



# 2020 LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE CONFERENCE December 4-6, 2020

**"Democracy Must Be Learned by Each Generation."**

*The Mission of the YMCA Louisiana Youth & Government program is two-fold:*

- *to encourage and foster leadership through service, fellowship, responsibility, and respect for oneself and others among all participants*
- *to educate and engage students in the process of government from local to international so that they become more active participants in their communities.*

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# GENERAL INFORMATION



## 58<sup>th</sup> YOUTH LEGISLATURE STATE OFFICERS

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Governor	Grant Suire	Episcopal Y&G
Secretary of State	Jillian Augustine	SJA Y&G
Supreme Court Chief Justice	Bridger McCasland	Episcopal Y&G
President of the Senate	Corbitt Driskell	Episcopal Y&G
President pro tempore	Christin Ransome	SJA Y&G
Senate Floor Leader	Sania Islam	Haynes Y&G
Senate Floor Leader	Andrew Meche	BRMHS Y&G
Speaker of the House	William Bartle	Byrd Y&G
Speaker pro tempore	Olivia Mack	SJA Y&G
Speaker pro tempore	Maya Gunaldo	Mandeville Y&G
House Floor Leader	Dawson Bond	Byrd Y&G
House Floor Leader	MacKenzie Harless	Mandeville Y&G
House Floor Leader	Anil Cacodcar	Episcopal Y&G

## OFFICIAL OATH OF OFFICE

Members of the Legislature and all other elected officers shall take the following Oath or Affirmation prior to entering the duties of their offices:

I \_\_\_\_\_ (state your name), do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the duties of the office of \_\_\_\_\_ for the State of Louisiana, and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution and Laws of the United States and this State. So help me God.



# 2020 Youth Legislature

## CODE OF CONDUCT

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to identify personal behavior, which is consistent with the purpose and objectives of the YMCA LA Youth & Government program. The items within the Code are based upon performance and are designed to protect the welfare of the program for future generations. Registration in any YMCA LA Youth & Government program indicates personal acceptance of the Code of Conduct. Any student sent home for violation of the Code of Conduct would be at the expense of parent or guardian.

1. No delegate shall leave scheduled committees or sessions of 2020 the Louisiana YMCA Youth Legislature Virtual Conference unless approval of his/her advisor and the director of the program is secured. Delegates must participate in all listed mandatory sessions.
2. Though the 2020 Youth Legislature Conference is in a virtual format this is still a professional conference and consumption of food is not permitted during sessions and in any meeting rooms. Beverages such as water and non-alcoholic drinks may be consumed.
3. Delegates should make every effort to ensure a professional and non-distracting background and environment such as restaurants, events, driving or riding in vehicles. Delegates should be stationary while participating in the Youth Legislature Conference.
4. The use of incense, tobacco products, and use of/possession of alcoholic beverages or non-prescription drugs is forbidden during the YMCA LA Youth & Government function.
5. Delegates must stay in designated/assigned meeting/committee rooms and may not visit or drop into other meetings.
6. Delegates shall not invite or receive outside visitors to participate in conference meetings. Log in information and links should not be shared without the explicit consent of the conference director.
7. Delegates should exhibit ideal sportsmanship, neighborliness, and professionalism by not being distractive on screen or interrupting others while speaking.

8. Student participation in all dimensions of the YMCA LA Youth & Government conference shall be maintained on the highest plane with utmost respect for fellow delegates, advisors and staff.
9. The Program Director has the authority to determine both the appropriateness of appearance and attire of participants during the YMCA LA Youth & Government conference. All participants are to maintain a professional and business-like appearance each day during the conference. Dress codes will be enforced. *Specific clothing not allowed at YMCA LA Youth & Government conferences: miniskirts, extremely tight clothing, bare midriff, shorts, hats and caps. Jeans and athletic shoes are allowed during free time only (refer to schedule)*

# Zoom Etiquette and Procedures

## Name Display Format

Students must have their names in the following format to be recognized in chambers:

[Last Name], [First Initial] – [School]

Eg. Doe, J – YMCA High

## Name settings

May be accessed in account settings under the profile tab. Participants are encouraged to change their display names in this manner rather than in each individual session.

## Getting Recognized to Speak

To speak in each session, delegates are to use the raise hand function to seek recognition from the presiding officer. Unless speaking the mute button must be on as to avoid background noise. After the presiding officer has selected a delegate to speak, all other delegates are to lower their hand.

## How to Vote

Voting in chamber will be conducted through use of the YES/NO feature in Zoom. After the presiding officer calls for a vote in the chamber, delegates can select the YES or NO button in the participates tab to indicate support or opposition for a bill

## When to Use the Chat Feature

Use of the chat function is only to ask questions of parliamentary inquiry or for private messages from state board officials or staff to inform delegates that their bill has passed, and they must go to the supreme court for further review. Usage of the chat function to comment upon bills is strictly prohibited.

## How to enter Council Zoom rooms

To enter the Council Zoom rooms, delegates will be given a password. To maintain a professional decorum, all delegates are asked to use the video feature of Zoom at all times. The only exception is when video connection becomes impossible due to poor connection.

General troubling shooting tips may be found here: [Zoom Trouble Shooting](#)

If you have a poor connection, you may need to disable your video.

If you are having audio difficulties, you can switch audio to your phone rather than your computer. State Board and Program Staff will be there to assist you and work with you through any connection issues.

The YMCA Youth Leg Staff may be contacted for assistance here: [LA LEG Help Desk](#)

# YOUTH LEG RESOURCES



<b>Friday, December 4th</b>			
	<b>House</b>	<b>Senate</b>	<b>Supreme Court</b>
12:00 PM			
12:30 PM			
1:00 PM	<u>Opening Session 1-2:00 PM</u>		
1:30 PM			
2:00 PM			
2:30 PM	Committees A-F 2:30 - 4:30PM	Committees 1-4 2:30 - 4:30PM	
3:00 PM			
3:30 PM			
4:00 PM			
4:30 PM	<i>Break</i>		
5:00 PM			
5:30 PM	Committees A-F 5:30 - 7:30PM	Committees 1-4 5:30 - 7:30PM	Supreme Court 5:30 - 7:30PM
6:00 PM			
6:30 PM			
7:00 PM			
7:30 PM			
8:00 PM	<u>Closing &amp; Fun Time 8-9:30PM</u>		
8:30 PM			
9:00 PM			
9:30 PM			
10:00 PM			

[House Committee A](#)  
[House Committee B](#)  
[House Committee C](#)  
[House Committee D](#)  
[House Committee E](#)  
[House Committee F](#)

[Senate Committee 1](#)  
[Senate Committee 2](#)  
[Senate Committee 3](#)  
[Senate Committee 4](#)

[Supreme Court](#)

<b>Saturday, December 5th</b>			
	<b>House</b>	<b>Senate</b>	<b>Supreme Court</b>
8:00 AM			
8:30 AM	<u>Opening Session 8:30-9:15 AM</u>		
9:00 AM			
9:30 AM	<i>Break</i>		
10:00 AM	House Gold, Navy, Silver 10-12pm	Senate Gold, Navy 10-12pm	Supreme Court 10-12pm
10:30 AM			
11:00 AM			
11:30 AM			
12:00 PM	<i>Lunch Break</i>		
12:30 PM			
1:00 PM	House Gold, Navy, Silver 1-3:00pm	Senate Gold, Navy 1-3:00pm	Supreme Court 1-3:00 PM
1:30 PM			
2:00 PM			
2:30 PM			
3:00 PM			
3:30 PM	<u>Meet the Candidates</u>	<u>Meet the Candidates</u>	
4:00 PM	<u>Delegation Council</u>		
4:30 PM			
5:00 PM	<u>Closing Session 5:00-6:00 PM</u>		
5:30 PM			
6:00 PM	<i>Voting Open 6-6:30</i>		
6:30 PM			
7:00 PM			
7:30 PM	<u>Fun Times 7:30-9:00 PM</u>		
8:00 PM			
8:30 PM			
9:00 PM			

[House Gold](#)  
[House Navy](#)  
[House Silver](#)

[Senate Gold](#)  
[Senate Navy](#)

[Supreme Court](#)

<b>Sunday, December 6th</b>			
	<b>House</b>	<b>Senate</b>	<b>Supreme Court</b>
8:00 AM			
8:30 AM	<u>Opening Session 8:30-9:00 AM</u>		
9:00 AM			
9:30 AM	House Joint Session 9:30-11:30AM	Senate Joint Session 9:30-11:30AM	Supreme Court 9:30-11:30AM
10:00 AM			
10:30 AM			
11:00 AM			
11:30 AM	<i>Lunch Break 11:30-12:30PM</i>		
12:00 PM			
12:30 PM	<u>Closing Session 12:30-1:30PM</u>		
1:00 PM			
1:30 PM			

[House Joint Session](#)

[Senate Joint Session](#)

[Supreme Court](#)

## HOUSE AND SENATE COMMITTEES

Each Senator or Representative shall be assigned to sit on a Senate committee or a House committee. The number of committees will be determined by the Program Staff upon receiving the final number of bills at the conference. Committee appointments shall be determined by the State Board, either randomly or by topic. Committee meetings are held on Thursday evening. Committee time is used to strengthen, combine bills and determine weaknesses. The purpose of Committee is to rank bills by favorable attributes in order to present the best bills on the Floor of the House or the Senate.

All bills in both the House and Senate shall first be scored by their respective committees. Committee Chairs are selected by the State Board and Program Staff between Pre-LEG and the Baton Rouge conference. These Chairs will preside over the proceedings of the committees. Each Senator/Representative on the committee shall present his/her bill to the committee.

### COMMITTEE TIME FRAME

The Committee Chairs will direct the committee to adhere to the following time frame during debate on bills:

- 2 minutes for an Opening Statement by the sponsor(s)
- 2 minutes for Questions
- 8 minutes for Debate (alternating speakers in support of and against the bill)
- 2 minutes for a Closing Statement by the sponsor(s)

Only **Technical Amendments** are permitted in committees. Technical Amendments are those that correct clerical, grammatical, spelling or other errors made by the author and are not allowed to reverse or otherwise change the intent of the bill. The Bill Author(s) may present Technical Amendments to the Committee Chair, who will ensure the amendments are germane prior to reading them to the committee during the Opening Statement and immediately adopting them without debate.

### COMMITTEE ACTIONS

All bills shall be ranked on a scale of 1-5 for each criterion with 1 being the best ranking and 5 being the worst ranking.

1. State Importance
2. Feasibility
3. Speaker Knowledge/Presentation
4. Originality
5. Degree to which it is debatable

The degree to which it is debatable and originality criteria will be weighted more heavily than the others, each accounting for 30 percent of the total score.

The State Board will use these averaged and weighted rankings from the committees to create each chamber's docket for the following day. The House and Senate chambers will consider all bills presented in the docket. Only a motion to suspend the rules may rearrange it.

A maximum of two (2) bills from the Senate and two (2) bills from the House will advance to the Joint House and Senate Session, where they will be debated by all House and Senate delegates, respectively. These bills are selected among the highest ranked bills from the committee process.

# HOUSE & SENATE FLOORS

If a bill receives a favorable average rating from the committee and the Presiding Officers place it on the docket, the sponsor(s) shall present the bill to the appropriate House or Senate body.

## PROCEDURES FOR BILL CONSIDERATION ON THE FLOOR

### BILL SPONSOR'S OPENING STATEMENT 3 MINUTES

- Sponsor may use all three (3) minutes.
- Sponsor may use part and yield rest to co-sponsor, questions, closing statements or the chair.

### TECHNICAL QUESTIONS

**2 MINUTES**

- The presiding officer will open the floor to Questions from the floor. The presiding officer will recognize members of the body to question the bill sponsor(s) on any matter relating to the content of the bill in question until time expires. The questions must be technical in nature and only relate to facts or statistics regarding the bill. Any questions deemed debatable or non-technical by the presiding officer will be called out of order.
- The presiding officer has the authority to deem questions germane or not germane.
- Delegates may only ask one question at a time.

### INTENT SPEECHES

**4 MINUTES**

- Candidates for State Board positions are the only delegates allowed to give intent speeches.
- A speaker may sign up with the Secretary of State for an intent speech from the announcement of the docket up until the presiding officer begins the bill consideration process on the bill in question.
- Intent speeches are limited to two minutes each.

### GENERAL DEBATE

**12 MINUTES**

- The presiding officer will open the floor to general debate on the bill in which members of the body may express their opinions on the bill.
- To be recognized in general debate, use the "Raise Hand" function of Zoom after the presiding officer has begun to seek a speaker.
- Once a delegate has been selected to speak, all other delegates are to lower their hands.
- Each delegate may speak for a maximum of two (2) minutes.
- In the event a delegate does not use all two (2) minutes, he/she must yield the remainder of the time back to the presiding officer. A maximum of 1 speaker may speak per round.
- The presiding officer will then seek to recognize another speaker of the opposite intention (e.g. Opposition or Proposition)
- The speaker may ask the bill sponsor(s) a question or a series of questions upon being recognized by saying, "Will the author(s) yield to a question/series of questions?" The speaker may engage in debate before and/or after the question(s).

### BILL SPONSOR CLOSING STATEMENT

**2 MINUTES**

- Once debate has closed on the bill, the presiding officer will recognize the bill sponsor(s) to deliver the Closing Statement to present the arguments for final passage for the final time.
- In the event the sponsor(s) yielded unused time from the Opening Statement, the total time

available to the sponsor(s) will be two (2) minutes plus that time.

**FINAL READING OF BILL AND VOTE**

- The presiding officer will convene a vote for final action on the bill.
- The Clerk will read the bill by title only plus any amendments for the final time.
- The presiding officer will ask for the yeas and nays via a voice vote via the “Yes/No” function on Zoom. A simple majority (1/2) is required for passage.
- When a bill is voted on in the House or a Senate, the committee chair will mark the bill as “Passed” or “Failed” on the Bill Tracking Masterlist

# EXPLANATIONS OF PARLIAMENTARY MOTIONS AND POINTS

Only the following motions and points are allowed during debate.

For all motions, the following procedure will be used:

- A delegate may seek recognition from the presiding officer to make a motion by raising his/her **hand** with the Zoom “Raise Hand” feature.
- Once the presiding officer recognizes the delegate, he/she will state the motion.
- If the presiding officer deems the motion appropriate, he/she will call for a second.
- If a second is given, the presiding officer will then ask for objections.
  - If there are no objections, the motion is immediately adopted.
  - If there is an objection or multiple objections, the presiding officer will convene a vote via the “Yes/No” feature.
- The required majority varies for each motion.

## 1. Amendments to Legislation

- Technical Amendments are only allowed during Opening Statements in the Committee process (see page 14 for more explanation).
- Motions to amend legislation are **not** allowed at any point during the Debate portion of House and Senate floor debates. These motions have the effect of changing the verbiage of bills.

## 2. The Previous Question

- Motions for the previous question are allowed at any point during general Debate of bills or amendments. They may not interrupt speakers.
- Moving the previous question cuts off Debate and moves straight to the Closing Statement.
- In the event this motion comes during debate on an amendment, the delegate must specify which question to move:
  - “I move the previous question on the amendment.” This motion cuts off debate on the amendment and moves straight into the comments from the bill sponsor(s).
  - “I move the previous question on the bill.” This motion cuts off debate on both the amendment and the bill and moves straight into the sponsor’s Closing Statement on the bill.
- A two-thirds (2/3) majority is required for passage.

## 3. Table/Remove from the Table

- Motions to table legislation are allowed at any point during convened sessions of Houses and Senates. They may not interrupt speakers.
- Moving to table legislation defers consideration of the instrument.
- There are two (2) possible options with motions to table:

- General Motion to Table: This motion simply lays the instrument on the table and may be removed from the table at any point.
  - An instrument laid on the table may be removed from the table with a corresponding motion.
  - “I move to remove [insert bill name] from the table.”
  - The instrument will be returned to its original place on the Docket. If the chamber has moved beyond that point on the Docket, a motion to suspend the rules and rearrange the Docket may be used.
- Motion to table for a specified amount of time: This motion defers consideration of legislation until a specified time.
- A simple majority (1/2) vote is required for passage.

#### 4. Suspension of Rules

- Motions to suspend the rules are allowed at any point during convened sessions of Houses and Senates. They may not interrupt speakers.
- These motions have the effect of adjusting rules in this handbook to satisfy the needs of the floor to properly execute debate.
- The presiding officer is empowered to deem these motions appropriate and admissible.
- The following are common motions to suspend the rules:
  - Extend time: Delegates may use this motion to extend time for questioning or debate.
    - The motion must include a specific amount of time for extension.
    - These motions may only extend the general time for questions or debate; they may not extend times for individual speakers’ speeches or subsequent questioning.
    - “I move to suspend the rules and extend the time for questioning by two minutes.”
  - Rearrange the Docket: Delegates may use this motion to adjust the order of consideration of bills on the Docket.
    - These motions may move a single bill, move multiple bills, or force immediate consideration of a particular bill.
    - “I move to suspend the rules and rearrange the Docket so that [insert bill number(s)] appear(s) before [insert bill number].
    - “I move to suspend the rules and immediately consider [insert bill number].
- All motions to suspend the rules require a two-thirds (2/3) majority for passage.

#### 5. Reconsideration

- Motions to reconsider are allowed at any point during either committee hearings or convened sessions of the Houses and Senates. They may not interrupt speakers.

- Should a bill fail to be reported favorably in committee or pass in a House or a Senate, any delegate who voted against the bill in its initial consideration may move for the committee or chamber to reconsider the bill.
- These motions are only permissible in the body in which the bill failed to proceed. For example, a bill with an unfavorable report in committee may not be reconsidered by a House or Senate.
- "I move to reconsider [insert bill number]."
- If the motion to reconsider passes, the presiding officer will immediately convene consideration of the bill.
- No bill may be reconsidered if it has been reconsidered once before.
- A two-thirds (2/3) majority is required for passage.

#### **6. Recess**

- Motions to recess are allowed at any point during either committee hearings or convened sessions of the Houses and Senates. They may not interrupt speakers.
- These motions dismiss the committee meeting or session of a House or Senate for a specific duration of time, including a lunch break.
- The committee chair or presiding officer is empowered to not recognize a motion to recess should he/she feel it unnecessary.
- A specific length of time is required in the motion.
- A simple majority (1/2) is required for passage.

#### **7. Adjournment**

- Motions to adjourn are allowed at any point during either committee hearings or convened sessions of the Houses and Senates. They may not interrupt speakers.
- These motions end committee meetings or sessions of a House or Senate.
- The committee chair or presiding officer is empowered to not recognize a motion to adjourn should he/she feel it unnecessary.
- In the event there will be future sessions, a motion to adjourn must include a time to reconvene.
- In the event there are no future sessions, the motion becomes a motion to adjourn sine die.
- A simple majority (1/2) is required for passage.

#### **8. Point of Information**

- Points of Information are **not** allowed at any point during either committee hearings or convened sessions of the Houses and Senates.

#### **9. Point of Order**

- Points of Order are not allowed at any point during either committee hearings or convened sessions of the Houses and Senates.

**10. Point of Parliamentary Inquiry**

- Points of Parliamentary Inquiry are allowed at any point during either committee hearings or convened sessions of the Houses and Senates. They not may interrupt speakers.
- A Point of Parliamentary Inquiry is used to ask the presiding officer for clarification on any portion of parliamentary procedure that causes confusion.
- Any delegate may raise his/her hand to be recognized.
- After being recognized he/she shall say, "Point of Parliamentary Inquiry" and seek to clarify the point of confusion.
- Upon hearing the Point of Parliamentary Inquiry, the presiding officer will explain the point in question to the delegate.

**11. Point of Personal Privilege**

- Points of Personal Privilege are allowed at any point during either committee hearings or convened sessions of the Houses and Senates. They may interrupt speakers.
- A Point of Personal Privilege is used make a personal request during debate, including permission to vacate the chamber for a brief time.
- Any delegate may rise and say, "Point of Personal Privilege!"
- Upon hearing the Point of Personal Privilege, the presiding officer will either grant or deny it.

# SUPREME COURT PROCEDURES

## **OPENING STATEMENTS**

**3 MINUTES (EACH)**

1. The complainant will present a three (3) minute opening statement that introduces the basis for the complaint.
2. The Attorney General will present a three (3) minute opening statement.

## **QUESTIONS FROM THE BENCH**

**10 MINUTES**

The Justices will have the opportunity to ask either party questions concerning their arguments for a period of ten (10) minutes.

## **WITNESSES**

**4 MINUTES PER WITNESS**

1. Each party is allowed to bring a total of three (3) witnesses in order to advance their arguments.
2. The complainant will bring forward witnesses in order to question them for a period of two (2) minutes. The defendant will then be allowed to ask the witnesses questions for a period of two (2) minutes as well.
3. The defendant will then bring their witnesses, and proceed with the aforementioned procedure.

## **PRESENTATION OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE**

**5 MINUTES EACH**

Each party has the opportunity to present any documentary evidence to the court for a period of five (5) minutes.

## **DELIBERATION AND JUDGMENT**

After all proceedings have occurred, the court will enter into deliberation, in which the complainant and Attorney General must vacate the room. The Chief Justice may recall either or both parties to answer further questions brought up in deliberation to allow them the opportunity to rebut new points. As soon as a decision has been reached, both parties will be recalled into the room and the Chief Justice will present the decision.

# CANDIDATE INFORMATION



## Candidates for Governor



**Olivia Mack**

**High School:** St. Joseph's Academy

**Youth & Government Activities:** SJA Vice President of LEG; LEG delegate (2018, 2019, 2020); LEG Committee Chair (2019); LEG Speaker Pro-Tempore (2020); MUN delegate (2019, 2020); CONA delegate (2019, 2020); CONA Female Delegation Leader (2020)

**School Activities:** Youth and Government, Drama Club, Journalism, Spanish III

### Honors

**Honors & Awards:** Rising Star Award, Most dedicated Ensemble Member, Miles Smith Award, CONA Invitation recipient

**Why do you want this office?** Being Governor would allow me to give back to Youth and Government in the way it gave to me. As governor, I would make it my job to reach out to other delegates and schools and ensure everyone is getting the best experience.

**Express your opinion on what you consider to be a major current issue in our state.** Education should always be a major issue in everyone's mind, but currently, a major issue all should be focused on is the mishandling of assault allegations by LSU. It is important to recognize that LSU's reputation is Louisiana's reputation.

**Outside of Youth and Government, what has been your favorite virtual/ quarantine experience?** My favorite quarantine experience was redecorating my room! It was super exciting to move my bed from one wall to another while simultaneously moving my dresser to the previous wall that my bed was on!



**Sania Islam**

**High School:** Haynes Academy

**Youth & Government Activities:** Lobbyist Youth LEG 2018, GA Delegate Model UN 2019, Haynes YAG Parliamentarian 2019, National Judicial Conference 2019, Senator Youth LEG 2019, EcoSoc Delegate Model UN 2020, CONA United 2020, Senate Floor Leader & Gubernatorial Candidate Youth LEG 2020

**School Activities:** Academic Games, Student Council, Youth and Government, High School Democrats of America, Bollywood and Bhangra Club, Mock Trial, Talent Visual Art and Music programs, Tri-M National Music Honors Society, National English Honors Society, Mu Alpha Theta, and National Honors Society

**Honors & Awards:** National Linguistics Champion 2019, Academic Games National Sweepstakes Champions (Team) 2019, Academic Games Top 10 Sweepstakes 2019, Superintendent's Champion 2015-2020, AP Scholar with Honor 2020

**Why do you want this office?** Youth and Government for me created this perfect environment to become comfortable in speaking and my own opinions, and I want to curate that environment for so many more delegates.

**Express your opinion on what you consider to be a major current issue in our state.**

Youth civic engagement is a major issue in our state. Louisiana politics is entrenched in corruption, and rather than focusing on reforming politics in our state, most youth avoid it.

**Outside of Youth and Government, what has been your favorite virtual/ quarantine experience?**

This quarantine, I spent an exorbitant amount of time in the kitchen. I am now famous for my banana bread and carrot cake recipes, but still can't make pie crust.

### Candidates for President of the Senate



**Ellie Pryor**

**High School:** St. Joseph's Academy

**Youth & Government Activities:** Leg attendee 2019

**School Activities:** Drama club, Beta club, Latin club, National Honors Society, student tutor, Student Ambassadors

**Honors & Awards:** 4.0 GPA Honor Roll 2018-2020, service award 2018-2020, Gold Medal on the NLE 2019, 4<sup>th</sup> place in the LJCL 2018-2019 creative arts sweepstakes.

**Why do you want this office?** I want this office because my first conference was such an incredible experience thanks to the hard work and dedication of the state board members and I would love the opportunity to give back to this incredible club which gave me so much love and acceptance.

**Express your opinion on what you consider to be a major current issue in our state.** One of the biggest current problems in Louisiana is our education systems. It is no secret that Louisiana ranks 49<sup>th</sup> in public education and this problem affects all of Louisiana, not just students. Louisiana citizens deserve better education not just to make them competitive on the job market, but also because education is fundamental to human development.

**Outside of Youth and Government, what has been your favorite virtual/ quarantine experience?** My favorite quarantine experience was when, mid zoom lecture, my teacher was cut off by her 6 year old son and his water guns. He came running up to her, water flying everywhere, because he just couldn't wait to tell her

that their tomato plant had a leaf! It got even better when the teacher spent the next 10 minutes of class showing us the tomato plant's new leaf.



**Shaan Jindal**

***High School:*** Catholic High School

***Youth & Government Activities:*** President of Youth and Government at Catholic High School 2020–2021, Eco Soc Committee Chair for MUN 2020–2021, Public Relations Officer at Catholic High School 2019–2020, MUN Delegation Representative 2019, MUN and LEG since 2019

***School Activities:*** Soccer player and Track sprinter, Honor Board Member, Youth and Government President Mu Alpha Theta Treasurer, Student Ministry, FCA, Spanish Club, JPII

***Honors & Awards:*** Academic Highest Honor (4.0), AP Scholar (Sophomore year), State Literary Rally (World Geography), Honor Board Nomination, Various Math Awards including 1<sup>st</sup> Place Ciphering at BRMHS

***Why do you want this office?*** After tripling the size of the Catholic High club in just one year, I believe I can help grow LEG and give as many people a voice as possible.

***Express your opinion on what you consider to be a major current issue in our state.*** The politicization of this pandemic. Both sides must put their political differences aside in order to handle this pandemic in the most efficient way possible, or the people will pay.

***Outside of Youth and Government, what has been your favorite virtual/ quarantine experience?*** Being able to wake up a few minutes before school starts and stay in my bed all day, though having school in real life is much better in my opinion.

### Candidates for Speaker of the House



**Maria Hargrave**

***High School:*** St. Joseph's Academy

***Youth & Government Activities:*** LEG attendee (2019), LEG Lobbyist (2019), MUN attendee (2019)

***School Activities:*** Sophomore Representative for Beta Club, Mu Alpha Theta member, International Thespian Society member

***Honors & Awards:*** 1<sup>st</sup> Place at Civics State Rally, 4.0 GPA Honor Role, selected as Beta Club class representative

***Why do you want this office?*** Youth Legislature was an eye-opening experience for me last year, and I would like to help all delegates to have an amazing experience at LEG.

***Express your opinion on what you consider to be a major current issue in our state.*** I think that education in Louisiana is lacking, and that this deficit is the root of several of Louisiana's other issues. I believe that if Louisiana's educational program were fixed, it would resolve, or take steps toward resolving, a whole host of problems in our state.

***Outside of Youth and Government, what has been your favorite virtual/ quarantine experience?*** I am finishing up my science fair experiment for school this year, and I loved working with a mentor on statistics over Zoom for that. (If anyone wants to ask me about the planarians that live in my closet, I will be more than happy to talk about them.)

# SENATE BILLS



# 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 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

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

24  
25 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

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

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **SENATE BILL 3**

3 Matthew Pellittieri                    Archbishop Hannan High School

4  
5 **TITLE:** An Act To Educate the Population of the State of Louisiana through the Erection of Statues  
6 Depicting Historical Events

7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

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

18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 Upon the passage of this legislation, the governor will announce, in a time period he sees fit, the  
20 nomination of ten historians to serve on a committee to determine the events that will be depicted in  
21 statues as part of this initiative. The state House of Representatives and state Senate would then have  
22 30 days to approve the nominees by simple majorities in each chamber. If one or both of the chambers of  
23 the state legislature reject a nominee, the governor will have thirty days to appoint a new nominee and  
24 the state legislature will then have thirty days to approve the nomination. If a nominee is not approved in  
25 30 days, they are considered rejected. Upon the approval of ten nominees, the group of historians will  
26 have until the last of day of the sixth month following the approval of the last of the nominees to submit  
27 their recommendations for ten historical events that took place in Louisiana that they believe should be  
28 depicted in statues around the state in the locations in which the events occurred. No parish will have  
29 more than three such statues erected in its boundaries and at least five parishes will have a statue  
30 erected in their boundaries. At least one statue each will be designed to teach Louisianians about the  
31 history of Louisiana before Europeans arrived, during French control of the area, during Spanish control of  
32 the area, and during Louisiana's time in the United States. At least one statue will depict an event that  
33 occurred at some point in the last thirty years. Both chambers of the state legislature, by simple majority,  
34 and the parish governments wherein a statue would be placed must approve of the contents and location  
35 of a statue within 30 days. If both chambers and the parish government do not approve the statue within  
36 the allotted time, the proposal will be considered rejected. Parish governments will be responsible for the  
37 manpower needed in the design, creation, installation, and upkeep of any statue residing within their  
38 jurisdictions. The state government will provide the funding necessary for the creation, installation, and  
39 upkeep of all statues erected as a result of this legislation. It is required that a plaque be placed on or  
40 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  
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

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

22  
23 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

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

27  
28 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

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

35  
36 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

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

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 CO<sub>2</sub>/km. However, some cars are worse than others. Vehicles like: Audis, Jeeps,  
11 Jaguars, and Land rovers, release more than 200.0 g CO<sub>2</sub>/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 CO<sub>2</sub>/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 semi-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 2022, 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 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

# LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020



## SENATE BILL 32

Carson Cooper

Lakeshore High School

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

### **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

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

### **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

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

### **SECTION III: FUNDING**

Any funding necessary for additional personnel for the counting of mail-in ballots, the distribution of 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.

# LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020



## SENATE BILL 41

Shaan Jindal Catholic High School

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

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

### **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

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

### **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

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

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

### **SECTION III: FUNDING**

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

### **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

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

25

# HOUSE BILLS



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 1**

3 Thomas O'Connor                      Episcopal BR

4  
5 **TITLE:** Lowering the Drinking Age To Eighteen

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 In Louisiana, the current drinking age is twenty-one for a person to purchase and consume alcohol and  
8 eighteen for a person to consume alcohol in the presence of a parent, spouse, or legal guardian over the  
9 age of twenty-one. For many years until 1996, the drinking age in Louisiana was eighteen-years-old,  
10 which Louisiana was the last state in the country to change. The proposed Bill will lower the drinking age  
11 in Louisiana back down to eighteen without the current restrictions that eighteen-year-olds face when  
12 trying to consume alcohol. Many high school students and college-age students view drinking as  
13 rebellious because it is illegal for them to consume. Changing the drinking age will remove the allure of  
14 drinking for many college students and high school seniors, which will help to combat the current binge  
15 drinking being seen in these demographics. Many will argue that people who are eighteen years old do  
16 not have fully developed brains, so they are not capable of making the best decisions for themselves,  
17 especially when it comes to drinking. While this is true, it is legal for eighteen-year-olds to engage in  
18 activities that are much more dangerous than drinking, including driving a car and joining the military.

19 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

20 On January 1, 2021, eighteen-year-olds will then be allowed to buy and consume alcohol without the  
21 presence of a parent, legal guardian, or spouse over the age of twenty-one. This will give bars and other  
22 alcohol distributors time to notify their employees of the new policy and prepare for the increase in  
23 customers.

24  
25 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

26 No funding is necessary for this bill.

27 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

28 The current penalties for people under the age of eighteen who consume or attempt to buy alcohol will  
29 remain, but the penalties will be lifted for those over the age of eighteen.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 2**

3 Preston Kyle            Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

4  
5 **TITLE:** District Method Electoral College Voting

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 The plurality voting system, also known as first past the post or majority vote, used by Louisiana prevents  
8 candidates of a minority party from being represented by our state’s electoral votes. A candidate who  
9 wins a majority of the votes, even by the smallest of margins, wins all of the electoral votes. The system  
10 of plurality voting is used by forty-eight of the fifty states in the nation. Maine and Nebraska use a  
11 system called ‘District Method’. Under district method, each congressional district is assigned one  
12 electoral vote. Votes within the district are decided by a majority vote. The winner of the state’s popular  
13 vote will win the other two electoral votes. The District method of voting allows for minority parties to be  
14 represented while preserving the balance of power between states created by the electoral college.

15 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

16 Each congressional district will be assigned one electoral vote. A majority vote within the districts will  
17 decide which elector will represent them. The remaining two electoral votes will be assigned to electors  
18 for the candidate who has a majority of the state-wide popular vote.

19 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

20 There is no additional funding required for this bill

21 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

22 There are no penalties for this bill

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 3**

3 Ryan Asefi                    Episcopal High School

4  
5 **TITLE:** Solitary Confinement in prison systems

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Solitary confinement has long been used in the prison system against inmates that are said to be "acting  
8 out." Not only do many of these inmates suffer from mental illnesses but solitary confinement even  
9 further escalates their illnesses since humans are social animals.

10 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

11 Solitary confinement should be outlawed in all U.S. prison systems wether federal or private.

12 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

13 Putting an end to solitary confinement, which costs the prison three times the amount of money to house  
14 someone will allow for that money to be better allocated towards improving the conditions of the inmates.

15 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

16 Prisons that do not adhere to the rules will be fined for their first offense and then a mandated shutdown  
17 will be implement.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 4**

3 Carter McLean                      Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

4 Akshay Basireddy

5 **TITLE:** Manipulating Urban Sprawl to Improve Louisiana Cities

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 In Louisiana, urban sprawl – the rapid, unplanned expansion of cities into rural areas – seriously damages  
8 the economies of cities across the state. While developing rural land outside of the city seems cheap and  
9 beneficial to homeowners and the economy, the long term costs massively outweigh the short term  
10 benefits. As housing and unplanned development moves further away from jobs in the inner city, average  
11 citizens have to buy cars because public transit cannot effectively manage such a large area. This makes  
12 transportation very expensive for average citizens (city people can spend upwards 25% of their income on  
13 car notes and gas), creates more taxes for the maintenance of more roads, increases pollution from fossil  
14 fuels, and causes Louisiana’s ecosystems to be destroyed for development; all of which also contribute to  
15 a lower quality of life. This bill serves to slow urban sprawl and make Louisiana cities better for everyone  
16 by 1) implementing a reasonable additional tax on new development in zip codes on the border of their  
17 metro areas to discourage urban sprawl, 2) splitting those zip codes from the city budget for  
18 infrastructure maintenance, and 3) giving a tax incentive and/or loan subsidies for inner city renewal to  
19 attract housing and business owners to revitalize and infill the interior of the city. The tax in 1) will be  
20 very bearable so people can still develop outside areas without much issue if they want, but have to pay  
21 for their own infrastructure maintenance and an additional property tax. In 3), people who would develop  
22 or settle in outer land will now be encouraged by tax cuts and loan assistance to move housing and jobs  
23 back inward. By discouraging urban sprawl with mild preemptive taxes and instead encouraging infill with  
24 USDA-like loans and tax cuts, everyone in Baton Rouge can still be satisfied and free while improving the  
25 health of the city.

26 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

27 The tax on development in the specified zip codes will be implemented by adding an additional annual tax  
28 equal to one half of the property tax for owners of property developed after the bill is enacted. This will  
29 be equivalent in terms of money to increasing Louisiana’s very low property tax of about 0.52% of  
30 property value to 0.78% in those areas, which is still much lower than the national average of 1.08%. This  
31 tax is done in a unique manner so the money goes to the city rather than the state or parish and does not  
32 technically affect the property tax. The outside areas will also be split from the city in regards to the  
33 funding and maintenance of infrastructure like roads. This means the city legislature will decide every year  
34 how to spend allocated money and possibly raise additional taxes for the city and the outside areas  
35 separately so city residents no longer have to pay for the mounting costs of urban sprawl. With the  
36 increased city revenue from the outside development tax, the city will be able to financially support a  
37 corporate tax break of 1.5% for businesses (which includes apartment-like housing and mixed use  
38 development) who move into or start inside of the city, for a period of 5 years. Existing businesses will  
39 receive a 0.25% corporate tax break for 7 years. Small businesses can also apply for a system like a USDA  
40 loan to encourage the growth of small businesses. A small business or low income individual can apply for

1 a loan that permits zero down payment and purchase through mortgage insurance over time.  
2 These regulations will apply to mid-size cities, which means having a population of 30,000 or more. This  
3 bill will be enacted in January of 2022.

4 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

5 The bill will not need additional funding because all funding is self-created from the taxes proposed. Costs  
6 related to development outside of the metro area like the maintenance and construction of roads will now  
7 be funded by the 0.26% property tax and additional taxes that the city legislature may decide to raise,  
8 rather than with money from the whole city. Because cities will not need to pay for outside development  
9 and maintenance, city legislatures will decide every year to lower taxes previously used to pay for it or  
10 keep the taxes and use the money to improve public transportation to a decent degree.

11  
12 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

13 There are no additional penalties past the normal penalties for tax violations.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 5**

3 Davis Eglin                    Episcopal High School

4  
5 **TITLE:** Encouraging Voting in Louisiana

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 As of 2019, Louisiana's population is 4.649 million people. In 2016, only about 2 million people voted out  
8 of 3 million people registered. With less than half of the state actually voting, true representation cannot  
9 be achieved. In 2019 in Louisiana's 16th senatorial race, 4 votes separated Steve Carter and Franklin Foil.  
10 Who knows who the majority of Louisiana's in the district actually want to represent them. Another key  
11 aspect to look at is Louisiana's status as a "deep red" state. Is this because there are more republicans  
12 than democrats in Louisiana? No. As of November 1st, 2020, there were 3,091,340 registered voters.  
13 1,257,863 were democrats, 1,020,085 republicans, and 813,392 independents or others. Louisiana could  
14 be a very competitive and balanced state if more people voted. That is why voting needs to be increased  
15 in Louisiana. Democracies work best if more people vote.

16 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

17 The bill will take effect on January 1st, 2022. The period between passing and being enacted will allow for  
18 ample time to register citizens. The tax decreases will not take place until January 1st, 2022. Increased  
19 voting his will be done by mailing a registration form to all citizens not registered, creating a day every  
20 month where officials go into communities to register voters, making the GeauxVote system online more  
21 accessible, and creating advertisements on television and in newspapers encouraging citizens to vote. A  
22 national holiday will be created on all election days. Also, an option to send in a mail-in-ballot will be  
23 extended to all citizens. Early voting will also be expanded to three weeks before the election, and  
24 abundant precinct locations will be available. The goal is to increase voter registration and turnout to  
25 75%.

26 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

27 There is already a significant budget for elections, but some private fundraising will be encouraged for the  
28 advertisements and community outreach events.

29 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

30 There are no penalties for not voting, but there is a 500\$ tax decrease for each citizen when they vote in  
31 an election.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 6**

3 Joey Roth                    Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

4 Riley Posey

5 **TITLE:** Cancer Alley Act

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 This bill enforces mandatory reporting of any unpermitted spill or release of ethylene oxide to the  
8 Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. Ethylene oxide is a chemical, widely used in hospitals as a  
9 disinfectant but is also a toxic gas. Ethylene oxide is produced in large amounts in power plants  
10 throughout Louisiana. One area that uses the highest quantities of this chemical is in an area of New  
11 Orleans, known as "Cancer Alley." Here ethylene oxide affects the community quite severely. Acute  
12 exposure to ethylene oxide can cause respiratory irritation, lung injury, headaches, nausea, and shortness  
13 of breath. Chronic exposure has been associated with significantly more critical conditions such as cancer,  
14 birth defects, mutagenic changes, and neurotoxicity. According to ProPublica's analysis of toxic chemical  
15 air levels, the air in St. Gabriel, a community in Cancer Alley, has higher estimated levels of toxic air from  
16 ethylene oxide than 99% of the country. Between them, the Louisiana plants in 2019 released 27.8 tons  
17 of ethylene oxide, about one-fifth of the total produced nationwide. This bill is necessary for all chemical  
18 plants in Louisiana's Cancer Alley, as they are making a severe impact on surrounding communities and are  
19 causing spiking cancer levels in Louisiana's "Cancer Alley."  
20

21 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

22 Companies will be required to decrease all usage of ethylene oxide by at least 40% in Louisiana. The  
23 maximum limit of ethylene oxide usage in the state will be 16.7 tons, a 40% decrease in ethylene oxide  
24 state usage since 2019. Mandatory reports of ethylene oxide usage will be submitted to the Louisiana  
25 Department of Environmental Quality biannually. This will enforce more responsible ways for chemical  
26 plants to use ethylene oxide. No jobs will be lost during this change and taxes will not need to be raised.  
27 This bill will be enforced on January 1, 2022.  
28

29 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

30 There is no funding necessary for this bill.

31 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

32 Non-compliant chemical plants will be fined up to \$250,000 for their first violation and up to \$500,000  
33 for their second. For any following violations, plants will be prosecuted in state courts for penalties up to  
34 \$1,000,000 for excessive, unreported ethylene oxide usage.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 7**

3 Shreya Kamath

Episcopal School of BR

4 Sarah Theriot

5 **TITLE: Abolish the Pink Tax**

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 The purpose of this bill is to abolish the pink tax. The pink tax is a tax on feminine hygiene products like  
8 tampons and pads and other items like diapers. Recently, the Metro Council had a bill about the pink tax,  
9 and they voted to abolish it. We want to abolish the pink tax for all of Louisiana. Women can't control the  
10 fact that they get periods, so why should we tax them for something they can't control. Ten states have  
11 already abolished the pink tax, so it's not like we would be the only state to do so. It's already a step in  
12 the right direction with Baton Rouge abolishing the tax, but there are still thousands of women in the  
13 state who have to pay extra for something that they can't control. The pink tax also says that women  
14 need to pay more for items that men can buy for less money. Why should women have to pay more for the  
15 same products that men can buy? The products include razors and shampoos. The reason it's called the  
16 "pink" tax is that every item under the tax is used by females.

17 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

18 If passed, this bill will take place on January 1, 2021. Stores will have to take away the tax on feminine  
19 products. Instead of getting the money off of the pink tax, Louisiana can tax items that are not necessary  
20 by any gender. In other words, tax items that are wanted, not needed.

21 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

22 This bill requires no funding.

23 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

24 If a business does not comply with taking the tax off of menstrual products, the business will be fined  
25 \$1500.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 8**

3 Charlie Roth           Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

4  
5 **TITLE:** Reforming Judicial Selection

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Louisiana is one of nine states that selects all of its judges through partisan elections, which is a pathway  
8 to corruption in the judicial system. This bill proposes a state constitutional amendment, changing the  
9 form of all judicial selection from partisan elections to merit selection. Merit selection is used in some  
10 form by thirty-one other states and the District of Colombia. In this form of selection, applicants to a  
11 vacant judicial seat will appear before a nonpartisan commission formed by the Governor, comprising of  
12 public officials, the State Supreme Court Chief Justice, attorneys, and private citizens. The Governor will  
13 then choose one of the three candidates selected by the commission to fill the vacancy. Terms will be set  
14 at six years following the first general election of the judge's tenure. A judge can be re-elected in an  
15 uncontested retention election, in which voters will vote "yes" or "no" to allow the judge to keep their  
16 seat. If "yes," the judge will retain their seat for another six years. If "no," a new judge will be selected by  
17 repeating this process.

18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 This bill proposes a state constitutional amendment affecting Article V I22. If this is approved by the  
20 State Legislature and by popular election, the Governor may begin forming the commission. Each currently  
21 seated judge will retain their seat until the end of their current term and will then face an uncontested  
22 retention election. All requirements for judicial candidates currently laid out by the Louisiana State  
23 Constitution will remain the same.

24 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

25 No funding is required for this bill.

26 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

27 No penalties are required for this bill.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 9**

3 Landri Domingue

Dutchtown High School

4  
5 **TITLE:** Equal Pay Between Men and Women in Louisiana.

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 In the last few decades women’s labor force participation has grown significantly. Women are working  
8 longer hours and pursuing high level education in greater numbers. However, even through these changes  
9 the gender pay gap remains the same. The gender pay gap refers to the change in earnings between full  
10 time working women and full time working men. Full time working women only make 81 cents for every  
11 dollar full time working men make. Although women are claimed to be equal in the workplace, the pay gap  
12 has only closed by 4 cents in the last decade. It is estimated at this rate equal pay regardless of gender  
13 will not be obtained until 2059. 39 years may not sound like long, but women have been promised not to  
14 be discriminated against in the workplace based on gender for 57 years. The Equal Pay Act of 1963 made  
15 pay discriminations in the same workplace for similar jobs illegal based on gender. Although this law was  
16 passed 57 years ago there is still a gender pay gap present. Employees know they are entitled to a fair  
17 wage regardless of their gender, the question, however, remains, how do I know I’m getting paid the  
18 same? One of the main reasons there is still a gender pay gap is that it is near to impossible to know you  
19 are getting paid less. This bill will require companies and corporations to disclose to the public wage  
20 ranges and wages. Wages are required to be made known, however the individual's name can not be given  
21 out without their consent. Currently companies can disclose wages as it is part of their freedom of  
22 speech, however it is currently up to the company to do this and many do not. By making it required that  
23 companies show how much they pay for jobs and a general range of pay, ensuring no one gets paid more  
24 or less based solely on gender is possible.

25 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

26 This bill will be enacted on January 1st, 2021. All employees of a company or cooperation along with  
27 anyone offered a job at said company/cooperation is entitled to the knowledge of pay range of that  
28 particular job or title. The employers must present employees with the pay statics but can not give out  
29 any further information, including but not limited to name, gender, age, any personal information, etc.

30 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

31 There is no funding necessary for this bill.

32 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

33 Any company or corporation that does not make wage range or wages available to workers will result in a  
34 warning the first offense with a deadline for the company to implement the bill. The second offense will be  
35 a fine of \$200,000. A third offense will be a fine of \$500,000 or further legal action. Additional penalties  
36 can be given if individual names are disclosed without the consent of the employee. Penalties include a  
37 fine ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 10**

3 Sophia Ray                   LSU Lab School

4 Nicholas Edmonson

5 **TITLE:** Should Rapists Be Able to Meet Their Victim's Child?

6  
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 In the US, 1 in 5 women will be raped at some point in their life. As of 2019, Louisiana is number 18 in  
9 rape cases in the United States with a rate of 48.9 out of 100,000 inhabitants. On top of the everlasting  
10 trauma, the woman could also get pregnant. According to the CDC, about 3 million women experienced  
11 rape-related pregnancies in the US. Multiple states allow for a convicted rapist to sue for custodial and  
12 visitation rights. Even if the rapist spends a lengthy amount of time in prison, nobody should be able to  
13 come back from a crime like rape and have parental rights over his victim's child. This would be severely  
14 damaging to the child because he/she would know what their father did and still be forced to spend part  
15 of their life with him. The child would live in constant fear that their father would do horrible things to  
16 them just like he did to their mother. Not only would this be troubling for the child, but also the mother.  
17 She would have to go through so many unnecessary issues, along with the emotional and physical trauma,  
18 which can all be solved by the implementation of this bill. With this bill, we can protect the rights of rape  
19 survivors and their children.

20 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

21 The convicted rapist will be unable to sue for visitation or custodial rights of his child. Since the rapist  
22 would not be a legal guardian, the mother could also not sue for child support. Once the child turns 18,  
23 the rapist could then sue for parental rights with the child's consent.

24 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

25 There is no funding needed for this bill.

26 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

27 The penalty for failing to comply would be a fine of at least 10,000 dollars along with an extra prison  
28 sentence.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 11**

3 Zoha Ibrahim            Caddo Magnet High School

4  
5 **TITLE:** Banning Solitary Confinement

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Louisiana currently has one of the highest incarceration rates in the world. With that comes a high  
8 proportion of prisoners who experience solitary confinement during their sentences. Solitary confinement  
9 has been proven to be an extremely mentally traumatic punishment, often causing anxiety, panic, rage,  
10 paranoia, hallucinations, and, in some cases, suicide. Representatives from the United Nations have  
11 condemned the practice, and have expressed concern that the frequency of the practice in the United  
12 States is a violation of human rights. Prisoners who have been held in solitary confinement have been  
13 proven to suffer severe psychological distress. Moreover, solitary confinement has not been proven to be  
14 an effective method of punishment, or have any effect in reducing violence among prisoners. By  
15 prohibiting the practice of solitary confinement, this bill would ensure the human rights of prisoners are  
16 not being infringed upon and encourage the practice of humane prison policies.

17 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

18 The implementation of this bill would begin in February 2021. This would give prisons ample time to  
19 develop other correctional policies and phase out the practice over time. Prisons within each parish would  
20 cease the practice of solitary confinement completely in February. Parishes will either be provided with  
21 alternative policies to implement in place of solitary confinement or can submit their own for state  
22 approval.

23  
24 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

25 This bill does not require financing.

26  
27 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

28 Should they fail to adhere to this policy, jails will first receive a warning. If prisons continue to not comply  
29 with this policy, they will be fined \$500,000. In egregious cases, prisons would face federal charges.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 12**

3 Harrison LaBorde                      University High School

4 Brennan Ryder

5 **TITLE:** Stop the Death Penalty

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 All prison in the state of Louisiana that currently carry out hte death penalty will be required to terminate  
8 all executions. This will save lives, 4% of which are innocent lives, and give this inmate more time to dwell  
9 on what they did and how it ruined their lives. This is the time to implement this bill as no executions have  
10 happened in Louisiana for the past 10 years and only 28 executions have happened in total in our state.  
11 The current death row inmates will have their sentences changed to life imprisonment. This will also set  
12 the example for Texas, our neighbor state, who has carried out more executions than any other other  
13 state with 566 total.

14 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

15 This will take effect 6 months after passage. All state and local prisons will be required to terminate any  
16 further executions, and move all death-row inmates to life imprisonment.

18 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

19 No funding is needed for this bill. Prisons will have to stop executing prisoners, which does not require  
20 any funds to do. There is already space for these prisoners as no executions have been held in Louisiana  
21 since 2010. If an influx of prisoners in the future occurs, lower jail time crimes could change punishments  
22 to community service with a larger fine. This will offset the cost of maintaining these prisoners without  
23 costing the state much at all. The absence of the death penalty also saves millions because of the  
24 expensive costs of convicting someone to death row. People being tried for the death penalty and given  
25 extensive and thorough trials under the Constitution, which contributes to the high costs. These cases  
26 are also usually appealed, increasing the costs even more. It is by far cheaper to keep inmates on life  
27 imprisonment than on death row.

29 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

30 If a prison is caught executing a prisoner after this bill goes into effect, the following will be the penalties.  
31 On the first offense, then a monetary fine of 5,000 dollars will be issued, the prison shall be put on  
32 probation, and the employees responsible for carrying out the execution shall be fired.. On the second  
33 offence, a monetary fine of 25,000 dollars will be issued, any prisoners with life sentences or were  
34 previously on death row will be moved to another prison, and the employees responsible for the execution  
35 will be fired. On the third offense, the prison will be shut down for a short time and the management of  
36 the prisoners shall be transferred to another of the state's choosing.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 13**

3 Noah Robert                      University Lab School

4  
5 **TITLE:** Ban the Box

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Ban The Box is a national organization devoted to helping ex-convicts to find jobs as a beneficial part of  
8 today's society and since 1998 over 13 states have implemented Ban The Box laws boosting the economy  
9 everywhere it takes place. Louisiana itself has already passed a Ban The Box law for state jobs and we can  
10 finish what the governor started by passing a state wide law today. NCSL has estimated that on average  
11 in states where Ban the Box laws have not been passed, the barriers for people with criminal records to  
12 find suitable sources of income causes a loss of 1.7 million jobs and at least 78 billion dollars but this bill  
13 can change all that.

14  
15 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

16 This bill would ban all businesses located in Louisiana from questioning job applicants about their criminal  
17 history during the hiring process so as to give ex-convicts a foot in the door and stop their first  
18 impression from being a check mark in the box asking whether that have been convicted of a crime. This  
19 does not ban employers from asking about criminal history after they have already been hired but would  
20 lead to more tax dollars going to the state government and reduce recidivism by an estimated 67 percent.

21 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

22 This bill requires zero funding and would actually provide more money for the state government .

23 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

24 You can face fines of up to \$15,000 for going against this law should an applicant choose to go to court.

# LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020



## HOUSE BILL 14

Emily Berg Ruby Friloux Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

**TITLE:** Require Public Schools to Provide Menstrual Products in Women’s Restrooms

### **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

Currently, in Louisiana, public schools are not required to provide menstrual products in women’s restrooms. This bill would require public schools to provide women’s high school and middle school restrooms with menstrual products and dispensers for these products. As of 2020, only four states - New York, California, Illinois, and New Hampshire - have passed legislation requiring middle schools and high schools to offer freely accessible menstrual products, such as pads and tampons, in bathrooms. However, all of these outlined laws are unfunded mandates, and none provide compensation to schools to pay for such products. On top of this, tampons and pads are rarely designated as allowable budgetary expenses for publicly funded schools. For the nearly one in five American teenagers who live in poverty, lack of menstrual products and support can lead to lost educational opportunity. One in five female American students have reportedly struggled with attending school entirely as a result of a lack of access to menstrual products. A present tax on such products in every city in Louisiana - with the exception of New Orleans - paired with approximately 28.4% of Louisiana children and 21.7% of Louisiana women living in poverty further aggravates the issue. In 2015, there were approximately twenty-six million girls living in the United States between the ages of five and seventeen, and about 41% of this demographic lived in low-income families, with another 19% living in poverty. This financial disadvantage lent and continues to lend to an inability to purchase disposable menstrual products for many of those living below the poverty line. Aside from issues regarding attendance and education, students are often forced into using disposable menstrual products for long stretches of time, which increases the risk of cervical cancer, toxic shock syndrome, and several other health issues.

### **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

This bill will be enacted on August 1, 2022. This provides public schools with ample time to purchase dispensers for menstrual products and to install them for student access across campuses.

### **SECTION III: FUNDING**

The Louisiana government will supply public schools with the necessary funds to purchase the menstrual products and dispensers. The cost per public school per year to provide these resources for students is roughly \$77,000. This is assuming the average woman spends \$120 on menstrual products per year. The government will obtain this funding through a 15% increase to the tax on distilled spirits. As of January 2020, Louisiana residents pay \$3.03 per gallon in taxes on distilled spirits, the forty-second lowest rate out of the 50 states in the U.S. This 15% increase would make the cost per gallon in taxes on distilled spirits \$3.48 per gallon. This is below the national average tax on distilled spirits per gallon, which is about \$5.98.

### **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

If Louisiana public schools misuse this government-issued funding in the interest of the school as an organization, the school board will be charged with misappropriation of funds and will be subsequently issued a fine of an amount double the sum of money misused.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 15**

3 Jamarion Johnson

Woodlawn High School

4  
5 **TITLE:** The Solution to the Common Problem of Afterschool Transportation

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 It's understood that one of the reasons why most kids don't participate in Afterschool Extracurricular/  
8 Clubs Programs is because many don't have a ride home from these events. When these kids aren't given  
9 the resources to attend these events, this strips them of the chance to obtain skills needed to function as  
10 a successful adult. This Bill would aim to equip them with those very resources. The audience that this  
11 would cater to is Children whose parents have erratic schedules, kids who are aren't able to drive or do  
12 not own their own transportation, and kids who do not live near or around the school. This bill would also  
13 aim to increase the letter grade of the school by increasing the number of students so that clubs and  
14 sports can qualify for more events, In turn increasing the popularity of the school with the letter grade  
15 with it.

16 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

17 This Bill shall be implemented on the first day of the start of the collective school extracurricular/ club  
18 program, whatever day that may be, and shall continue until the last day of the school's extracurricular  
19 activities, serving as a continual process every year. The Implementation of this bill will create many new  
20 jobs and give current workers a chance to make overtime.

21 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

22 The funding from this bill will be a dual - funded bill with 50% of funding coming from The Louisiana  
23 Department of

24 Education Transportation Budget and the remaining 50% would come from grants allocated from the  
25 Louisiana state government to enact statewide, fund school buses, and pay transportation driver's  
26 salaries.

27 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

28 There are no Penalties needed for this Bill.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 16**

3 Isabella Knighten                      University Laboratory School

4 Ella King

5 **TITLE:** Incentivize Businesses To Give Paid Leave To All New Parents

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 As indicated by the Family Medical Leave Act, mothers can take as long as twelve weeks of unpaid leave  
8 following the introduction of a child. Paid leave is up to the discretion of the employer, but this bill would  
9 offer a tax credit to businesses who give paid leave to new parents by providing a tax credit equal to the  
10 amount paid to the employee at the time of the leave to incentivize businesses providing paid leave to  
11 their employees.

12 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

13 This bill would influence parents who file for maternity leave after January 1, 2021. It will help to close  
14 the gender wage gap, and would likewise secure single mothers who are financially incapable to take  
15 maternity leave. Since independent companies make up fifty-two percent of Louisiana's private workforce,  
16 this bill is an optional credit that is available to businesses.

17 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

18 The financing for this bill will originate from the business. Qualification for this bill will be equivalent to if  
19 a parent were filing for the FMLA maternity leave: they would need to work for a secured employer, work  
20 for that employer 1250 hours before the beginning of the leave, and have worked for that business for a  
21 full year before meeting all requirements for maternity leave. In the event that the parent neglects to meet  
22 these prerequisites, they would not be qualified for this bill.

23 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

24 No penalties are necessary.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 17**

3 Glynnes Hill Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

4 Isabella Civello

5 **TITLE: Mandatory Preschool**

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Mandatory preschool will be enforced for all children. Preschool helps to prepare children for future  
8 education, such as kindergarten and grade school. This bill affects preschool-age children as well as their  
9 parents. There will be more jobs created for preschool teacher positions. This bill will also benefit parents  
10 who both work; their child can be at school and getting an education while they are at work.

11  
12 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

13 All school districts will be required to have a preschool program available to all residents of that district.  
14 For districts that do not currently have a preschool program, funding will be provided to pay teachers.  
15 New jobs will be created for teaching positions in the programs if needed.

16 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

17 Many public schools offer free or low-cost preschool programs, but not all school districts offer this. For  
18 these districts, a 2% tax increase will be placed on cigarettes to collect the money needed to make public  
19 preschool available.

20 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

21 There will be no penalties for this bill.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 18**

3 Macy Vincent                      University Labortary School

4 Jaiya Mashariki

5 **TITLE:** Stop Human Sex Traciffking

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Jaiya and I wanted to stop human sex trafficking because there are a lot of people put nto this terrible  
8 situation against their will. People are being raped and sexually abused, assaulted, and harassed. The  
9 amount of people in sex trafficking is unbelievable. Men, children and women are used as sex workers  
10 through people kidnapping them.

11  
12 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

13 f the human sex trafficking bill were to be passed and someone is being accused of human sex trafficking  
14 then there must be evidence before the suspect is arrested. If evidence is found that the suspect is guilty  
15 of being involved with human sex trafficking then he/she must be arrested for the number of years that  
16 they were involved with this crime.

17  
18  
19 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

20 This bill will be funded by the sex offender’s bank account. They will pay for Lawyers, court staff, and  
21 prison. The sex offender should owe the person or people they had sexually used seventy-five dollars a  
22 year.

23  
24 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

25 If a person is involved with human sex trafficking for fifteen years or more, then they should be sentenced  
26 to life in jail. If a person is in human sex traifficking for 15 years or less, then they spend the number of  
27 years in jail they are in human sex traifficking. For example if a person is in human sex traifficking for  
28 thirteen years, then they will be in jail for thirteen yearsor if a person is in human sex traifficking for  
29 seven years, then they will be in jail for seven years.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 19**

3 Lauren Lacy                      Dutchtown High School

4  
5 **TITLE:** Better Funding for Louisiana Sidewalks

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 In recent years many studies have shown that Louisiana has been ranked 5th highest in pedestrian deaths  
8 with an average of 2.26 fatalities per 100,000 people and an average of 2 people killed by cars per day.  
9 That may not sound like a lot but the numbers add up very quickly. According to LA Rev. Stat. I 32:216,  
10 people must use the sidewalk when they're available. It is illegal to walk along the road if/ when there is  
11 sidewalk adjacent. At the moment with the lack of sidewalks throughout Louisiana, following that law is  
12 virtually impossible. More recent data shows that there were 164 pedestrian fatalities (which is about  
13 21.4% of all fatalities in 2018). Sidewalks would be a good investment for many reasons. This bill is  
14 ultimately trying to set aside existing funding for construction of sidewalks in various areas that are  
15 moderately populated while also promoting funding for better sidewalks and sidewalk maintenance.

16  
17 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

18 This bill will be implementing sidewalks in moderately populated areas and in low funded areas while  
19 getting the various construction teams to build the sidewalks where it is observed that they are needed  
20 most.

21  
22 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

23  
24 The Federal Government that has sent Louisiana \$76.2 million in Transportation Funds. The Federal  
25 Government redistributes federal funding from budgeted funds that were not used by other states or  
26 national programs to those states that successfully obligated their full federal highway funding allotment  
27 during the fiscal year. (October 1 through September 30). Funding for sidewalks is currently about 3%  
28 which is \$1.5 million Instead of using all of the funds the bill would set aside \$20 million, and if there is  
29 an excess it will be returned.

30  
31 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

32 There will be no penalties for this bill, as it is only meant to increase existing funding for sidewalks.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 20**

3 Emma Sonnier

Mandeville High School

4 Matthew Truehart

5 **TITLE:** Implement a data tax and fund a Social Media Use Curriculum (SMUC).

6  
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Each day, large technology corporations like Google and Facebook extract unthinkable amounts of data  
9 from our online activities. They use this data to build a model of everything about you - and they will  
10 exploit this model for monetary gain for the rest of your life. They do this by selling large batches of data  
11 to advertisers, who seemingly stalk you at every opportunity with intimate, personal sales pitches. Tech  
12 companies may also be hacked, exposing all of our personal information to hackers to be used for  
13 whatever purpose they deem appropriate. Furthermore, these companies use this data to deliver  
14 personalized content, which can make them extremely addictive - especially to teens. Teenagers spend an  
15 average of 7 hours each day on their phones, particularly social media - and over half of them say they  
16 are "addicted". Teens may also expose extremely personal information or images online - and these will  
17 stay online forever. Studies also show that Social media is increasing teen anxiety and lowering self  
18 esteem. Teens have no idea of the hidden dangers they face online - it's time to fix this. Our state will  
19 institute a data tax - a 2.5% tax on each piece of data a company buys, sells, or transfers online. For  
20 example, if Google sells targeted ads to an advertiser, the data used to target these ads would be taxed  
21 at 2.5% of its value. This incentivizes companies to collect less information, and to move away from  
22 harmful, advertising-based models. Companies will also be required to disclose the information they  
23 collect on their website on a "disclosure of data collection" webpage. The revenue from this data tax shall  
24 be used to create and implement a Social Media Use Program (SMUC) to be taught in school in the seventh  
25 grade, or to be taken for free online at a different point if an individual chooses to.

26  
27 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

28 This bill only applies to companies with a yearly gross income of over \$250,000 from internet-based  
29 activities within Louisiana. A data committee shall be set up by the state House of Representatives,  
30 composed of data professionals, to determine the fair market rate for each type of data. Companies will  
31 be taxed at a 2.5% rate if they choose to buy, sell, or transfer the data. Finally, if a website collects  
32 personal information (as defined by the data committee), they will be required to display a banner stating  
33 "Warning : this website/app collects your information. Learn More". Clicking on "learn more" must bring  
34 the user to the Disclosure of Data Collection page. The Louisiana Department of Education will be tasked  
35 with creating a Social Media education curriculum to be taught in the 7th grade by English teachers, for a  
36 period of 5 consecutive school days. This program should teach students about the dangers of social  
37 media, including loss of private information, illegal activities, cyber-bullying, and time management and  
38 mental health challenges. The curriculum should be revised every 2 years to keep up with the rapidly-  
39 changing online environment.

40 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

1 No funding is necessary for this bill. All revenue from the Data Tax will be used to finance the data  
2 committee and the creation and revision of the SMUC. Then, the remaining funds will be given  
3 proportionally to school districts, by the Louisiana Department of Education, as a block grant with the  
4 condition-of-aid being that they implement the SMUC.

5 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

6 If a company deriving over \$250,000 yearly gross income from online activities within Louisiana does not  
7 pay the required data tax, they shall be held accountable by the Louisiana Department of Revenue. If a  
8 school district is found to be in violation of the condition-of-aid, they shall have the block grant revoked.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 21**

3 Mark Ellis                   Dutchtown High School

4 Mark Ellis

5 **TITLE:** Ban on chokehold

6  
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 The chokehold is a tight grip around a person's neck, used to restrain them by restricting their breathing.  
9 This action is an unnecessary action taken by officers that at times can be avoided, which can save lives.  
10 On May 25, Minneapolis police officers arrested George Floyd, a 46-year-old black man, after a  
11 convenience store employee called 911 and told the police that Mr. Floyd had bought cigarettes with a  
12 counterfeit \$20 bill. Without resisting arrest, George was later on the ground being put in a chokehold for  
13 8 minutes and 48 seconds causing major controversy over police brutality. In Louisiana Armando Frank  
14 passed away after being placed in a chokehold by an officer. After Frank was confused as to why he was  
15 getting arrested, he wasn't attempting to flee, he wasn't assaulting anybody, he was sitting on a tractor  
16 and asking reasonable questions they are refusing to answer. The officers then climbed atop of the  
17 tractor behind Frank and placed him in a chokehold, constricting his airway, while another cop  
18 simultaneously tried pulling Frank down. After a brief struggle, Frank went limp and cops drag his lifeless  
19 body back to their patrol car. These instances are examples of excessive force that could have been  
20 circumvented, social unrest that could have been prevented, and lives that could have been saved. Taking  
21 this power away from officers will hold them accountable to righteously serve justice and restore the  
22 image of security and protection to all when encountering officers. This is a big step in developing a pure  
23 form of policing within Louisiana. This regulation will ban officers from doing chokeholds on individuals  
24 unless they are in genuine danger. Even then this will be the last resort.

25  
26 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

27 This law will be implemented as soon as it is passed. This isn't something requiring money or time so its  
28 implementation will be done speedily.

29 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

30 This ban is totally free requiring no monetary expense.

31  
32 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

33 Non-Complying Officers will face time for assault or, if the victim dies, they will face time for murder.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 22**

3 Taylor Sacco                      Dutchtown High School

4  
5 **TITLE: A Rise in Income Tax Rates for the Wealthy**

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 In 2018, a study by The Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy found that in Louisiana is ranked in  
8 14th place as the most unfair state and local tax systems. Louisiana families with income in the lowest  
9 20% (Less than 17,100\$) are taxed 11.9% of their taxable income. The second 20% (17,100\$-32,500\$) is  
10 taxed 10.7% of their taxable income, the middle 20% (32,500-50,300\$) is taxed about 10%, the fourth  
11 20% (50,300-91,500) is taxed 9.3%, the next 15% (91,500-187,200) is taxed 8.0%, the next 4%  
12 (187,200-473,000) is taxed 7.2%, and the top 1% (473,000) is taxed about 6.2%. This tax system  
13 benefits the wealthy while it results in greater poverty in impoverished areas. In order to combat this, this  
14 bill proposes a rise in income tax that will tax any family or individual that makes more than \$400,000  
15 annually from 3.1% to 6.0%. This would not only bring in more government revenue, but would have  
16 wealthy citizens paying fair rates compared to how much low income families make. This increase has  
17 shown to be effective in Maryland, which raised their income tax to 6.7% on people who make over  
18 300,000 a year, and Minnesota who raised their income tax to 7.6%. Colorado also passed an income tax  
19 rise for people making over \$400,000 yearly in the 2020 election to better fund education.

20 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

21 This bill would go into effect in the 2022 fiscal tax year.

22 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

23 This bill would require no government funds, but instead would result in more funding that will be diverted  
24 to improve public education throughout all of Louisiana, especially in areas such as East Baton Rouge  
25 Parish and Orleans Parish, where some of the lowest ranked schools in the country are located. This  
26 allows for students that live in low income areas to gain better educations, and encourage students to  
27 pursue higher educations and take themselves out of their prior income grouping.

28 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

29 This tax bill would follow the same consequences as tax evasion in Louisiana, with a felony charge and a  
30 fine up to 1,000,000\$ if found guilty.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 23**

3 Anna-Grace Christmas

Mandeville High School

4 Collin Betzer

5 **TITLE:** Restore oil sites to their natural state.

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Louisiana wetlands are shrinking by 75 kilometers each year. Predictions show that by the year 2040 the  
8 wetlands will have lost more than one million acres of coastal wetlands, an area larger than the state of  
9 Rhode Island. The wetlands are a vital part of Louisiana’s economy and wildlife. According to lacoast.gov,  
10 nearly 50,000 Louisiana jobs are tied directly to the wetlands which include residential and commercial  
11 Fisheries. The marshes and wetlands have become such an important part of Louisiana and the people  
12 that reside here, that there should be programs put in place to help save the wetlands and preserve  
13 Louisiana's wildlife. One main reason for the decline of the Louisiana marshes and wetlands is the fossil  
14 fuel industries in the surrounding areas. The oil and gas companies have built thousands of miles of canals  
15 that have been dredged through bayou waters to support oil and industry barges and pipelines. In order  
16 to prevent the destruction of Louisiana’s coastline, there needs to be restrictions and limitations on  
17 coastal pipelines.

18  
19 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

20 The program we wish to establish will help restore our wetlands from coastal erosion. This bill aims to  
21 stop the construction of more pipelines and the fixing of sites that have hurt the wetlands. We want to  
22 implement the prevention of laying more pipelines until oil companies have restored previous sites to their  
23 natural state. We also are ensuring that they restore old pipelines back to safety standards along with the  
24 restoration of these sites. This bill will make oil companies responsible for the restoration of sites.

25  
26  
27 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

28 Oil companies are responsible for restoring all previous sites prior to any new sites being considered. The  
29 money for repairing these sites will fall on the companies. This ensures that the State will not have to pay  
30 for the restoration.

31 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

32 The penalty for oil companies not following the new law will be to fine the companies one million dollars  
33 every day a new unapproved pipeline is found.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 24**

3 Ethan Bunney

Lafayette High School

4 Isaac Kim

5 **TITLE:** TOPS Study Abroad expansion

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Louisiana's college students heavily rely on scholarships offered by the TOPS program to gain the funds  
8 necessary to be able to pay for college. While this program does benefit students to a massive extent, the  
9 potential it brings to Louisiana is quite restricted by Louisiana's lack of educational quality. The diversity  
10 of the Louisiana economy, as well as its stability and the quality of individual services, could be greatly  
11 expanded if the state were to send students to study abroad, for them to gain quality skills from the  
12 institutions of other states or countries, and bring those educated students back to Louisiana. Such is the  
13 example of the Republic of Korea, who used a guest worker program sponsored by the Federal Republic of  
14 Germany in the 1960s to help bring skills to its own economy. Such can be the case with Louisiana, as the  
15 state could rewire certain TOPS fees to send students outside of the state, to bring back valuable  
16 knowledge and skills to diversify and improve the Louisiana economy.

17 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

18 This program will be an extension of the TOPS program. Any student who receives a 27 or higher on their  
19 ACT and holds at least 3.5 GPA throughout their entire highschool career shall be eligible to apply for the  
20 TOPS study abroad program. This program will cover the same expenses that the current TOPS program  
21 does, except that it takes place in another state or country. For a person to study abroad, they must be  
22 proficient in the language they wish to study in.

23 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

24 Funding for this program shall be through the pre-existing TOPS program as this is an expansion to the  
25 aforementioned program. Taxes on Liquor will be raised to 6 percent to help fund the expansion.

26 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

27 If a person decides to leave the state of Louisiana to seek employment elsewhere before the mandatory  
28 four years are up, they shall pay back an amount equal to the cost of their courses that took place in the  
29 TOPS study abroad program. Likewise if the student does not maintain a GPA of 3.0 throughout their time  
30 spent abroad then their funding shall be revoked.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 25**

3 Ben Mathews            Episcopal School of Acadiana

4  
5 **TITLE:** The Good Old Days: Adopting the Guillotine as the Primary form of Capital Punishment

6  
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Capital punishment was put into place as an option to deal with the most heinous of criminals. While a  
9 debate continues to rage on today about the ethicality and irreversible nature of the death penalty,  
10 reforming how capital punishment is performed may be the first step in change the institution as a whole.  
11 The most popular forms of execution in the United States and Louisiana are hangings, electrocution, and  
12 lethal injections, which are the most commonly-used form of capital punishment. The process of a lethal  
13 injection involves a period of mental preparation for the condemned, including spiritual counseling and  
14 visitation from friends and family. In the process, the convicted criminal is strapped to a gurney and has  
15 various intravenous tubing strapped to his or her body, all administering different drugs. In most cases  
16 there is an anesthetic and a subsequent paralyzing agent, which is then followed by a toxic agent.  
17 Contemporary sociologists and ethicists herald this form of punishment as supposedly “fairly humane.”  
18 However, there is always the possibility that the anesthetic is administered improperly and the condemned  
19 prisoner’s lungs are paralyzed while the patient is still awake. On average, 7.1% of lethal injection  
20 executions are not administered properly to prisoners, leading to immense pain caused by toxin-induced  
21 stimuli that can last up to 30 minutes or even an hour before death. This number, when tabulated to  
22 include executions in the past century, results in hundreds of prisoners across the United States and  
23 dozens just within Louisiana. For a method deemed so “humane,” lethal injections are remarkably  
24 antiquated and lack the proper precision needed to carry out capital punishment. To fix this problem, one  
25 must turn to the French Revolution. Ever since its conception during the French Revolution, the guillotine  
26 has proved to be a staple in capital punishment, especially in the Francophone world (until many of these  
27 countries gained enough popular support against capital punishment). During the French Revolution, many  
28 enemies of the state were subject to having someone hoist a heavy blade above their neck using an  
29 apparatus to let it drop. This became known as the guillotine. Therefore, guillotines provide a cost-  
30 effective solution to the death penalty, a policy that has yet to be abolished within the state of Louisiana  
31 and does not currently have the favorable public and legislative support to be enacted. Each year, the  
32 state of Louisiana spends an extra \$15 million on maintaining the capital punishment program, most of  
33 which covers the cost of lethal injections. Why must the state of Louisiana continue to maintain this  
34 infrastructure when it is not being used? Louisiana has not executed an inmate since 2010. By  
35 implementing guillotine use, the state of Louisiana can save hundreds of thousands of dollars paid to  
36 acquire standby toxin fluids, anesthetics, aestheticians, and proper syringe equipment, opting to instead  
37 replace them with a mechanism that works with just a handful of simple Newtonian mechanics, a  
38 mechanism that can last decades to come regardless of how frequently it is used.

39  
40 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

1 Firstly, the Guillotine Supreme will be constructed, possibly improving on the design used during the  
2 French Revolution. A legislative committee will consult any modifications necessary to update the  
3 guillotine from its original 1793 design. Secondly, executioners will be trained to use the guillotine as  
4 opposed to lethal injection. Then, the Guillotine Supreme will be moved into death row facilities. Finally,  
5 there will be inspectors to ensure that there are no errors in the designs of the apparatuses. In total, one  
6 well-maintained guillotine will suffice for the entire state's capital punishment needs. All lethal injection  
7 logistics will be phased out within three months of this bill's passing.

### 8 9 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

10 There will be designated projects designed toward constructing one Guillotine Supreme (\$1,200 total  
11 cost). This negligible additional cost will be covered by the state corrections budget. The cost of  
12 inspectors and maintenance is already covered under Louisiana's General Corrections Budget.

### 13 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

14 The operation of the current capital punishment system is controlled by the state and its mandate on the  
15 prison system. Thus, there shall be no internal penalties encumbered on the state itself.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 26**

3 Anna Skerrett

Lafayette High School

4  
5 **TITLE:** End Workplace Discrimination Against Those Who Have Had An Abortion

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 No one should be discriminated against for having an abortion. Federal law already protects physicians  
8 and health care providers who have performed or support abortions from discrimination. This bill protects  
9 the people who have had an abortion, are considering abortion, or support the choice to have an abortion  
10 from being discriminated against in both the hiring process and all areas of the workplace.

11 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

12 The bill will be enacted January 1st, 2021. This bill will make any discrimination against a co-worker,  
13 employee, or applicant based on them having an abortion, considering abortion, or supporting the choice  
14 to have an abortion unlawful.

15 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

16 No funding is required.

17 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

18 Any worker using an abortion, the consideration of abortion, or supporting the choice to have an abortion  
19 as a reason to discriminate against a co-worker, employee, or applicant will be fined 6,500 dollars. If they  
20 are employed by the state or a parish, their employment will be terminated in addition to the fine.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 27**

3 Paul Yeon Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies

4  
5 **TITLE:** Predictability, modernity, sensibility

6  
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 The Louisiana tax system is a mess, both for private individuals and for corporations. Private individuals  
9 and corporations are subject to an unusual amount of punitive taxes that change with their decisions in  
10 employment. Given the current fluctuating state of employment in Louisiana, this becomes very  
11 problematic. In addition, a complex web of deductions and credits make business growth very difficult as  
12 well, because it makes the market unpredictable to navigate and necessitates a lot of red tape in the  
13 implementation of corporate changes. And because deductions and credits decrease revenue, the  
14 government often has to increase tax rates to amounts that are unreasonably high, ranking third in the  
15 nation. Such high taxes are extremely unattractive to both individuals and corporations.

16  
17 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

18 Starting from midnight, August 1, 2021, a large, pre-selected list (chosen by trained economists from the  
19 Department of Labor) of tax deductions and credits for corporations and individuals are to be rendered  
20 defunct. This includes corporations of all types, sizes, and sectors of the economy. Removed deductions  
21 and credits should constitute at least 60 percent of the previously exempted revenues. At the same time,  
22 income and sales tax rates are to be lowered tremendously in order to counteract the increases caused by  
23 removing deductions and credits, optimized and calculated beforehand to result in as little change in  
24 yearly revenue as possible. By thus removing deductions but lowering general taxes, this will make the  
25 market much more predictable for corporations, and make Louisiana more attractive for people,  
26 investment, and market competition. Additionally, punitive employment taxes are to all be temporarily  
27 removed until a selected board of economists can state that the economy is no longer in a state of  
28 dangerous flux.

29  
30 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

31 No additional funding is required for this bill, as it is only a change in policy. The specific calculations and  
32 economists will come from the US Department of Labor, which employs economists already, paid in wages  
33 by the federal government.

34  
35 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

36 No new penalties are required for this bill. Any transgressions and subversions of this system by  
37 corporations and individuals should be treated the same as before.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 28**

3 Paresh Kolluru

Lafayette High School

4 Roma Kolluru

5 **TITLE:** Remove all mandates that require a mesh or clear backpack for use in a public educational  
6 institution.

7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Many schools around the state currently require mesh or clear backpacks. The purpose? To reduce the  
9 chance of a firearm, or other illegal objects or substances, from being brought on campus. However, these  
10 mesh backpacks represent an empty promise to the American people. During these difficult times, parents  
11 are having to go out of their way to purchase bags that their children can only use specifically for school,  
12 as mesh backpacks are deemed inefficient in almost every other situation. Mesh or clear backpacks  
13 perpetuate the fear of violence in school, leading to a more apprehensive generation of educated youth. A  
14 firearm is just as easily hidden in a mesh or clear bag, or a solid duffel bag. Also, mesh backpacks cause  
15 tremendous difficulties to students, as the rainy climate in Louisiana does not, ironically, mesh well with  
16 mesh backpacks. Their inability to cause any real shift in the occurrence of violence within schools and  
17 their incompatibility with the southern climate renders them utterly impractical.

18  
19 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

20 This bill asks for a removal of any mandate on the use of a clear or mesh backpack for school. This  
21 legislation will be enacted at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year. The Louisiana Department of  
22 Education will work together with all school districts to implement this order. Furthermore, all laws or  
23 parts of laws in conflict are hereby repealed.

24 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

25 No funding is required.

26  
27 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

28 Failure to comply with this legislation will result in a severe reduction in funds for elective (or non-core)  
29 classes. Repeated failure to comply will be followed with a mandate disallowing any extracurricular  
30 activities at that school.

# LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020



## HOUSE BILL 29

Ali Munshi                      Episcopal School of Acadiana

**TITLE:** To Further Incentivize the Use of Clean Energy Transportation

### **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

Over the last few years, there has amassed a substantial amount of scientific evidence regarding the unprecedented harm posed by global climate change. If not curtailed, this rapidly intensifying process will likely lead to a substantial spike in global air temperatures, a consistent rise in global sea levels, and a widespread shift in weather patterns. Droughts, heat waves, and tropical storms will become more frequent and destructive. Global humidity and rainfall levels will increase dramatically, and coastal erosion and wetland subsidence will only accelerate further. Particularly in Louisiana – where the average coastal erosion rate over the past few decades has been nearly one-football-field-sized area of land lost every thirty minutes – the rapidly changing climate will additionally have major implications on the state’s economy and industry, and will likely result in reduced crop yields and fishery production. The ramifications of global climate change aside, a major factor in its acceleration has without a doubt been the emission of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other greenhouse gases by gasoline-powered transportation. To prevent this emission from further contributing to the progression of global climate change, this bill proposes a mandate on government-funded electric-charging stations built in areas of high traffic in Louisiana’s major cities, as well as a minor tax on gasoline. On average, a typical gasoline-powered car will emit nearly 5 tons of carbon dioxide annually, compared to the mere 2.4 tons emitted during electricity production for electric vehicles – less than half of that produced by gasoline-powered cars. There are also economic benefits to using electric vehicles over gas-powered ones: the average electric car driver will spend just \$3 on electricity every 100 miles, compared to the whopping \$11 spent on gasoline by the average gas car driver over the same distance. Clearly, the transition to electric cars not only offers great environmental benefits but also has an economic upside.

### **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

The number of charging stations in each parish will primarily be determined by population. Parishes with a population of at least 100,000 will be guaranteed at least one charging station, while all others will decide for themselves. The location of each station will be determined by a council of selected citizens from each parish and passed by a 3/4 vote before being submitted to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality by January 1, 2020 for assessment and planning. This department, along with the Army Corps of Engineers, will oversee construction and management. In the event that a parish council has not submitted a list of locations by the specified deadline, the department will choose a set of locations based on traffic and population data. Additionally, all parish councils will need to provide a monthly data report and would be required to submit to a yearly inspection by a department-instated inspection team to ensure the proper management and care of their stations, provided by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.

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**SECTION III: FUNDING**

To fund construction, this bill will require an increase in the state gas tax by \$0.0025 from \$0.20, which will equate to roughly six million dollars in increased revenue. That excess money will go to fund the construction and powering of new charging stations. Each station will have 4 Level 2 and 3 EV charging ports that cost anywhere from \$8,000 to \$12,000 to install and maintain, translating to a cost range of about \$32,000 to \$48,000 for each station, adjusted with inflation. This will allow for the construction of about 125 charging stations, which will leave roughly a million dollars in the budget that can go towards maintenance and supply costs. For the first three months, the station prices will be roughly 5% greater than the price of the electricity being used, so as to allow for better initial management and expansion.

**SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

Participation in this program is not mandatory, and therefore entails no punishments or fines if a parish decides not to participate.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 30**

3 Caroline Campbell                      St. Joseph's Academy

4 Avery Watson

5 **TITLE:** Instituting a Background Check on All Firearm Sales

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 This bill would extend background checks to private sales between individuals, including sales at gun  
8 shows. Under current law, Louisiana does not require background checks on firearm sales beyond what  
9 federal laws demand. Under federal law, those who purchase firearms from a licensed gun dealer must  
10 have a background check before the sale. Initial background checks are not required by private sellers.  
11 Nearly 40 percent of all states and the District of Columbia require background checks for some or all  
12 private firearm sales. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Louisiana ranks  
13 5th in the nation's gun related deaths. This number is too high, and needs to come down, so insuring a  
14 background check on all sales would keep guns out of harmful people.

15 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

16 Before any person who is not a licensed gun dealer transfers their firearm to another person, he or she  
17 shall:

- 18 1.     Require a background check be conducted on the buyer
- 19 2.     Obtain approval of the transfer from the state after the background check.

20  
21 The background check will be performed by the NCIS. The background check must be done at the location  
22 of a licensed gun dealer. The seller and the buyer must perform the sale at the gun dealer's location. The  
23 gun dealer will HAVE to submit the information for the background check. If the state approves the  
24 transfer, then the approval is valid for thirty days. The seller and buyer must complete the transfer during  
25 this time.

26  
27  
28 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

29 The licensed gun dealer may charge a fee for the services included during the background check. The  
30 background check shall not cost more than \$25. This fee cannot be more than \$15.

31 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

32 Any person who is found in violation of this law therefore commits a misdemeanor and shall be punished  
33 with a fine of no more than \$500 or 6 months in jail. The person will also be prohibited from possessing a  
34 firearm for two years beginning the day they committed the crime.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 31**

3 Madeline Cannon                      St. Joseph's Acaademy

4 Erin Sullivan

5 **TITLE:** Add More Mental Health Facilities in Low-income Communities

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Mental disorders affect 1 in 4 people or about 82 million in the U.S., and nearly 2/3 of people with a  
8 known mental disorder never seek help from a professional. T Louisiana has the 6th highest crime rate in  
9 the nation. . The mental health facilities established by this bill would provide easier access for those who  
10 cannot afford to travel far for mental health treatment. If treatment is offered for common mental  
11 illnesses, then people will be less likely to commit crimes, thus lowering the crime rate. Louisiana's  
12 imprisonment rate is the highest in the country at 942 out of every 100,000, and our bill would lower this  
13 number. Suicide is the third leading cause of death in young people aged 10 to 24. Common mental  
14 disorders are twice as frequent among the poor as among the rich because poverty increases risk of  
15 mental illness and mental illness increasing chances of going into poverty. Only 2% of nation health  
16 budgets is dedicated to mental health which is not nearly enough. If this bill is implemented, the crime rate  
17 will decrease, and receiving mental health help will be normalized.

18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 This bill will add more behavioral health clinics in low-income areas to help those in need. Our bill plans to  
20 build 30 new clinics in low income areas around Louisiana because low income areas are statistically more  
21 likely to be affected by crime than high income Those areas include people who earn less than an average  
22 of \$46,000 for a four people family a year. A behavioral health clinic is like urgent care but for mental  
23 health. The clinics will offer services such as screening and assessment, emergency crisis care, evaluation  
24 and treatment, medication management, specialized services for children and teenagers, and specialized  
25 criminal justice services. The clinics will offer 18.6% of Louisiana citizens, 8% higher than the national  
26 average of 10.5%, live in poverty, and ¼ of children in Louisiana are living in poverty. This bill will build 1  
27 Mental health facilities for every 150,000 people.. Each facility would be staffed with 2 Administrators, 2  
28 Physicians, and 3 support staff. Total operating cost for each facility would be 1 million dollars annually.

29 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

30 This will cost about \$250,000 per facility, for a total startup cost of \$7.5 million The money needed for  
31 this will come from a HHS grant. We will need about 32 million dollars. This will provide the specific  
32 funding for the community to provide mental health facilities for the residents.

33 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

34 There will be no penalties for those not interested in attending our clinics. They are voluntary for anyone.

# LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020



## HOUSE BILL 32

Moria Gauthier

St. Joseph's Academy

Aubrey Deyo

**TITLE:** Enforcing mandatory "safe spaces" for students at public universities and colleges in Louisiana

### **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

"Safe spaces" on college campuses, are classrooms that are designed as academic safe spaces, which means that students are encouraged to engage in discussions about topics that are generally uncomfortable. Another form of a "safe space" is a group on campus that provides respect and emotional security for at-risk students. Some public universities and colleges already have a form of a "safe space" for their students – however these spaces fail to address topics such as mental health and stability, racial tolerance, sexual assault, and abuse. More than 60% of American youth, ages 17 and younger have been exposed to crime, violence, and abuse – either directly or indirectly, which leads to one in five teens ages 12 through 18 to have at least one mental disorder. These disorders can cause extreme impact on a person's daily life, physical health and academic performance. The purpose of this bill is to enforce the creation of "safe spaces" for students attending public universities and colleges in the state of Louisiana. Safe spaces often encourage students to band together when it comes to topics that they or someone they know have experienced, such as sexual assault, abuse, mental disorders, and eating disorders. If students talk about topics that are normally seen as taboo, it could lower the rates of suicide and the rates of attempted suicide. The suicide rate in Louisiana is 15.26% per every 100,000 people – which is above the national rate of 13.16% per every 100,000 people. With the creation of safe spaces on college and university campuses, students will be encouraged to talk about their feelings and potentially end any thoughts about committing suicide. If this is implemented, the rate of suicide and suicide attempts will decrease, and the discussion of abuse and mental health will be normalized.

### **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

The current number of public colleges and universities that have "safe spaces" on their campuses is extremely low and because of this the number of students addressing their struggles with mental health and thoughts of suicide is low. However, some public universities do have "safe spaces", such as Louisiana State University (LSU) and Southeastern Louisiana University (SLU); and while some is better than none, more public colleges/universities need environments where their students can address serious and "taboo" topics. This bill would enforce the creation of a "safe space" per every 10,000 students enrolled at a public college and/or university. This would cost about \$13,000 per facility, for a total startup cost of \$208,000. Each "safe space" would be staffed with 6 Administrators, 4 Physicians, 5 Psychologists, 6 Therapists, and 9 support staff – including receptionists, nurses, janitors, and assistants to the therapists and psychologists. Total operating cost for each "safe space" would be \$430,000 annually. The operating cost would cover maintaining the facilities, paying the staff, and paying for any needed equipment.

### **SECTION III: FUNDING**

The funding for this bill will come from a tax on liquor of \$0.80 a liter. This will raise 30 million dollars a year. This is based on the increase in 2016 that raised 210 dollars a year based on a \$0.06 increase. The increase of liquor tax to \$2.50 a gallon is well below the national average of \$13.50 a gallon. This will

1 provide the proper funding for public universities and colleges to create at least one "safe space" for its  
2 students.

3 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

4 The penalty for a public university/college not creating at least one safe space on their campus will be a  
5 loss of funding in their athletic courses and programs. The funding towards these athletic courses and  
6 programs will return when the creation of at least one "safe space" occurs on the campus of said  
7 university and/or college or when there is a plan for there to be a "safe space" on the campus.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 33**

3 Havilland Forbes

St. Joseph's Academy

4  
5 **TITLE:** An End to State Sanctioned Child Abuse

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Louisiana Revised Statute Title 17 Section 416.1 defines corporal punishment as “using physical force to  
8 discipline a student, with or without an object.” Furthermore, corporal punishment includes “hitting,  
9 paddling, striking, spanking, slapping, or any other physical force that causes pain or physical discomfort.”  
10 Each district has the authority to enforce corporal punishment and must implement rules and regulations  
11 where physical force is deemed necessary. In 2017, the Louisiana School Board Association reported that  
12 38 out of 69 school districts allowed corporal punishment. Corporal punishment especially puts minority  
13 students at risk. Black children are 28% more likely to receive corporal punishment in school than white  
14 children. Furthermore, male students are 5 times more likely to be subjected to corporal punishment than  
15 female students. 1,633 public school students in Louisiana received corporal punishment since 2011.  
16 Physically punishing children in school has never produced beneficial results such as improvement of self-  
17 control in the classroom, behavior skills, and respect for teachers. In fact, corporal punishment in schools  
18 contribute to disruptive and violent student behavior. Children become victims in the classroom, and it  
19 creates an inadequate sense of confidence and security. Frequent use of corporal punishment in school  
20 increases the risk of substance abuse, depression, stress, and anxiety. This type of “discipline” creates an  
21 unsafe and violent school environment. Children who experience corporal punishment in school are more  
22 likely to use violence toward others to get their way, which puts other children at risk for increased  
23 bullying and physical abuse. Corporal punishment in schools further continues a cycle of similar  
24 punishment that a child may have already experienced in the home, leading to increased aggressiveness in  
25 the child. Resorting to corporal punishment in school results is the opposite of the objective.  
26

27 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

28 This bill will ban the use of corporal punishment in all public and charter schools. If passed, this bill will  
29 immediately go into effect.

30 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

31 There is no funding necessary for this bill.

32 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

33 Teachers who are found punishing their students with corporal punishment will permanently lose their  
34 teaching license in the state of Louisiana. The legal guardian(s) of the child who experienced corporal  
35 punishment will have the opportunity to press charges against the teacher and the school.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 34**

3 Susanne Robinson St. Joseph's Academy

4 Anna Cooper

5 **TITLE:** Instituting Mandatory Examination Before Enrollment into Kindergarten

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Louisiana is currently ranked 49th in the nation for its average IQ score. Being more selective of the  
8 knowledge needed to enroll in and attend kindergarten will ensure greater early learning skills of those in  
9 kindergarten, greater potential for growth throughout their years of schooling, and a higher IQ as a result  
10 of greater knowledge developed before kindergarten. Children who started kindergarten at an older age  
11 with more knowledge acquired before entering school were 2.1 percent more likely to attend college and  
12 3.3 percent more likely to graduate from college.

13 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

14 For a child at least five years of age to be able to attend kindergarten, he or she shall take a mandatory  
15 entrance examination consisting of basic, early-learning knowledge acquired from one to two years of  
16 preschool, attendance at an early learning center, or parents or guardians at home. The entrance  
17 examinations will be held at the elementary schools and will be proctored by kindergarten teachers at  
18 their respective schools. The exam will consist of various questions ranging from the alphabet to colors  
19 and numbers to test the basic understanding of rudimentary information and concepts of each child. The  
20 exam must be created and approved by the Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education  
21 (BESE).

22 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

23 Parents of each child planning on attending a state-funded kindergarten shall pay a fee of fifty dollars to  
24 go towards the creation of the test and to allow for the additional costs of the test: teachers' salary,  
25 exam materials, and location costs.

26 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

27 Once the register date to take the exam is passed, no child will be able to take the exam until the next  
28 date is made. Furthermore, if said child's parents fail to pay the necessary fees, the child will not be  
29 allowed to take the exam and will have to reschedule. Any child who fails to pass the examination will be  
30 required to take it at a later date before he or she may be enrolled into kindergarten.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 35**

3 Kate Stockstill

St. Joseph's Academy

4 Izzy Record

5 **TITLE:** Ban the Ability of Minors to Receive a Sentence of Solitary Confinement

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 On any given day, over 48,000 youth in the United States are confined in facilities away from home as a  
8 result of juvenile justice or criminal justice involvement. They spend 22 or more hours a day alone usually  
9 in a small cell behind solid steel doors. This time spent alone has a huge effect on the mental health of all  
10 prisoners because the conditions of solitary confinement can induce symptoms of mental illness or  
11 provoke outbursts. Some symptoms include depression, hallucinations, anxiety attacks, obsessive thinking,  
12 paranoia, and anger in youthful offenders. Solitary confinement can be especially harmful for minors  
13 because their minds are young and still developing. Studies show that prisoners held for lengthy periods  
14 of time in solitary confinement reported nearly twice the number of symptoms of stress and trauma  
15 compared with the general prisoner population. In 2016, Louisiana's number of solitary confinement cells  
16 were almost four times the national average. If this bill is implemented, juveniles' mental health while in  
17 prisoner will remain intact.

18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 Proposed law provides that no prisoner at any penal or correctional institution or jail who is under the  
20 age of 18 excluding those who suffer from a serious mental illness which contributes or cause the  
21 prisoner to dangerous to self or others, or interferes seriously with the prisoner's ability to function  
22 adequately shall not be placed solitary confinement. Proposed law also provides that solitary confinement  
23 cells shall be made into two person cells by the adding bunkbeds to the preexisting cells.

24 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

25 The funding for the bunkbeds will come out of donations. Any extra bunkbeds that were already at the  
26 facility should be given to the solitary confinement cells.

27 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

28 Any jailer who violates a provision of this law commits a misdemeanor and shall be fined \$300 per day  
29 that the juvenile was held in solitary confinement. In addition, if this jailer commits this offense 3 or more  
30 times they shall lose the ability to house juveniles for a calendar year and shall also pay another facility  
31 the cost of housing those juveniles.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 36**

3 Emma Bonney

Saint Joseph Academy

4  
5 **TITLE:** Lowering the Legal Drinking Age to 18

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 This bill is lowering the legal drinking age from 21 to 18. Lowering the legal drinking age to 18 will lower  
8 the use of fake IDs and lessen the amount of 18-20 year old's who heavily drink resulting in unresolved  
9 health issues because they refuse to go to the hospital. If 18 year old's are responsible enough to vote  
10 for the leader of the country and go to war for the country, then they are responsible enough to drink  
11 alcoholic beverages.

12 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

13 The law that states the legal drinking age is 21 is being changed. The current restrictions for people age  
14 21 and up will stay the same for people age 18 and up. It is not necessary for any jobs to be added or  
15 taken away because of this bill.

16 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

17 There is no funding for this bill.

18 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

19 The penalties for drinking under the age of 18 will be the same as it was for people under the age of 21  
20 previously. The current law states, "It is against the law in Louisiana for any person under the age of 21  
21 to publicly possess or purchase any type of alcoholic beverage. Anyone who violates this law will be  
22 penalized as follows: You will be fined not more than \$100 and/or. You may be sentenced to not more  
23 than 6 months in jail." The only changes to this law is that it now only applies to be people under the age  
24 of 18.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 37**

3 Abigail Kukura

St. Joseph's Academy

4  
5 **TITLE:** Improving Angola Prison's Medical Care

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Angola prison is Louisiana's state penitentiary. It has earned nicknames such as "Alcatraz of the South"  
8 and "The Bloodiest Prison in America". Angola's healthcare is abysmal; the prisoners do not receive the  
9 care they need. Many prisoners are living out life sentences in Angola, so they are more susceptible to  
10 illness due to their age. The average age of the inmates is just over 40. Angola currently has three  
11 practicing physicians and one nurse practitioner per 1,600 inmates. An example of these poor conditions  
12 would be when one prisoner needed a lifesaving surgery; the surgery was successful, but it left wounds  
13 that took over a year to heal and left ugly scars behind. Many prisoners work in the fields where they  
14 grow their own food. In Louisiana's usual heat, prisoners are subject to heatstroke and exhaustion. These  
15 ailments often go undertreated and worsen overtime as a direct result. Many of the doctors have been  
16 described as underqualified, and prisoners have been punished for asking for medical help. In the Lewis v.  
17 Cain lawsuit, many medical horror stories came to light including: a man was not allowed medical help four  
18 times during a stroke which left him blind and paralyzed, and a blind man was not allowed a cane for 16  
19 years.

20 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

21 This bill will double the number of practitioners and nurses per 1,600 inmates to six practitioners and two  
22 nurses per 1,600 inmates. Inmates will be given a quality of healthcare that reflects their actions. In order  
23 to de-incentivize committing crimes for free healthcare, the inmates will need to work for their healthcare.  
24 If an inmate does his work, does not get in trouble, and follows rules, they will receive first priority. If  
25 they get into fights, refuse to do work, and do not follow rules, they will not receive first priority. This will  
26 both increase the behavior of the inmates as well as improving their healthcare.

27 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

28 To fund the new healthcare system, a 0.05% tax will be placed on every tobacco product sold which will  
29 be about a \$0.25 price raise. This will also discourage people to use tobacco products. The money will go  
30 to the new physicians and nurse's salary. The remainder of the money will go to medical products. The  
31 physicians will decide how the money will be spent on medical products.

32 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

33 If it is found that medical professionals have gone against this bill, their medical license will be suspended  
34 with quarter pay because it would be against the statement of to "do no harm".

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 38**

3 Aubrey Turner St. Joseph's Academy

4 Jemma Wood

5 **TITLE:** Reduce Taxes on Produce

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Currently, Louisiana is ranked 6th in the country for obesity rates and 2nd for poverty rates. Eating  
8 unhealthy processed foods rather than produce is the root of the issue for a large percentage of people,  
9 especially those in poverty who cannot afford to feed their families healthy meals and must opt for  
10 unhealthy alternatives in order to keep afloat financially. There are an estimated 1.7 million obese people  
11 in Louisiana, this means that these people have an excessive amount of body fat. There are nearly  
12 900,000 people living in poverty in Louisiana, meaning that these people do not have the financial means  
13 to afford healthy goods. 27 studies in 10 countries have found it costs about \$1.50 more to eat healthier  
14 than unhealthy meals, which can add up especially for larger families. Reducing the prices an individual  
15 would have to pay for produce could allow for people to make better and healthier choices. Making  
16 produce more accessible allows for those with lower incomes to be able to save the extra money for other  
17 livelihood needs, to be able to transition out of poverty. In addition, this new increased demand for  
18 produce will directly benefit the produce farmers in Louisiana. The success of these farmers and the sales  
19 of produce will positively affect the economy because of the agriculture industry's annual 13-billion-dollar  
20 impact on Louisiana. In the US, the amount of least well-off farm households is at 14%, or 300,000 of the  
21 2.1 million farm households. Lowering the prices of produce could potentially help fix the large-scale issue  
22 of obesity and poverty in Louisiana.

25 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

26 If passed, all establishments selling produce in Louisiana will be required to reduce state taxes on produce  
27 by 50%.

28 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

29 To restore funds from the tax reduction of produce, the tax on vapor products will be raised by 3%. With  
30 the projected increase of vapor product users from 41 million to 55 million by 2021, the sales of products  
31 will create enough excise taxes.

33 After 2 years a decision will be made based on the benefits or lack thereof. The act will either be  
34 continued or revoked based on the collected data. If continued the act will be in effect for another 5  
35 years. If continued once more the act will be permanent.

38 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

39 Failure to comply with this act will result in punishment determined by number of offenses. One offense  
40 will result in a fine of 2000 dollars, a second offense will result in a fine of 5000 dollars, and a third  
41 offense results in the closing of the store for 2 months or until compliance with the act.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 39**

3 Sarah Thomas

Baton Rouge Magnet High School

4  
5 **TITLE:** Provide Equal Representation to All Schools

6  
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Currently in Louisiana funding for school renovation and resources is decided solely using the votes of  
9 citizens. This results in unfair distribution of funds. The citizens who vote on these bills are not a fair  
10 representation of the students and parents in each parish because of variables like the availability of  
11 information and whether citizens can vote at the set time. Moreover, the disadvantaged schools are more  
12 likely to be affected by these issues, due to parents with long, inflexible work hours and fewer  
13 opportunities to be involved in their childrens' education and gather information. This means the schools  
14 in the areas with a history of poverty do not get the representation they deserve and continue to suffer.

15  
16 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

17 This bill will be enacted after all funds are raised. The Louisiana Department of Education will create a new  
18 board to oversee the allocation of funds for the renovation of schools, which would be comprised of: one  
19 representative per school in the system along with a panel of experts. These experts will be people such  
20 as engineers with the knowledge to accurately assess things such as the state of a school and the  
21 possibility for harm towards students and staff. Schools seeking funds for new materials and renovation  
22 will be able to make a pitch to the board 2-5 months prior to voting. The representatives from each  
23 school will then objectively decide on the necessity of funds to this school and rate it using a numerical  
24 value out of 25, with 25 being the most pressing. The experts will give the school a rating out of 50  
25 based on their observations. Further, citizens' votes will comprise the final 25 points, with 25 being given  
26 to the school with the most votes. These will be compiled to give the school a rating out of 100 that will  
27 be weighed against other contenders for money. Funds will be distributed from highest score to lowest.

28  
29 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

30 To fund this bill the board of education will set aside any possible funds for one year. While doing this the  
31 board of education will apply for a federal grant. If this request is denied or does not cover all necessary  
32 funds, a 1-5% increase in taxpayer dollars will be put into place until funds are raised.

33  
34 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

35 Misadministration of funds will lead to dismissal, and a 500- \$1000 fine depending on the severity.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 40**

3 Jacob LeBlanc

Lafayette High School

4 Jacob LeBlanc

5 **TITLE:** Establish Ranked Choice Voting in Louisiana elections

6  
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 In the United States, most people are familiar with the first-past-the-post voting system. Each voter  
9 chooses one candidate, and runoff elections are done as necessary. This system is used nationwide, with  
10 the exception of some states and cities. Despite its popularity, first-past-the-post voting has a major  
11 flaw: many citizens are forced to vote against their favorite candidate in favor of one who has a better  
12 chance of being elected. As a result, third party candidates have no chance against the two dominant  
13 parties. Ranked choice voting, in many ways, is a solution. It is a system that allows voters to honestly  
14 pick their favorite candidates without harming someone that they would settle for. This system would  
15 eliminate the need for runoff elections and would save money and time for voters and poll workers.

16  
17 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

18 In this new system, voters would be asked to rank their votes in order of preference. If a clear winner  
19 (>50%) is not chosen, the least popular candidate is eliminated and their votes are redistributed to the  
20 second choice candidates. This process continues until a clear winner is chosen.

21  
22 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

23 No additional funding would be needed.

24  
25 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

26 No penalties are necessary.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 41**

3 Harper Miller                      St. Joseph's Academy

4  
5 **TITLE:** Eliminating Standardized test scores for students with Intellectual Disabilities

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 It will not be mandatory for students with Intellectual Disabilities to take Standardized tests such as  
8 exams or ACT Aspire tests. ACT Aspire tests are taken in middle school and are not counted towards any  
9 grade. An Intellectual Disability is a diagnosis given when an individual has problems functioning in  
10 everyday life. A standardized test is already hard and stressful on a student without intellectual  
11 disabilities, so imagine how a child with a disability feels while taking the test. The student will learn, but  
12 it will take them longer than it would take the normal child. There will be some things the child will not be  
13 able to learn. The Standardized tests will not measure the child's growth in knowledge because it is not  
14 appropriate for the child. Children with intellectual disabilities are at a higher risk of dropping out of  
15 school and taking the standardized tests and having emotional distress can lead a child to drop out. The  
16 average IQ score for a student without Intellectual Disabilities is between 90-110, while a student with  
17 Intellectual Disabilities is between 70-75. Children with milder Intellectual Disabilities can gain some  
18 independent skills, especially in communities with good teaching and support. An individual with  
19 Intellectual Disabilities may have problems with speaking, reading, or taking care of themselves. Down  
20 Syndrome and Fragile X Syndrome are two of the most common Intellectual Disabilities.

21 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

22 The students with Intellectual Disabilities will not be forced to take the Standardized Tests such as exams  
23 or ACT Aspire tests. If students with Intellectual Disabilities choose to take a standardized test, it will not  
24 count towards the total score for their school. If a student is unable to make the decision of whether or  
25 not to take the Standardized test, then the parent or legal guardian of the child will make the final  
26 decision as per usual.

27 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

28 There is no funding necessary for this bill

29 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

30 Any judge or school who violates a provision of this law commits a misdemeanor and shall be punished in  
31 accordance with a probation of no more than two months. The judge shall also lose the ability to oversee  
32 a minor's case for at least four months. The school will be forced to pay a fine of \$500 per student if they  
33 do not follow this rule.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 42**

3 Brinley Pethe Haynes Academy

4 Kavia Mallik

5 **TITLE:** Reform No-Knock Warrants

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Currently in Louisiana, the use of no-knock warrants by police is legal. These are judge-issued warrants  
8 that permit law enforcement to enter a property without first notifying those who live there. The use of  
9 these warrants gained traction during the country's war on drugs under the Nixon and Reagan  
10 administrations.

11 Proponents of no-knock warrants say that they protect law enforcement by utilizing the element of  
12 surprise and preventing potentially dangerous people from having time to react. However, between 2010  
13 and 2016, at least 107 people nationwide died as a result of no-knock/quick knock raids, 13 of them  
14 being officers. Experts say that surprise entries like these actually increase the risk of danger, considering  
15 that (1) a "fight-or-flight" response may be provoked in whoever's property is being raided, and (2) about  
16 42% of Americans live in a household with a gun, according to a 2019 Pew Research Center survey.  
17 Furthermore, although no-knock raids are supposed to occur only in extremely dangerous circumstances,  
18 it is estimated that 20,000 take place every year nationwide. An ACLU report studied 800 no-knock/quick  
19 knock raids in 2014, and sixty-two percent were drug raids. Law enforcement found drugs in 35% of  
20 these raids, nothing in 36%, and did not specify in 29%. Even if officers were to find drugs in every  
21 property they search, considering the deaths that have resulted from no-knock raids in the past and the  
22 risk that comes with them, the use of no-knock warrants in their current state seems to be more  
23 dangerous than beneficial.

24  
25 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

26 If passed, this bill would be implemented immediately. Officers wishing to execute a warrant would be  
27 required to properly identify themselves, as well as clearly state the purpose of their search. Officers  
28 would have to read and leave a copy of the issued warrant. If the person to be searched is not home, the  
29 officer would come back at a later time.

30  
31  
32 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

33 No funding is required for this bill.

34 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

35 If the officer refuses to identify themselves and state the purpose of the warrant, he or she will receive a  
36 75-day suspension. If this is the officer's third offense, his or her job will be terminated. If an officer  
37 conducts a raid that results in the death of a resident of the searched property, his or her job will also be  
38 terminated.

39

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 43**

3 Maria Hargrave St. Joseph's Academy

4 Grace Dube

5 **TITLE:** Build sidewalks in low income areas

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Louisiana has the second highest pedestrian fatalities rate in the USA. In pedestrian safety, Baton Rouge  
8 ranks within the top 20 of worst metropolitan areas in the nation. Some residents in low-income areas  
9 cannot afford their own vehicle or the money to repair it. These areas are significantly more at risk for  
10 pedestrian fatalities. As stated by the vice president of policy and advocacy for CPEX, a Louisianan  
11 planning nonprofit, "These are largely preventable deaths, by and large." Sidewalks can help to prevent up  
12 to 88% of pedestrian crashes.

13  
14 Currently, Louisiana has the Percent for Art law in place that allocates 1% of funds for state buildings  
15 with a budget over \$2 million towards art on or around that building.

16  
17 A half of a mile of sidewalk, around a ten-minute walking distance, costs around \$100,000 to build.

18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 This bill would create sidewalks in low-income areas. To decide which areas will receive sidewalk  
20 construction, people in low- income areas can recommend areas to add sidewalks where they think it is  
21 needed at a SNAP location. These will be reviewed by the project manager employed by the state. In the  
22 case that there are no recommendations made at the time of a project, the sidewalk will be built in the  
23 area with the highest poverty rate.

24 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

25 Funding will come from the transportation budget. For every transportation project above \$10,000,000,  
26 1% of the budget for the project will be put towards building sidewalks in low-income areas.

27 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

28 No penalties apply.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 44**

3 Georgia Pittenger

St. Joseph's Academy

4 Alexia Petikas

5 **TITLE:** Raising Qualifications and Requirements as a High School Counselor

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Right now, the qualifications for a Louisiana high school counselor are a master's degree in School  
8 Counseling from a CACREP (Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs)  
9 accredited university, making sure they meet certain standards to become a school counselor. Then, they  
10 must complete the Praxis Exam in School Guidance and Counseling. It is common for high school  
11 counselors, today, to not reach out to students at all, or to have a one 5-minute meeting, for the whole  
12 year. However, with these qualifications and requirements, there are still around 20-30% of adolescents  
13 showing symptoms of depression, and from statistics in 2019, almost 19% of high school students  
14 seriously considered suicide. This proves that the qualifications/requirements are quite minimum and  
15 often fruitless. Making more requirements for the qualification of counselors will give the counselors more  
16 responsibility, and a way to truly help the students succeed more in school like they should. It will also  
17 give the students more support with their school and home life.

18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 To implement this, counselors would require certification by the American Board of Neurology and  
20 Psychiatry in Child/Adolescent Psychiatry. Once the counselor is working, they must do occasional 30-  
21 minute checkups on each student, at least 3 times every nine weeks, making sure they are well and stable.  
22 The students may schedule as many appointments with the counselor as needed. The counselor would also  
23 need to check in with teachers, making sure no odd behavior is going on with their students, and to see if  
24 the teachers have any feedback or suggestions they would like the counselor to know. With more frequent  
25 and longer appointments, the students can build more trust and comfort with their counselor.

26  
27  
28 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

29 For the current counselors, there would be a .3% tax on cigarettes, to raise their pay and make sure they  
30 have have all the resources they need to give students the best advice involving mental health or  
31 academics, including extra online learning, programs, or clubs. Some of this would also go towards making  
32 sure the previous counselors are stable, and not just let go.

33 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

34 If the counselor does not do the expected requirements for each nine weeks, the counselor must be let go.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 45**

3 Ada McClure           Lafayette High School

4 Ada McClure

5 **TITLE:** Tax Break for Hybrid/Electric Vehicle Owners

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Today, an average car or light truck emits roughly 11,000 pounds of CO2 per year, or 9/10ths pound per  
8 mile. In comparison, hybrid vehicles like Priuses emit less than half of that, at 5,000 pounds of CO2 per  
9 year, or 4.2/10ths pounds per mile. Electric vehicles do not release any CO2 when operating, but their  
10 production does require equivalent to 3.5/10ths pounds of CO2 per mile, which is still much less than an  
11 average car. With our current environmental state and fleeting natural gas resources, it is imperative that  
12 we as a state put forth effort to reverse or stall these effects. Giving a tax break to owners of energy-  
13 efficient cars will encourage more people to purchase energy efficient cars, greatly reducing our state's  
14 carbon footprint and protecting our valuable ecosystem.

15 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

16 Hybrid or electric vehicle owners will file their ownership on their taxes and get a \$500 tax credit per year  
17 filed.

18 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

19 This bill will require state funding to administer the tax breaks.

20 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

21 There are no penalties required.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 46**

3 Amanda Hux                   Lafayette High School

4  
5 **TITLE:** Convert the use of civil law in Louisiana to common law

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Common law is practiced by every other state in the United States, and is defined more by judicial  
8 precedents and rulings, rather than statutes. In contrast, civil law is derived from the Romans, usually  
9 more concerned with private rights and relations of those within a community; based off of more codified  
10 statutes. Therefore, oral-argument, lawyering, and actual court action is of less importance in a civil law  
11 system, where the statutes rule. Louisiana falls behind in nearly every major category that is of interest  
12 and importance to measure, and does not fit criteria that the rest of the states often due (whether in  
13 infrastructure, prison reform, etc.) In order to follow the path of the other 49 states, it would be most  
14 coherent to convert to common law in Louisiana. This would also allow for less confusion and transfer of a  
15 common practice across the board.

16 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

- 17 1. All systems in place that advance or uphold civil law in Louisiana are hereby repealed.  
18  
19 2. Previous litigation and legislation ruled on by civil law is not required to be repealed.  
20  
21 3. Any lawyers or judges practicing civil law are hereby required to practice common law within the  
22 amount of time it will take them to learn said law. Any prolonged actions may result in a fine or revoking  
23 of license.

24 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

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

26 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

27 Penalties will be applied if practicing lawyers do not convert from civil law to common law in the state of  
28 Louisiana in a timely manner.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 47**

3 Angelina Betbeze                      Saint Joseph's Academy

4 Amelia Alemond

5 **TITLE:** Carpool Lanes for Schools

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Under current law, Louisiana does not require public schools to have a driveway for carpool lanes. Galvez  
8 Primary School in Prairieville is just one of the any examples. Parents state that they must wait to pick  
9 their kids up on a side road with no shoulder, leaving just one for busses and cars to pass by.

10 Homeowners complain about being trapped in their driveways, and passersby complain about only having  
11 one lane to travel through, claiming, it's just an accident waiting to happen. In 2017, there was there  
12 were 4 fatal car accidents and 12 minor injuries accidents. By requiring carpool lanes for public schools,  
13 there will be far less accidents and fatalities.

14 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

15 All public schools shall require at least a six hundred and seventy-five feet in length driveway for their  
16 carpool line. This must be done by 2025 .

17 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

18 Funding will come from a .80% increase in property tax. The average tax is currently 7,500 dollars and  
19 will increase to 7,734.

20 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

21 No public school shall be allowed to hold carpool until the 675-foot carpool lane is built or shows proof  
22 of plans to build.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 48**

3 Paola Alarcon

Haynes Acadamy

4  
5 **TITLE:** Our Electoral Votes

6  
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 The United States Electoral system is one of our country’s oldest institutions and also a cause of  
9 controversy due to the situations that have occurred in the past where the candidate who wins the  
10 electoral college vote did not also win the popular vote. Many voters also see it as an issue that certain  
11 “swing states” gain more political attention during campaigning season and that “lost” votes occur when  
12 a person resides in a state where the majority of people vote for another political party. A majority of  
13 Americans (58%) say that they would rather replace the electoral college with a simple popular vote, but  
14 this would require a Constitutional amendment that is not probable. However, each state has control over  
15 how its electoral votes are allocated. The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC) is an  
16 agreement among a group of U.S. states and the District of Columbia to award all their electoral votes to  
17 whichever presidential candidate wins the overall popular vote. The compact will only come into effect  
18 when enough states sign it to where there are the needed electoral votes to win a majority vote. Another  
19 form of allocation of electoral votes is the congressional district method, in which the candidate with the  
20 majority vote receives two electoral votes and the rest of the state’s electoral votes are allocated on a  
21 congressional district basis. The candidate with the majority in each congressional district receives that  
22 electoral vote. Like a great number of states, Louisiana also has concentrations of voters whose votes do  
23 not align with that of the party that typically wins. In order to fully allow these voters to feel like they  
24 have a say in how our political system functions, a reform in our electoral system is needed. Furthermore,  
25 by reforming the way we allocate electoral votes, Louisiana votes will become more competitive and  
26 therefore bring more attention come election season.

27  
28 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

29 The state of Louisiana will agree to sign the NPVIC, and until the compact is put into effect, will (starting  
30 with the 2024 Presidential election) allocate its electoral votes based on a congressional district method.

31  
32 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

33 There is no funding required for this bill. Each political party chooses slates for potential electors before  
34 the election, there would not be extra costs.

35  
36  
37 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

38 There is no penalty required for this bill.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 49**

3 Robayet Hossain

Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies

4 Jakob Wismar

5 **TITLE:** Secure New Privacy Rights for Louisiana Consumers (Louisiana Consumer Privacy Act)

6  
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Louisiana’s existing cyberprivacy laws are designed to protect consumers against data breaches. However,  
9 this is only a small fragment of the national security threat at hand. Billion-dollar companies such as  
10 Google profit from selling profiles of individuals built with personal data to advertisers, with consumers  
11 having no voice in how their personal data is used. Privacy legislation is largely ignored at the federal  
12 level, but many states have been moving ahead to fill in the gaps, such as California passing legislation  
13 last January to grant its citizens an affirmative right to control how their personal data is used. While less  
14 than 10% of all US companies are able to buy and sell personal information in states such as Nevada,  
15 Maine, and California, the private data of Louisiana citizens remains freely accessible to all companies.  
16 This bill aims to take necessary action to secure privacy rights for Louisiana’s 4.6 million consumers.

17  
18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 The Louisiana Consumer Privacy Act grants new rights to Louisiana consumers that give them control over  
20 how their personal data is used and provides stricter guidelines to how certain businesses should  
21 professionally operate when dealing with private data. This bill applies to businesses that have at least  
22 \$25 million in revenue, possess the personal information of more than 50,000 consumers, or earn more  
23 than half of their annual revenue by selling consumers’ personal data.

24  
25 1.) Consumers have the right to know exactly what personal information is collected, used, shared or sold,  
26 both as to the categories and specific pieces of personal information.

27  
28 2.) Consumers must provide specific consent to businesses that their personal information may be  
29 disclosed or sold. Consumers have the right to request that businesses delete personal information under  
30 their possession. This includes extra service providers within those businesses.

31  
32 3.) Regarding the sale of personal information, businesses are required to give consumers the option of  
33 opting-out. Consumers are able to direct a business that sells personal information to stop their  
34 procedure at once. Children under the age of 16 must provide opt-in consent, with a parent or guardian  
35 consent for children under 13.

36  
37 4.) Businesses, especially broadband internet access providers, are banned from charging consumers more  
38 than negotiated when said consumers do not allow the selling of information. These businesses are also  
39 restricted from refusing service to any customer that chooses to opt-out.

1 5.) Businesses are required to offer credit monitoring services at no cost to consumers when private  
2 information is disclosed due to data breaches. These services will be offered to the harmed residents for  
3 at least 18 months after the breach.  
4

5 6.) The definition of "personal/private information" must be expanded to include any sort of identification  
6 related to said consumers, such as any sort of ID, emails, Social Security, credit/debit card numbers, etc.  
7

### 8 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

9 The LCPA does not require additional funding as it will be enforced by the Louisiana attorney general  
10 under the state's existing budget.  
11

### 12 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

13 Once enacted, violations of the LCPA are subject to enforcement by the Louisiana attorney general's  
14 office, which can seek civil penalties of \$2,500 for each violation or \$7,500 for each intentional violation  
15 after notice and a 30-day opportunity to comply.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 50**

3 Real Nero                      Haynes Academy of Advanced Studies

4  
5 **TITLE: Abolishment of Standardized Tests**

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Standardized testing is given to students in 3rd to 8th grade annually. This test decides their readiness to  
8 advance to the next grade. Leap Assessments, Leap 360, EOC, and ELPT are some examples. Students  
9 work hard every day just for them to be judged on one test. Teachers are solely teaching the material  
10 included in the test rather than teaching the subject. If standardized tests are abolished, teachers will  
11 most likely have more freedom in making their lesson plans.

12  
13 In Finland, students are required to take the The National Matriculation Examination and a mother  
14 language assessment. These are the only standardized tests required in Finland. However, students do  
15 take an annual assessment to assess their growth The scores of these tests do not correlate to the  
16 funding or ranking of the school. The test is not comprehensive but rather sample-based. These two facts  
17 are the difference between the "standardized testing" in Finland and America. "Ninety-three percent of  
18 Finns graduate from academic or vocational high schools, 17.5 percentage points higher than the United  
19 States, and 66 percent go on to higher education, the highest rate in the European Union." Finland has  
20 continued to rank highly in education.

21 The United States started to push standardized testing nationwide in 2002. Before this the US was  
22 recently ranked 18th in mathematics. After 2002, the US was ranked 31st. Louisiana is ranked 48th in  
23 education. Putting more focus on the students absorbing the information rather than students receiving a  
24 high test score is a step in the right direction.

25 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

26 In the 2021-2022 school year, public schools will have the option to eliminate standardized testing. The  
27 board will collect data from schools who test and those who do not. This will allow the board to truly see  
28 if the law is effective. The law is effective if the student's GPA remains high. If the law is effective,  
29 standardized testing is to be abolished in all public school systems in the 2022-2023 school year.

30 Commissioners from the board of education would visit schools at the end of each quarter to make sure  
31 this law is enforced.

32 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

33 This would require no additional funding at all. If each school pays for their tests, the school wouldn't  
34 have to pay and save money. If the parish pays, then the school can choose to use their standardized test  
35 funding elsewhere

36 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

37 If the bill is implemented, the principal of schools that continue to give out standardized tests should be  
38 fired and replaced.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 51**

3 Maddie Scott Mandeville High School

4 Taylor Flagg

5 **TITLE:** Terminate Daylight Savings

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Daylight Saving was originally constructed by George Vernon Hudson, a New Zealand Scientist, in 1895.  
8 He believed Daylight Saving would let people enjoy more daylight in the summertime. Because the United  
9 States used to have an agricultural-based economy, this idea was also loved by farmers who saw Daylight  
10 Saving as an opportunity to avoid the blazing noon sun for farming, but guess what? We aren't an  
11 agricultural-based economy anymore, not to mention the numerous unhealthy impacts Daylight Saving can  
12 have on people today such as the offset of the circadian rhythm, increase in stress levels, and even an  
13 imbalance in heart function. A study done by the University of Alabama in 2012 found that Daylight  
14 Saving can increase heart-attacks by 10% on the Monday and Tuesday following the day. Another reason  
15 why this day remained for a century (and why it's counter-effective today) was the idea of saving energy.  
16 Primarily in Germany during WW1, Daylight Saving was used to minimize the hour of artificial lighting to  
17 save fuel for the war. While it may have been helpful back then, recent studies have shown today's people  
18 move onto higher-power means of energy during Daylight Saving, such as air-conditioning, moonlight car  
19 rides, shopping, and late-night movies. To put it simply, Daylight Saving is outdated and ineffective today.  
20 It is time to rid of this outdated system and put our attention towards keeping and implementing energy-  
21 saving policies that minimize more than an hour's worth of energy a year.

22  
23 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

24 This bill completely bans the practice of Daylight Saving in all parts of Louisiana except Native American  
25 reservations. Clocks will remain consistent throughout the year, and this will go into effect in 2021.

26 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

27 No funding is required for this bill.

28  
29 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

30 If someone refuses to abide by the new law, they must deal with the consequences of their time  
31 miscalculation.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 52**

3 Daniel Brammer

Lakeshore High School

4  
5 **TITLE:** Providing Health Screenings for Children of Lower Socioeconomic Status

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 In 2018, around 36,000 children in Louisiana were without any form of health insurance. By 2019, this  
8 number rose to 39,000. And in 2020, the number of children without health insurance hit 50,000. This  
9 number is rising, and it is clearly exponential. The body experiences the majority of development in the  
10 early stages of life, and around 80% of brain development occurs as a child. However, this development is  
11 hindered when detrimental diseases go undiagnosed, with a lot of said diseases being dental and mental -  
12 issues that will affect children throughout their entire life. While it is true most schools offer visual and  
13 hearing screenings, this is simply not enough to catch potentially life-changing diseases. Basic health  
14 insurance is offered, such as Medicaid, many parents do not bring their child to undergo health screenings  
15 to catch potentially preventable diseases. Many children are already several years into chronic conditions  
16 before finally seeking medical care and getting diagnosed. However, if these diseases are able to be  
17 caught early, the issue with long term conditions affecting children of lower socioeconomic status would  
18 lessen. Health screenings in schools would draw attention to these problems, allowing a larger window of  
19 time for treatment to be arranged.

20  
21 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

22 In order to expand the amount of issues caught in children, the optimal areas for screenings in schools  
23 would be in dental, mental, and general health check-ups, as well as the brief visual and hearing  
24 screenings already provided. These screenings would be restricted to children of lower income, specifically  
25 those already on free or reduced lunch programs, and would take place once every school year. Each  
26 school board will employ doctors eligible to perform health screenings. School districts that have more  
27 students qualifying for the program will employ more doctors accordingly. Each district will have 4 years  
28 to completely set up the program, and should be completed by 2025.

29  
30 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

31 Funding for this bill will come from lifting the tax exemption from horizontal drilling. This would result in  
32 more revenue being earned from horizontal drilling, as well as big oil companies drilling vertically to avoid  
33 getting taxed for horizontal drilling.

34  
35 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

36 Implementation of this program will be up to the school board to complete. Failure to do so will result in  
37 disciplinary action up to termination of positions held in the school board.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 53**

3 Alexandra Citan                      Dutchtown High School

4 Alexandra Citan

5 **TITLE:** Rights to abortion if under 18 with out parents consent

6  
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 : A women’s choice as a minor to abortion should not be the parent’s choice as to the fact that it’s the  
9 woman’s choice to do what she wants with her body. The woman’s life could be at stake when she can’t  
10 choose rather or not she wants to have an abortion. At that age of being a minor research has shown that  
11 abortion is much safer than childbirth; the mortality rate is much higher with childbirth than it is compared  
12 with abortion. The teen pregnancy rate in Louisiana is 99 per 1,000 girls and about 29% of those girls  
13 who are under the age of 18 have gotten abortions. Although some of the female minors might have some  
14 type of adult to go to for this situation some other girls might not have one for example a toxic  
15 household in which their parent or other guardians might kick them out of the house for being pregnant.  
16 Another example is not being able to provide for the child and or it is a factor of sexual assault and the  
17 mother does not want to keep the child for that specific reason. A state that has made this law successful  
18 is Maine and they have better sex education compared to Louisiana in which it is not mandatory to teach  
19 sex education and as we are the lowest when it comes to safer sex practices. Louisiana is the top state  
20 with the most sexually transmitted diseases and safer sex practices it would help the result of unwanted  
21 pregnancies.

22 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

23 This bill will go into effect in 2022

24  
25 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

26 This bill would need some government funds through the healthcare system to provide the planned  
27 parenthood option for the girls under the age of 18 who want to get an abortion.

28  
29 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

30 There is no penalty for this bill.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 54**

3 Brady Keller Catholic High School

4 Buster Couhig

5 **TITLE:** Sober Welfare Benefits

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Those who apply for welfare in Louisiana could be selling food stamps and spending the earned money on  
8 drugs. While there is little way to prevent this, we can offer an incentive for those who are proven to be  
9 sober. Those who pass a drug screening test can receive an additional \$30 per month flat. If they have  
10 children, an additional 10\$ for each child.

11  
12 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

13 This is an adjustment to the current welfare program in place. We can have those who apply for this sober  
14 welfare program name in place come into their nearest police station and take a drug test. Once the drug  
15 test is proven passed, they are eligible to receive the bonus. There is plenty of public transportation  
16 available for those on welfare without cars to be able to get to a police station. During covid, people can  
17 request to have a police officer come in and drug test them. Keep in mind drug tests are optional and this  
18 is an additional thing to apply for more money.

19 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

20 Raise state sales taxes by .02% also lower funding for louisiana state racing commission by 3% as it is  
21 currently at twelve million dollars.

22  
23 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

24 Drug tests are voluntary, however if someone fails the drug test they can be persecuted with the current  
25 punishment in place for doing said drug.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 55**

3 Daniel Sullivan                      Catholic High School

4 Ashton Ellis

5 **TITLE:** High School Finance Course

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 The National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE) has designed a curriculum that is intended to be  
8 relevant to teenagers between the ages of thirteen and eighteen, covering topics such as budgeting,  
9 insurance, credit cards, loans, earning potential, saving and investing. The bill will demand that Louisiana  
10 high schools require that students take a personal finance course at least one of their years in high  
11 school. The NEFE has designed the High School Financial Planning Program (HSFPP), a high quality, non-  
12 commercial, and unbiased program. This bill will prepare students for a successful future.

13  
14  
15  
16 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

17 The program will be offered as an elective that you are required to take at least one of your four years in  
18 high school. Most adults and teachers who do not have degrees in economics will be able to teach this  
19 course.

20 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

21 The online program is free, thanks to the NEFE. All materials can be downloaded or an order can be placed  
22 for printing material at no additional cost.

23  
24 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

25 High schools not following this bill's provisions will not receive government funding.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 56**

3 Matthew Griffin                      Catholic High School

4 Jeffrey Esnard

5 **TITLE:** FBI Voter Fraud Branch Bill

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 The Voter Fraud branch will be targeted towards those who have been given an unfair advantage over any  
8 other person(s) running in any political campaigning, speech, and anything that has to do with running for  
9 a position in government office. This branch would essentially crack down on any people who cheat and  
10 launch investigations into candidates who are suspicious of said crimes.

11  
12 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

13 If there is a reasonable doubt or suspicion in the integrity of a political election, then this branch of  
14 defense will hold an investigation. If they feel as if there is sufficient evidence against a specific  
15 candidate, they are able to pursue a law suit against them. This branch will be nonpartisan and structured  
16 in a similar format to other branches.

17 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

18 Our funding would come from five percent of the national budget for healthcare. Too much money is going  
19 towards healthcare funding useless programs such as Obama Care. No taxes would be raised because  
20 people today already get taxed too much.

21 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

22 If found guilty for voter fraud, you will serve a sentence proportional to the degree of fraud and level of  
23 government office.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 57**

3 Benjamin Papizan                      Catholic High School

4 Gerard Lorio

5 **TITLE:** Increased Excise Tax On Gasoline

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 This bill would implement a ten cent increase upon the already existing twenty cents per gallon excise tax  
8 on gasoline. The reason for this would be to increase revenue generated from production of gasoline,  
9 which could be used to fund more charging stations. This would dually serve to decrease reliance on gas  
10 powered cars, and eventually promote a more common use of electric cars, decreasing the carbon  
11 footprint of our state.

12  
13 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

14 This is an excise tax, so it would be implemented directly onto the producer. They would then in turn raise  
15 the price per gallon of the gas they are selling, indirectly taxing the common citizen. The initial spike in  
16 revenue from the tax raise can be used to direct the common person toward obtaining a more  
17 economically safe vehicle through implementation of electric charging stations throughout the state. The  
18 change would be very gradual but the outcome down the road would be a decrease in carbon emissions.

19 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

20 The extra revenue gained from the increased tax on gas production would go directly back into paving the  
21 way for an electric vehicle friendly environment. The main outlet of this would be creating more charging  
22 stations to accommodate for electric vehicles. A secondary use for this extra money would be increasing  
23 the quality of public transportation as well as eventually switching over to an all-electric public  
24 transportation system. Due to the price increase in gas, a more efficient public transportation system  
25 would allow for citizens to still be able to get where they need to go.

26 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

27 The tax increase we are proposing is not a whole new tax within itself, so the guidelines on how to deal  
28 with enforcing this tax are already outlined. The Internal Revenue Service is already charged with the task  
29 of enforcing tax laws and collecting taxes. Any gas producers that attempt to evade taxes will be dealt  
30 with in the same manner as before by the IRS. This would include but is not limited to; fines, imposing of  
31 interest rates on unpaid tax, and legal consequences such as jail time for those responsible for evading  
32 tax.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 58**

3 Warren Ross Catholic High School

4 Grant Griffin

5 **TITLE:** Back The Blue

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Recently there has been too much call for defunding the police, yet all this leads to is harsh areas  
8 becoming even harsher and more dangerous as police no longer have the backup necessary to keep  
9 themselves safe in the increasing chance of danger. I have had multiple experiences with officers that are  
10 on overtime this would include at my old middle school, an officer that has been a regular at my church  
11 downtown, and an officer that patrols my neighborhood. By working in communities these officers made  
12 connections with me and many other people in my community, which in turn has made me come to the  
13 conclusion that there needs to be more police officers working and meeting the people that they serve.

14 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

15 This bill will be carried out by investing more money into police organizations so that they may undergo  
16 more training than they currently do which will allow them to handle situations with much more care for  
17 any involved. This will also create new jobs as we are giving the police more funding to allow them to grow  
18 their force to better keep our state safe. New requirements for police officers will be to gain more contact  
19 with the community they currently serve by making mandatory 40 unarmed hours in the community. This  
20 would include everything from working in the food bank to even doing something as fun and simple as  
21 basketball in the town's parks. By requiring this I believe that this will build a better connection between  
22 the police and the community they serve. This includes every officer in the department not restricted to,  
23 but including all posts in the department. This bill will go into effect January 1, 2021

24 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

25 This bill will take a 3% tax from all persons in a government job that currently make more than \$100,000  
26 a year.

27 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

28 If a police officer does not follow the new requirement without a good or practical reasoning that has  
29 been set as a standard to his job he will see a \$100 fine that begins to double after the third offense  
30 without an excused absence the penalty will begin to double. After 10 unexcused absences the officer's  
31 position will come into question.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 59**

3 Simon Bourgeois

Catholic High School

4  
5 **TITLE:** Increase Louisiana Interstate Speed Limits by 5MPH.

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 This bill is important because it can decrease traffic and allow people to get where they need to get more  
8 efficiently. It is ridiculous that the speed limit is still 60mph on Interstate Ten.

9 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

10 The only implementation needed is putting new speed signs up. The bill will allow people to reach their  
11 destinations faster, while being only infinitesimally more dangerous.

12 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

13 This bill requires no funding.

14 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

15 The penalty for speeding will vary depending on each situation, but speeding in the areas with increased  
16 speed limits will be more costly.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 60**

3 Brennan Coc                    Catholic High School

4  
5 **TITLE:** Require the Option to allow Student Access to Multiple Public School Buses for Those that Reside  
6 in Multiple Households

7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Public school buses have been used for many decades. The system has transported students to their  
9 guardians in an economical and ecological way. But, this system is only useful for those who do not have  
10 living complications. Some public school buses restrict one bus per student. These families with living  
11 complications have to discover different ways to get their students home. The adults in the family fund  
12 the public school bus system through taxes, so they should not be denied service because of their living  
13 situation. This restriction should be modified to suit the needs of the families. With advancements in  
14 technology, it makes it possible to track where these students will be traveling each day. By modifying this  
15 restriction, more benefits will be provided to each household.

16  
17 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

18 The school bus form would need to be modified to list an option for a permissible additional dropoff  
19 location. Custodial agreements must be provided as evidence for the need of an additional dropoff  
20 location. It will offer additional benefits for guardians who may not be able to pick up the student due to  
21 complex household living arrangements. The public school bus system must develop or modify a software  
22 tracking system and ridership management to keep track of which days students will be traveling on  
23 certain buses.

24 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

25 There would be a fee for each additional dropoff location the student would be assigned to. The fee would  
26 be used to cover the administrative costs needed to launch the program such as, the funding of public  
27 outreach, the need to modify or develop software tracking systems, and the need to fund administrative  
28 training or hiring to manage the tracking system.

29 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

30 There are no penalties required for the implementation of this bill.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 61**

3 Ethan Cave                      Catholic High School

4  
5 **TITLE:** Invest in making sure every school in Louisiana has a water fountain that provides clean water.

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Without access to clean water, many students can be exposed to countless diseases. Also, if the water  
8 becomes contaminated with a substance such as lead it can lead to many deaths and deformations. To  
9 protect the health of America’s youth, we must make sure that the students can have access to clean  
10 drinking water.

11  
12 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

13 Any school that does not have clean water fountains currently must report this to the Department for  
14 Education and request a small grant to successfully complete this.

15 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

16 Funding will be minimal and included in existing funding for Public Schools.

17 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

18 If a school fails to meet the clean water requirement then the school will see a 2% decrease in funding  
19 from the Louisiana State Government



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**

2 **HOUSE BILL 62**

3 Jack Appleton Catholic High School

4 Louis Holder

5 **TITLE:** Higher Wages, Happier Employees

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Current minimum wage in Louisiana is \$7.25 an hour and this bill will serve to raise the minimum wage by  
8 seven percent a year for large businesses and two percent for small businesses for the next ten years.  
9 Subject to change after then. A small business is a business that has less than 35.5 million dollars in sales  
10 a year or less than 1500 employees.

11 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

12 This bill serves to enable people who work for minimum wage jobs to able to afford basic necessities that  
13 are sometimes withheld from them. This will increase employee quality of life.

14 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

15 This bill does not require any money on the part of the government.

16 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

17 Businesses would be subject to semi-annual checks at the end of the second and fourth fiscal quarters to  
18 ensure they were paying their employees the proper wages as defined in section 2. If they were found to  
19 not be in compliance with these regulations, they would be subject to a \$1000 fine per each violation in  
20 concordance with the US Department of Labor’s policy regarding violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act.  
21 The money from these fines would be put back into the Louisiana State Treasury to be allocated as the  
22 state sees fit.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 63**

3 Liam Carruth            Catholic High School

4  
5 **TITLE:** Information concerning jobs after college majors will be required and given to students to prevent  
6 not being able to pay back student loans.

7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Colleges and high schools will start showing seniors, or anyone going to college, information about the  
9 student's desired major, including but not limited to: salaries, career paths, and loan amounts. This will  
10 prevent a student from coming out of college with a degree in a field that they are not able to make  
11 enough money to pay back their loans with.

12 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

13 More information can be presented in a variety of ways. Either a high school counselor, college counselor,  
14 college website, or the college professor can reveal how well a student's desired major can get them on  
15 their feet and supporting themselves while being able to pay the degree back as well.

16 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

17 This bill doesn't require money to be put into effect. A college should already have information on what  
18 their majors can get their students after college, but this bill is a safety net to make sure that college  
19 graduates are able to pay back their loans with a sustainable job.

20 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

21 This bill will be a mandate, and will not require penalties. However, any attempt to find a way around this  
22 mandate will take away government funding to these colleges and universities.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 64**

3 William Barber

Baton Rouge Magnet High School

4 Andrew Heltz

5 **TITLE:** Requiring Safe Firearm Storage

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 It seems like common sense, but not all guns in Louisiana are stored safely. Over half of all gun owners in  
8 the USA store one or more of their guns in an unsafe manner, This is extremely dangerous, leaving many  
9 children in households with unsafely stored guns. There are some federal laws about storage of guns, but  
10 Louisiana has no law about the safe storage of firearms. Since thousands minors who have access to  
11 unsafely stored guns have used those guns to commit suicide (or homicide in some cases), we  
12 can save many of these lives by requiring that all guns are stored in a gun safe or with a trigger lock,  
13 while imposing no real gun control.

14 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

15 This bill will require that all firearm owners have all of their firearms unloaded and with the safety on and  
16 stored safely using a trigger lock or a gun safe. This applies to all types of firearms (handguns, long-  
17 barreled rifles, shotguns, etc.) and includes assault weapons.

18 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

19 This would require no funding.

20 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

21 If anyone is found to not be storing their firearms according to the bill, they will be subject to a \$200 fine  
22 per individual gun per week.

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 65**

3 nydia williams

Neville High School

4  
5 **TITLE:** Remove sales tax on feminine hygiene products

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Women shouldn't have to pay taxes for something that all women get and can't control. Women should  
8 have access to hygiene products for free. Women spend an additional 150 million dollars a year on  
9 menstrual products.

10  
11 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

12 The bill will be placed on January 1st at 12:00am. All stores will announce that women hygiene products  
13 are tax free.

14  
15 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

16 none

17 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

18 none

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 66**

3 Per'Kayla Woods

Neville High School

4  
5 **TITLE:** Flip the teachers pay scale

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Accoridng to WeAreTeachers.com, " When teacher pay is a problem, fewer people want to become  
8 teachers. A majority (76%) of responders to a Time poll said they agreed that many people won't go into  
9 teaching because it doesn't pay enough. Increasing teacher pay could strengthen the quality of the future  
10 workforce." In 2015-2016, 18% of United States teachers worked second jobs , in everything from online  
11 teaching to retail.

12  
13 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

14 The bill should be implemented September 11, 2023.

15  
16 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

17 The funding will come from the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE)

18  
19 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

20 NO Penalties

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2020**



2 **HOUSE BILL 67**

3 Jardyn Honor            Neville High School

4  
5 **TITLE:** Increase the tax credit for recycling by 20% for businesses and individuals.

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Recyclables are bought and sold just like raw materials would be, and prices go up and down depending on  
8 supply and demand in the United States and the world. By recycling and selling and buying unusable goods  
9 creates jobs for other people.

10  
11  
12 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

13 The law will take effect in June 2022, which gives time to focus on how the reward can be bigger. In order  
14 for the word to get out about this tax credit we will have to advertise in all markets (commercials, social  
15 media and more.)

16 As far as supplying the money for tax credits the federal government has supplied the money and  
17 hopefully they will continue. As far a readjusting the budget the budget will remain the same.

18  
19 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

20 the federal government will continue to fund it.

21 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

22 none

23