vehicles of First Responders

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 It is often difficult for civilians to distinguish police cars from regular civilian vehicles. One reason for this
8 is that all police vehicles currently used by the State of Louisiana are also vehicles available to the public.
9 For example, the Chevrolet Tahoe Police Pursuit Vehicle (PPV) and the Dodge Charger PPV look identical
10 to the Tahoes and Chargers sold at dealerships around the country.

11 This can lead to confusion in times of emergency, especially when police cars are painted inconspicuous
12 colors like black, blue, and white. This is because these colors also make up the vast majority of civilian
13 car colors.

14 This Bill orders all Police Vehicles to be painted Bright Yellow in order to prevent confusion between first
15 responders and civilians. The majority of car manufacturers do not produce cars in this color, and this
16 would allow for everyone to know that a yellow car is always responding to an emergency of some kind.
17

18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 This Bill applies to all law enforcement vehicles operating in the state of Louisiana. This includes State
20 Troopers/Highway Patrol, local constables, local sheriff’s departments, and police departments. All of
21 these organizations must paint their cars Bright Yellow.

22 This applies to all surfaces of the car that would typically be painted. Bumpers, fenders, trim, and rear
23 view mirror covers do not need to be painted. Logos and Insignias applied over the paint may stay the
24 same, and can be any color.

25 This Bill allows police to continue using under-cover or unmarked cars for specialized missions, but these
26 special vehicles cannot be used for patrol or dispatch purposes. Therefore, these under-cover cars should
27 make up only a very small part of a police force’s fleet.

28 This Bill also does not apply to specialized armor vehicles like the Lenco BearCats operated by the
29 Louisiana State Police.

30 Only vehicles painted Bright Yellow will be allowed to patrol to roadways and respond to 911 calls.

31 Law enforcement agencies have one year after the passing of this bill to comply and paint their fleets
32 Bright Yellow.
33

34 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

35 Funding for this mandate would come from the preexisting law enforcement budget. All cities pass
36 budgets for their law enforcement agencies, and these budgets contain large amounts of money to be
37 spent as needed. Because this would be a one-time expenditure, a simple reallocation of funds would
38 cover the cost of the repaint.

39 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

40 If a State Trooper/Highway Patrol, local constable, local sheriff’s department, or local police department

- 1 does not comply with this mandate and operates a car that is not painted yellow, that organization is not
- 2 allowed to be paid by the city government or state government.
- 3 If law enforcement agents of any rank continue to operate vehicles that are not painted Bright Yellow,
- 4 they may be subject to prosecution with penalties of prison sentences no greater than one year.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020



SENATE BILL 39

Mason Guy Catholic High School

Grant Thevenot

TITLE: Voter ID at the polls.

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Voter identification laws are a part of an ongoing strategy to keep minorities from voting. As of right now, thirty-four states have identification requirements at the polls. Some states include Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Mississippi, and Wisconsin. Seven states have strict photo ID laws, in which voters must present their ID or another valid form of ID. Voter ID laws prohibit many minority voters or people of color from voting. Many minorities and people of color do not have a valid form of Identification. Majority of these voters are disproportionately low-income, minorities, and elderly people with disabilities. Majority of them are scared to face the repercussions. Just like a frightened man goes to secret service and says, "My talking parrot disappeared." "Why did you come here? Go to the regular police." "I will. I'm just here to tell you that I disagree with whatever that parrot is going to say." As John Adams once said, "One useless man is a shame, two is a law firm, and three is a congress". This is why we are so passionate to give every individual the right to vote.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

We will mandate that each registered voter in the state of Louisiana no longer requires the use of voter identification to vote. This will ensure fair and safe elections at both the local, state and federal level. As Plato, the Greek philosopher, once said, "good people don't need laws to tell them how to act, and bad people will find a way around them". This quote elegantly explains the importance of a democracy that allows everyone to vote.

SECTION III: FUNDING

One significant drawback to this bill is the amount of funding it will take. Our bill will require 1.93% of the state's budget. We have done extensive calculations and discovered this to be slightly over \$65,000,000. This money will go towards implementing our bill. As Alexander Hamilton once said, "I am not throwing away my shot". We cannot throw away our shot or our vote.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Any voter who fails to comply with the provision of this bill shall be subject to phase one level 3 operations. As Obama once said, "There's no successful businessman in America who actually thinks the most successful businessman in America is Donald Trump." This quote shows the importance of giving all a chance to vote in a true democracy.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **SENATE BILL 40**

3 Lily Coats Haynes Academy

4
5 **TITLE:** Renewable is Doable: Regulate the State

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Louisiana as a whole is rated very poorly regarding air and water pollution. Most of this is due to the
9 chemical plants and oil refineries. This bill proposes that by the year 2027 energy companies that sell in
10 Louisiana can only increase their fossil fuel use if they increase their clean energy percentage. So if an
11 energy company wanted to sell \$100,000 more worth of energy to Louisiana citizens, only \$75,000 can
12 be fossil fuels the other \$25,000 has to be made by clean energy sources such as solar, water, or wind
13 power. The ratio is 75/25 nonrenewable to renewable. (The companies can always increase their
14 renewable sales without being penalized. This is the only exception to this bill.) This is only applicable to
15 an increase in sales. If a company was already selling \$100 million worth of electricity before 2027, they
16 can continue to sell that energy, renewable or nonrenewable. Only during and after 2027 will they need to
17 grow both their renewable and nonrenewable energy sources. As inflation increases companies are forced
18 to increase their renewable energy sales.

19 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

20 To ensure energy companies are following this bill, a report must be submitted to the Louisiana
21 department of natural resources every 3 months. One person must be hired with a background in
22 accounting and must be briefed by a current experienced member of the department to know what to look
23 for if some type of fraud occurs.

24
25
26 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

27 No funding is necessary

28 The analyzer's salary will be around 60k a year or a salary set by the secretary of natural resources.
29 (Minimum \$45k) There will not need to be any higher taxes as long as the budget set by Louisiana is high
30 enough. There is already a small surplus of funds in the current account so an increase is not necessary
31 right now or if the budget does not take their salary into account their position is still viable for around
32 10 years.

33
34 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

35 If companies do not follow the guidelines in this bill, the State of Louisiana's public service commission
36 will step in and regulate their rates. The commission will decrease the energy company's rates by 5 to
37 15% for the next 6 months unless decided by the commission. They will choose what seems fitting based
38 on their experience and policies. This means that the only people benefiting from this bill are the
39 Louisiana citizens and Louisiana's environment.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **SENATE BILL 41**

3 Shaan Jindal Catholic High School

4 **TITLE: S.T.R.A.W. ACT (Sugarcane-based Tax Reduction And Waste Act)**

5 Discourage use of paper straws and grant tax credits to Sugarcane Straw Manufacturers

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 With the growing international awareness of global climate issues and concern for the environmental
8 wellbeing of our homeland, paper straws have become an increasingly popular phenomenon in the food
9 industry. Advocates for the use of paper straws argue that they are far more environmentally friendly
10 than their more popular counterparts, plastic straws. However, according to multiple sources, including
11 The Federalist newspaper, The Atlantic, and The New York Times, the production of paper straws is far
12 less energy efficient and requires far greater burning of fossil fuels to produce than the manufacturing of
13 plastic straws. The result of this highly inefficient production process is a paper straw which, in reality, is
14 no more biodegradable than plastic straws and far less comfortable to use. A recent innovation in
15 Louisiana, though, has been the sugarcane straw. This is a product that simply recycles the fiber from
16 sugar cane crops from which all the sucrose has already been extracted and re-wraps it into a straw.
17 Because sugarcane is a major crop in the southern region of the state, not only would there be more than
18 enough cane material to supply the manufacturers, but farmers could sell their cane waste to companies
19 rather than burning it, which allows farmers to earn an even greater profit and reduces carbon emissions.
20 Furthermore, tax incentives for these companies would allow them more of a budget to buy farmers'
21 materials and expand their businesses, incentivizing them to keep most of their business right here in
22 Louisiana, which could create hundreds of jobs and millions in revenue for the state economy.

23 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

24 A 10% corporate tax decrease of their corporate taxes will be made available to companies who (1)
25 manufacture straws (2) using locally grown cane material in the State of Louisiana, and (3) whose
26 corporate income is taxable by the State of Louisiana.

27 A 10% corporate tax increase of their corporate taxes will be placed on any companies who (1)
28 manufacture straws (2) using paper, and (3) whose corporate income is taxable by the State of Louisiana.
29 Additionally, food retail establishments who (1) make use of sugarcane straws (2) bought from Louisiana-
30 owned and operated straw companies (3) instead of alternative types of straws and (4) whose corporate
31 income is taxable by the State of Louisiana shall receive a tax deduction for money spent on straws.

32 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

33 Because the tax exemptions set forth in this bill will most likely be compensated or exceeded in revenue
34 by the income taxes on workers for these companies, the increased revenue and taxed income of cane
35 straw corporations, and the tax increase on paper straw manufacturers, the implementation of this bill
36 would require no additional funding from the state.

37 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

38 There will be no penalties on those who continue to use plastic, paper, or other types of straws, however
39 they will simply not receive the tax deductions other food retail establishments will receive for their
40 purchase of sugarcane straws.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **SENATE BILL 42**

3 Marissa May Neville High School

4
5 **TITLE:** To: Amend Act 716

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 This Bill calls to amend Act 716. This Bill is also referred to as the Threat Assessment Bill designed to
9 protect schools and prevent tragic events in the schools of Louisiana. However, there are some changes I
10 would like to present. Firstly, the student is prohibited from going to school until a mental health
11 examination is conducted. How will the student continue his education outside the school? There is no
12 doubt that there is a widespread shortage of Mental Health Professionals/Psychologists, so this process
13 could probably take up to months and the child could be missing months of schoolwork. The Act also
14 states what the Examiner will be looking at during his examination, but there was no indication that the
15 person conducting this examination will be looking at his personal life at home. Studies have shown that a
16 student's life at home affects his academic performance and behavior at school. Studies have said, "But
17 there is less widespread recognition of the severe traumas that children can face, including homelessness,
18 domestic violence, parental drug abuse, neglect and physical or sexual abuse. Such trauma is consistently
19 linked to a broad variety of negative life circumstances including poverty, juvenile delinquency, adult
20 crime, low academic achievement, substance abuse, mental disorders and poor health." Therefore, it is
21 important to also look at their personal home and conditions to provide accurate information on the
22 child's mental status. Lastly, there would have to be revision among what the Examiner is considering
23 during his/her examination. Also, Virtual Schooling for the students that are waiting to receive their
24 examination would be a good option considering how virtual school is popular in the nation, regarding the
25 Co-Vid 19 pandemic.

26
27 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

28 In order for this Bill to take effect, it will be in all of the school's handbooks as a resource for school
29 officials, parents, and students. This bill could be enacted June 1, 2021.

30
31 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

32 None

33 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

34 None

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **SENATE BILL 43**

3 Emerson Eccles

Neville High School

4
5 **TITLE:** To: Reduce major industrial and manufacturing companies carbon emissions by 3% annually.

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources made a study stating the total emissions in Louisiana in
8 1996 are estimated to be 59.26 million tons of carbon. This was in 1996 over 20 years ago and it's
9 drastically increased. Governor John Bel Edwards has set a goal of hitting net zero greenhouse gases by
10 2050. 22% of carbon emissions come from industrial and manufacturing companies. I believe making
11 these companies reduce emissions by 3% annually will help reach our governors goal.

12 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

13 Large companies(Over 750 employees) will be monitored and made to publicly release their emissions
14 numbers yearly; all companies need to be in agreement with the act and willing to help improve the
15 environment. It should be implemented like any state law and enforced by the executives.

16 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

17 Funding will be minimal if any at all if companies are in agreement to release their emissions there will be
18 no need to hire experts to do it for us.(Potential content funding)

19 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

20 Penalties for not reach the quota will be different depending on the percentage emissions reduce or
21 increased if a company reduces by 2% they will face fines and sanctions but they still showed effort and
22 were able to reduce by 2% if they are able to reduce by that 1% in a given period of time they will not be
23 fined. For the companies that emissions increase they will face serious consequences like economic
24 sanctions and hefty fines.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **SENATE BILL 44**

3 Abhay Basireddy Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

4 Robert Xing

5 **TITLE:** Remove Advertisements from Streaming Applications in Vehicles

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 In 2019, Louisiana had 681 fatal crashes, which resulted in 727 deaths overall. Furthermore, there were
9 72,500 injuries from crashes in 2019 and all together cost over \$8.6 billion for the citizens of the state.
10 The number of fatal crashes involving distractions has increased by 57.6% since 2014 and this number
11 increased by 85.7% from 2018 alone, demonstrating the dangers of distractions while driving. One such
12 distraction is advertisements in vehicles through streaming applications. A 2014 survey revealed that
13 72% of its respondents streamed audio on a regular basis, out of which half claimed they did so every
14 time they were in their vehicle. With such a large number of drivers using streaming applications, it is
15 extremely important that they stay safe and away from distractions on the road. However, advertisements
16 in streaming applications directly counteract this goal: by suddenly switching to an unfamiliar
17 advertisement, drivers can experience distractions and take their mind off the road to react to the new
18 stimulus- moments which can prove crucial in evading crashes. Moreover, drivers may be further
19 distracted by interactive ads while streaming audio, such as Spotify's advertisement to press a button and
20 watch a sponsored video to receive a reward of 30 minutes of streaming without advertisements. Apart
21 from the risk of looking away from the road to click the ad on the device, this type of advertising could
22 lead to complicated thought processes as a result of the risk-rewards involved (clicking the ad and not
23 having to later, not clicking the ad and having to be distracted later, etc.). These thought processes take
24 the drivers' minds off the road even more and endanger their lives as well as those around them, a
25 phenomenon only worsened by the continuous speech and unfamiliar sounds during the advertisements,
26 interrupting the thought process and therefore making the period of compromised focus longer. Whatever
27 the reason may be, advertisements in streaming applications in vehicles are setting the stage for
28 catastrophe and preventable damage and injuries, a problem that's only increasing in relevance in
29 Louisiana. Therefore, the most effective solution is to prohibit advertisements from playing in streaming
30 applications while used in vehicles. This will limit distractions, lead to more concentration on the driver's
31 surroundings, and avoid unnecessary physical and emotional damage, putting the safety and wellbeing of
32 Louisiana's citizens first.

33
34 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

35 Starting from January 1, 2021, all applications that have the ability to connect to audio in all vehicles
36 must remove advertisements from playing when the location of the vehicle is within the geographical
37 boundaries of Louisiana and when connected to the audio of a vehicle.

38 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

39 No funding is necessary for this bill.

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SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Any entity found to continue playing advertisements when connected to the audio of the vehicle and within the geographical boundaries of Louisiana after January 1, 2021, will be fined \$1000 each week for each affected vehicle after January 1, 2021, that it continues this practice. The additional funds will go to the Department of Transportation and Development.