



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 196**

3 James Redmann

Jesuit High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Friends of Politicians Reform

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Louisiana politicians are masters of wasting money. We have spent millions upon millions building
8 unnecessary bridges and roads when in fact the money should be spent where it is actually needed. One of
9 the more famous examples of wasting money is the Sunshine Bridge, which is also known as the bridge to
10 nowhere. It was built to line the pockets of the builders and was basically done as a favor to garner
11 support for Jimmie Davis. Louisiana ranks 49th in infrastructure according to the US News and World
12 Report. Louisiana needs to come together to stop the giving of infrastructure projects to friends of
13 projects. Louisiana needs to crack down on these shady dealings and strip the politicians of these
14 dealings of their office and send them to the penitentiary.

15 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

16 Louisiana will create a committee of people to investigate any major bridge or road projects for
17 malpractice. This committee will be known as the FOPRC (Friends of Politicians Reform Committee). This
18 committee will be elected to investigate any business deals and to make that the contractor is the best
19 for the job and not just a friend of a politician.

20 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

21 FOPRC will be funded by the will be funded by State of Louisiana BIL/IIJA, which has granted for 4.4 billion
22 to infrastructure. The funding will be 5 million dollars to help investigate and this committee will save
23 Louisiana money because everything will be done right the first time and not take 15 attempts because of
24 the contractor's incompetence.

25 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

26 The penalties for politicians if found guilty will be that they will be stripped of office, sent to penitentiary
27 for at least 5 years, and will be forced to pay a fine of half a million dollars.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 197**

3 Payton McCready

Dutchtown High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Excused Mental Health Days for Louisiana Students

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 According to the CDC, "In 2021, more than 4 in 10 (42%) students felt persistently sad or hopeless and
8 nearly one-third (29%) experienced poor mental health" These students feel this way due to the stress
9 and complications that school brings. It is no surprise that school is tiring on a young child's mental health.
10 Students need breaks, but when they take off from school for their mental health it is unexcused and they
11 suffer even more. Unexcused breaks ultimately harm the student more than they help, because it means
12 they have to make up more work. A June 2022 poll by Verywell Mind and the magazine Parents found that
13 75 percent of parents feel that schools should offer mental health days to students. And 56 percent of
14 parents said they have let their kids take a mental health day, regardless of whether their child's school
15 has a formal mental health day policy. Allowing a certain amount of days of rest and break to be excused
16 would allow for students to feel less stressed and perform better.

17 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

18 This Bill allows for parents to write a note to the school when a student takes a mental health day. Notes
19 will be sent to the councilor of the school. All students are allowed 2 excused mental health days per
20 semester. However, if a student is diagnosed with mental health disorders, they can be evaluated by the
21 councilor and allowed more days. These notes will also help schools realize if a student is struggling and
22 they may be able to find resources of help. Parents can also request that their student be evaluated by
23 the councilor if they notice something.

24
25 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

26 This program requires no funding.

27
28 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

29 If a school does not allow for students to take mental health days, they will get a one-time fine of 10% of
30 the schools monthly funding. They will also be forced to start the program and will be supervised for a
31 year after the program is started.



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023

HOUSE BILL 198

Jake Albares Dutchtown High School

Aaren Mohammed

TITLE: The Numbers Behind Gambling

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Nowadays, you can gamble on just about anything; sports, dice rolls, card games, even elections. In 2020 as the casinos closed for quarantine people were so addicted that they would wager on the evening's forecast. All this to say, this is ruining peoples lives. In fact, debt.org tells us that 1 in 5 compulsive gamblers file for bankruptcy. Casinos in Louisiana alone totaled 200 million dollars of profit as of April 2023. The cause is simple, Louisiana gambling is a cumbersome addiction and a mortifying problem in which we intend to overcome. Our bill tends to this fixation by limiting young adults from engaging in the mass gambling addiction by putting a constraint on the usage of the machines.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Starting in June of 2024 this bill will not ban the usage of gambling instruments, but stand in the form of a card to help amateurs by making a gambling application with restrictions. This application will be directly tied to the person's "casino card". This "casino card" will contain an advanced system tracking a person's ID, their purchases, balances, and cash outs. They can also be reciprocated between daily, weekly, or monthly restrictions. If the person goes over this limit the application will lock out their casino card preventing access to the machines. The machine can only be used when the person slides the card activating the account, and they only have a limited amount of funds for that Day/Week/Month. Alongside limiting the amount of money being wasted away at casinos, this could also make their stay more efficient and faster as in one swipe of a card they could pay & play.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Of course, the cost of these installations and the maintenance required will need to be covered. To fund this bill we will take 0.9% of the 43 casino's profits in their first year. This will generate \$135,000 of funding per casino which will give our bill a \$5,805,000 budget of funding to use towards making and maintaining the casino application, advanced technology, card readers, and cards, which would cost around \$750,000-\$1,000,000 to make, and \$1000-\$1500 to maintain monthly across all the machines in Louisiana. The casinos will only have to pay this big \$135,000 fee once, possibly all at once or over time, but if funding is needed in the future we will not charge casinos, and instead start charging a \$10 fee every time you need to purchase a new card. This fee would be charged when you first join the casino.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If anybody does get caught trying to hack/cheat the system they will either get their restrictions tightened, or be banned from the casino, depending on the severity of the situation. If a casino refuses to comply we will fine that casino; the fine will increase overtime.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**
2 **HOUSE BILL 199**

3 Paris McClain Dutchtown High School
4

5 **TITLE:** Turn the Pyramid Upside Down

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 In 1980 the United States government implemented a high carbohydrates and low fat diet that all states
8 and citizens were recommended to follow. Approximately all residents of the United States followed this
9 new diet guideline including; schools, nursing homes, hospitals, and the military. The idea of this diet was
10 to lower cholesterol since it was seen to be a big health issue and a leading cause of death at the time.
11 Over time this diet can be seen as harmful, the effects are being proven in our everyday life. Obesity
12 among children has doubled in the past 2 decades and in one year, adult obesity increased in 23 out of
13 the 50 states. Influential people in the government have drilled into Americans heads that saturated fat is
14 the leading cause of high cholesterol when this has been disproven over and over again. Instead of a high
15 carb low fat diet, this bill proposes to change the Louisiana dietary guidelines to a low carbohydrates high
16 fat diet. Adding mainly fat to the American diet has seen to do so much as lessen the insulin diabetic
17 patients take and in some cases, even get them off of insulin and medications completely. Low carb High
18 Fat participants also reported staying full for a longer amount of time, shedding weight, and having more
19 energy.
20

21 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

22 This bill will be implemented January 1,2024
23

24 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

25 Government funded facilities will be funded from local sales and property taxes whereas other
26 participants will pay out of pocket.
27

28 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

29 Louisiana government funded facilities will not be funded money for meals as long as they do not follow
30 the low carbohydrates high fat guidelines.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**
2 **HOUSE BILL 200**

3 Allie Nichols Dutchtown High School
4

5 **TITLE:** Cody's Law

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 This bill provides support for children who have been orphaned due to drunk driving. Louisiana has shown,
8 through collective data, that drunk driving is a number one cause of vehicular accidents. In 2021 there
9 were 350 fatalities due to drunk driving out of 972, of which have continuously increased from previous
10 years. This is a phenomenon commonly discussed amongst the officials in our state. The prevention of it is
11 impossible, however, justice can be served to children, and their guardian(s). To prevent more children
12 from being placed in the foster system, as well as increase children to have the ability to stay with their
13 families, this bill's purpose is to give child support, which is to be paid by the drunk driver who committed
14 the homicide.

15 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

16 In the event of a vehicular homicide caused by drunk driving, the offender will be sentenced under criminal
17 law according to the present laws. This is an addition to the sentencing where a set amount will be
18 determined based on the families' "needs" and the financial situation of the offender. This is only an
19 addition to a case that involves a child under 18. Modification to the set amount can be filed with the
20 criminal court if the defendant needs it. A child who is adopted, by law, becomes the child to the
21 guardian(s), therefore, restitution will be required for child support payments. A child who is adopted after
22 being orphaned will retain a trust fund of the collective child support payments or total restitution. If the
23 child remains with one biological parent, then the child support will go to the remaining guardian. If the
24 child is taken under the care of a close relative who is unable to afford the child without support, then
25 they will be paid the child support; however, if the family member's financial situation allows, then the
26 restitution will be put into a trust. If the child is placed in foster care, the restitution will be placed in a
27 trust. The child will have access to the trust upon their 18th birthday. The restitution amount will not
28 change due to an adoption.

29 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

30 The offender's bank account will be retained by the court towards the restitution. The incarcerated are
31 able to earn minimal amounts of money while imprisoned, which will be directed towards restitution
32 payments. The offender will be required to maintain an occupation while imprisoned. After the offender
33 has been released, they will have 6 months of respite before the set amount will be drafted from their
34 account using the state child support app/online access. This allows for the court to keep track of the
35 payments in the case a modification is filed.

36 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

37 If it is filed with the court that the restitution has not been paid under the court-ordered stipulations,
38 then the criminal court has jurisdiction to order further sentencing with a maximum of 3 years. If there is
39 a need for a modification of the previous court-ordered judgment, then they can be made during this time
40 as well.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**
2 **HOUSE BILL 201**

3 Vivian Hall Dutchtown High School
4

5 **TITLE:** Restrictions on credit cards

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 CNBC states that in the state of Louisiana, the average amount of credit card debt each person has is
8 about \$5,811. Recovering from credit card debt can take anywhere from 3 months to six years if the
9 credit card holder even does recover. Nearly 48% of people depend on their credit card to pay for
10 necessities and do not have a stable job.
11

12 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

13 The purpose of this bill is to restrict the use of credit cards for adults 18-30. This will include the
14 restriction of more than two credit cards unless the person has a credit score of 650 or more. This will
15 help lower the amount of credit card debt because the person will only have access to two or less credit
16 cards unless they have a stable job. If they have a stable job, they will not need to rely on credit cards to
17 pay for things.
18

19 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

20 No funding will be needed for this bill.

21 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

22 There aren't any penalties due to this being a law that the government can control. Unless the person
23 shows proof of having a stable job, they won't be able to access over two credit cards.



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023

HOUSE BILL 202

Jake Albares Dutchtown High School

Aaren Mohammed

TITLE: The Numbers Behind Gambling

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Nowadays, you can gamble on just about anything; sports, dice rolls, card games, and even elections. In 2020 as the casinos closed for quarantine people were so addicted that they would wager on the evening's forecast. All this to say, this is ruining people's lives. In fact, debt.org tells us that 1 in 5 compulsive gamblers file for bankruptcy. Casinos in Louisiana alone totaled 200 million dollars of profit as of April 2023. The cause is simple, Louisiana gambling is a cumbersome addiction and a mortifying problem that we intend to overcome. Our bill tends to this fixation by limiting young adults from engaging in mass gambling by putting a constraint on the usage of the machines.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

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SECTION IV: PENALTIES

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1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 203**

3 Makenzie King

Dutchtown High School

4 Andrew Morril

5 **TITLE:** Improving Highschool Football

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 This bill proposes that walk-through metal detectors be put at the gates of every high school football
8 game, in order to keep weapons out of football games. Metal detectors in schools are still rare. But
9 they've become more popular in public schools, especially in middle and high school, as threats of school
10 shootings and violence have increased. This bill hopes to increase security at high school football games
11 and make participants and spectators safer.

12
13 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

14 If passed this bill will go into effect at the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year. This bill will only
15 affect public schools, as the state government does not have jurisdiction over private schools.

16
17 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

18 The average cost of a walk-through metal detector is anywhere from \$1,200.00 to \$4,500.00. Funding
19 for this bill will come from the federal Bipartisan Safer Communities Act of 2022, which provides \$1 billion
20 in funding for states. Louisiana has implemented the Stronger Connections Grant program in order to
21 provide funding to school systems on a competitive basis to support school safety efforts. This grant is
22 for access control, such as a single point of entry or locked entry points. Overall, an approximated price
23 would be \$869,250.

24
25 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

26 This bill will give all Louisiana schools a 1-year waiver period from the time this bill is implemented to
27 prepare to comply with the new additions. If a school is found non-compliant with this new addition it will
28 be unable to participate in the sport.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 204**

3 Sumaiyya Baig

Haynes Academy

4 Christine Tseng

5 **TITLE:** Educational Sleep Period (Mission Naptime)

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Most students who go to school are constantly tired as soon as they enter school. Research has shown
8 that 60–70% of teenage students are sleep-deprived on a daily basis because of hormonal changes,
9 technology usage, bedtime routines, and, especially, prioritizing school work and other extracurriculars
10 over their sleep and, thus, well-being. This has a knock-on effect on their mental and physical health,
11 safety, and academic performance in and out of class. Numerous scientific studies and statistics find that
12 napping, ideally between 20 and 30 minutes, boosts alertness without the grogginess of deep sleep.
13 Additionally, the best time to nap is before 3 p.m. to prevent nighttime sleep problems. This can lead to
14 reduced sleepiness, better regulation of emotions, increased focus and reaction time, and improved
15 learning and memory formation.

16
17 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

18 This bill would require all public high schools in Louisiana to create 30 minutes out of their current school
19 schedule designated for a naptime. It would be up to the school districts to decide how the 30 minutes
20 would be administered, whether it be allocating time from the time school starts, time school ends, class
21 time, or lunch. Students would be sleeping on their desks during the period that they would be in during
22 school. Students would bring their own pillows and blankets, if desired, for convenience and sanitary
23 reasons. If the student feels as if they cannot sleep at that time, they can use it for time to do meditation
24 or quietly do other activities without disturbing others. If passed, this would be implemented in the
25 upcoming 2024–2025 school year for all public high schools in Louisiana.

26
27 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

28 This bill needs no funding to be implemented.

29 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

30 If a public school district does not implement the policy, then a warning will be issued, and if they
31 continue not to comply, then the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) will fine the school district
32 \$10,000 dollars per each school year that they continue not to comply, which would go to the overall
33 education budget of Louisiana.



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023

HOUSE BILL 205

Elizabeth Monier

Dutchtown High School

Isabel Apodaca

TITLE: A Bill to Expand SB44 to Include Non-School Related Competitive Teams

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

During the 1998 Australian Open, Serena and Venus Williams challenged the 203-ranked male tennis player in the world, Karsten Braasch, to a match. Serena went down 6-1 in sets and Venus followed by losing 6-2. Serena claimed that she "hit shots that would have been winners on the Women's Tour and he got to them easily." This is because of the physical differences between men and women. According to the American Physiological Society, "The men had significantly more Skeletal Mass in comparison to the women in both absolute terms and relative to body mass. The men had significantly more skeletal mass in both the upper and lower body." Because of this difference, asking a woman to play against a biological man is a cruel thing to do, at any age. This bill moves to expand SB44 titled the "FAIRNESS IN WOMEN'S SPORTS ACT " to include non-school related competitive teams if they wish to compete in state-run or funded leagues. Some of these leagues include the BREC Parks, YMCA, the S.P.A.R Track Program, and the Louisiana Youth Sports Network. Other programs such as non-profit organizations that create leagues such as LCSL which is the Louisiana Classic Soccer League, receive state funding through government grants, corporate grants, and foundation grants.

Athletes will have to compete with their "Biological Sex" which is defined as the sex marked on their birth certificate at or near the time of their birth. This bill would affect mainly younger females whose opportunities are being taken away by biological men. This makes this bill necessary not only for the integrity of the sports but also for the athlete's future.

A large part of an athlete's recruiting process comes from travel and/or club teams that compete in state leagues. According to NCSA Sports around 90% of student-athletes competing on a college level played on a travel or club team in the past. This means that having unfair advantages or disadvantages could jeopardize up-and-coming athletes at collegiate and professional levels.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill will be implemented in March of 2024. All clubs and organizations wanting to compete in state leagues must transfer players to their designated teams within the grace period to contend in their respective divisions.

SECTION III: FUNDING

There is no funding required

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Each organization will be given a one-month grace period in which they must transfer players to their respective teams. If, after one month the players are still competing with their non-biological team, the individual team will be given a three-week suspension. After the initial suspension, if the club still chooses not to cooperate, the organization as a whole will be given a suspension from taking part in state leagues until players are correctly placed.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 206**

3 London Joseph

University Laboratory High

4
5 **TITLE:** To protect children's safety from abuse and neglect

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 All parents are encouraged to go through a process of a prenatal screening at least 3 months before the
8 birth of their child. This bill will help identify parents at risk of perpetrating abuse and reduce the number
9 of children affected by neglect, abuse (sexual and/or physical), or death. In 2020, 76% of children
10 suffered from neglect. 16.5% were physically abused, and 9.4% of children were sexually abused. 77% of
11 the abusers are the parent of the child.

12
13 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

14 Parents who decide to take a prenatal screening will schedule an appointment with an obstetrician or a
15 gynecologist at least three months before the due date of their child. This law will take full effect on
16 January 1st, 2024. I plan to implement this law in Louisiana by promoting child safety.

17
18 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

19 At least 500,000 dollars will be needed to implement this bill. The money to support will come from health
20 and hospital expenditures paid by adults over the age of 21.

21
22 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

23 If this law is passed, parents who complete the screening will receive free diapers for 6 months and one
24 year of personal visits by a licensed social worker expert in early childhood education, starting during the
25 prenatal period and continuing until the baby is at least 6 months old.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**
2 **HOUSE BILL 207**

3 Trenen Prater Woodlawn High School

4
5 **TITLE:** The Not All Women Act

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 The Not All Women Act is proposed legislation designed to address the systemic inequities and injustices
9 faced by young girls in Louisiana's criminal justice system. Despite accounting for only a portion of the
10 juvenile offender population, young girls are disproportionately affected by harsh criminal sentences and
11 incarceration. Studies indicate that young girls account for 40% of juvenile arrests in Louisiana and face
12 numerous systemic barriers, including a lack of access to mental health services, educational support, and
13 culturally responsive programs. These obstacles are rooted in systemic inequalities, including poverty,
14 racism, and sexism, which intersect to further exacerbate the marginalization experienced by young girls.

15 Louisiana's juvenile justice system currently emphasizes punishment and incarceration, an approach
16 that research shows is not only ineffective in preventing recidivism but also poses significant risks to
17 young girls' well-being, making it a costly and counterproductive strategy.

18 The proposed Not All Women Act aims to address these issues through evidence-based and
19 community-led programs geared towards identifying and addressing the underlying causes of young
20 women's behavior. By investing in community alternatives to incarceration, the Not All Women Act aims to
21 reduce recidivism rates, promote gender and racial equity, and equip young women with the resources
22 they need to thrive in society. By addressing the systemic inequalities that intersect to further marginalize
23 young girls, we can create a more just and equitable juvenile justice system that allows for positive
24 outcomes to prevent recidivism while fostering opportunities for growth and development.

25
26 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

27 The Not All Women Act mandates the creation of community-based alternatives to imprisonment that
28 prioritize evidence-based services and culturally responsive support for young girls. These alternatives
29 will consist of community-based service, counseling, and education programs, including mentorship
30 programs, and disciplinary programs aimed at behavioral correction.

31 Accessible mental health and educational services must be made available to all young female
32 offenders, with a focus on ensuring that the services are trauma-informed and trauma-centered,
33 reflecting the importance of prioritizing safety and healing. To ensure the effectiveness of the Not All
34 Women Act, a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation plan will be put in place.

35 The success of the programs will be measured based on a range of metrics, including recidivism rates,
36 educational attainment, employment, and rates of mental health diagnoses and hospitalizations. The
37 Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services will oversee the implementation of the Not All
38 Women Act and will be responsible for monitoring and evaluating the program's effectiveness.

39 The Department will work closely with community-based organizations and other stakeholders to
40 collect data and feedback on the programs, which will inform ongoing improvements and adjustments to
41 the services offered. Independent evaluators will conduct periodic evaluations to assess the impact of the
42 programs and determine whether they are meeting their intended outcomes. These evaluations will be
43 made public, and stakeholders will be engaged in the process to gain feedback and recommendations on
44 how to improve the programs further.

45 Overall, this monitoring and evaluation plan ensures that the programs established under the Not All
46 Women Act are effective, responsive, and accountable to the young women they serve and the community

1 at large. The bill will set up advisory boards with women who have lived experiences that can provide
2 feedback and shape policies and services. It is recommended that the Department of Children and Family
3 Services work with community-based organizations to select board members and clearly outline their roles
4 and responsibilities. Board members should be accountable for their decisions through regular reporting
5 to the Department and the community, as well as evaluations of their performance. This will ensure that
6 the voices and experiences of young women are prioritized in the development and implementation of
7 programs and services.

8 A broad range of activities, including but not limited to the opportunity to learn life skills, awareness
9 of reproductive health, and Entrepreneurial Studies to impart self-reliance, will be incorporated into the
10 programs to make the participants productive members in their respective communities. If the bill is
11 passed, it will be implemented on September 5, 2025.

12 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

13 The Not All Women Act proposes a comprehensive funding plan that involves reallocating finances from
14 conventional juvenile detention centers towards community-based programs and services for young girls.
15 This funding reallocation is necessary because studies have shown that juvenile detention centers are
16 costly and ineffective and that incarcerated youth are more likely to re-offend.

17 The bill proposes reallocating 60% of the current budget for juvenile detention centers towards
18 evidence-based and community-led programs that prioritize the well-being and success of young girls.
19 This amounts to approximately \$30 million annually that will be invested in new infrastructure and
20 resources, including the hiring of additional counselors and social workers to provide mental health,
21 educational support, and culturally responsive services.

22 The remaining 40% of the budget will be redirected toward restorative justice programs for young
23 boys. The funding proposals are designed to be specific, feasible, and justifiable, to create a sustainable
24 system that prioritizes the well-being and success of young girls in Louisiana.

25 To ensure ongoing support and accountability measures, the bill also recommends partnering with
26 private foundations and community organizations. These partnerships will involve establishing grant
27 programs, mentorship opportunities, and feedback assessments to encourage community engagement and
28 investment in the success of the programs.

29 Overall, the funding proposals outlined in the Not All Women Act are aimed at creating a more just
30 and equitable juvenile justice system in Louisiana by redirecting funds towards evidence-based and
31 community-led programs that prioritize the well-being and success of young girls while also providing
32 vital justice programs for young boys.

37 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

38 Organizations or individuals who fail to adhere to the provisions of the Not All Women Act may face fines,
39 suspension of licenses, and possible imprisonment depending on the gravity of their non-compliance. The
40 fines will be determined by the size and nature of the violation, with the minimum being \$500 and the
41 maximum being \$10,000.

42 Additionally, the bill stipulates that organizations and individuals found guilty of violating the act on
43 multiple occasions may face suspension of their businesses' licenses or contracts with the government. In
44 more severe cases, such as the endangerment of a young girl's safety or welfare, imprisonment may be
45 considered as a penalty.

46 It is crucial to enforce these penalties to ensure the safety and protection of young girls in
47 Louisiana. To ensure accountability and transparency, the Louisiana Department of Children and Family
48 Services will be responsible for monitoring and enforcing compliance with the provisions of the Not All

1 Women Act. The department will also have the authority to investigate complaints of non-compliance and
2 take necessary corrective actions.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 208**

3 Aidan Wang Jesuit

4
5 **TITLE:** To Restore the Greatness of Division I Power 5 Football in the State of Louisiana While Cutting
6 Costs

7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 The LSU Tigers, the premier college football program in the State and a national powerhouse, have the
9 second greatest offense in program history with a Heisman-caliber QB, a 1k yd WR, and another early
10 draft pick WR all led under the winningmost active Head Coach in college football. It is also an institution
11 that has won national championships with 3 different head coaches, 2 of whom were not considered elite.
12 With all this one would think that the Tigers can win it all.

13 They cannot. The atrocious defense is holding them back, ranked 97th in the nation for total defense.
14 They seem unable to do anything. They even showed up to Bryant Denny without any CBs. Remember LSU
15 is DBU. Heck, their performance makes one wonder if LSU should join the Big 12. Every conference loss is
16 attributed to defense, something LSU is known well for.

17 The only solution to this is to clean the house starting with Matt House for cause. Willful negligence.

18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 The State Legislature will withhold the money amount that pays House's salary (1.6m) through the end of
20 his contract. This will force the University to let him go. Firing him for cause is at no cost to the Univ.

21 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

22 Nothing. Firing him with cause is free.

23 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

24 If he is not fired, the Head Coach and eventually the AD will have to go.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 209**

3 Aidan Wang Jesuit

4
5 **TITLE:** TO: Prepare LA Agriculture and Forestry Firefighters for Marsh/Wetland Fires

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 New Orleans has suffered from horrendous smoke and burning smells for the past few weeks. All of this is
8 attributed burning marshes. Pumping up to 100k gallons/hr of water and a couple of bulldozers is all that
9 is done right now. Fires in Lafitte and Bayou Sauvage had better, more immediate responses that did not
10 result in weeks of suffering for their citizens since they had federal resources.

11 Louisiana Agriculture and Forestry’s 150 firefighters are not trained nor equipped to handle marsh or
12 wetland fires. They also are extremely budget-strapped and overworked. If they had the training, money,
13 and expertise, New Orleans would not have to smell “burning plastic” for weeks on end or at least not as
14 much.

15
16 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

17 The State Legislature will give \$15-20m of the state surplus to fund training and equipment. The range is
18 there depending on exact specifications needed to Ag and Forest. 15-20m is surely enough to pay for
19 training and equipment.

20 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

21 State surplus.

22 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

23 Misuse of public funds, embezzlement if it isn’t used properly.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 210**

3 Greta Bailey University High School

4 Maryam Musa Yola

5 **TITLE:** Ensure Financial Protections for Inmates

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Working conditions for inmates in the state of Louisiana have recently been described as exploitative and
8 compared to slavery. Inmates often work eight-plus hour days for between or between \$0.02 and \$0.80
9 depending on their job type. This amount of money is useless both behind bars and in the outside world.
10 Conditions while working can also be harsh and reports of inmates being unable to take breaks are also
11 many. At Louisiana State Penitentiary, or Angola, inmates can be thrown in solitary confinement for
12 refusing to work or being unproductive.

13 These conditions are dangerous for inmates; they can harm both physical and mental health which affects
14 inmate behavior and leads to harmful cycles. Further the extremely low pay can cripple the chances of
15 inmate reform because inmates are unable to take care of themselves once released. Many former inmates
16 also have trouble finding jobs after they have gotten out because of their record. Paying inmates more
17 might reduce recidivism, the reentry of inmates into the prison system, and prevent some former inmates
18 from committing more crimes out of desperation.

19 A new tax

20
21 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

22 More funding should be allocated to prisons for the specific purpose of increasing inmate pay. Inmates
23 should be compensated for their labor and effort, just as non-incarcerated persons are, and given the
24 minimum wage, at the very least. Louisiana's minimum wage is \$7.25, and even though that is not much, it
25 will at least provide a small amount of aid.

26 If an inmate works a full eight-hour day, they would receive \$58, and in a week between \$290 and \$409,
27 depending on how many days they worked. Inmates will be paid on a semi-weekly schedule (every two
28 weeks). These amounts are not completely accurate because some inmates work less than eight hours
29 while some work more. Inmates deserve the same basic rights and human decency and denying them is
30 inhumane.

31
32 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

33 Funding to ensure financial protections for inmates will come from a 2% income tax for both the monthly
34 and semi-weekly schedules. Taxpayers will be expected to pay this tax increase by law, if they are
35 residents of the state of Louisiana. This money will then be allocated to the Louisiana Department of
36 Public Safety and Corrections to be used for inmate pay.

37
38 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

39 No penalties should be necessary, however any penitentiary in Louisiana willfully disobeying the change
40 will be subject to an internal investigation and a fine of up to \$100,000.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 211**

3 Amber Jagneaux

Dutchtown High School

4
5 **TITLE:** High beams are only permitted if it is equivalent or under 6,000 lumens.

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Causes drivers the inability to see the road

9 Causes wrecks

10 Distraction to younger drivers

11
12 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

13 The police will pull over a person with lights that are too bright and measure the angle in which the lights
14 are placed. Lumens will also be used to measure the brightness of the lights

15
16 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

17 The state and local governments will fund the police stations with the tools to measure brightness of the
18 lights from tax money

19
20 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

21 Ticketed and fined up to 500\$

22 License suspension up to 6 months



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 212**

3 Charlie Jeansonne Catholic High School

4 Luke Duval

5 **TITLE:** Coastal Defense Act

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Every year, our beautiful Louisiana coast is eroded like never before. Some experts suggest that the coast
8 may rise a total of 24 inches, placing much of what is modern-day New Orleans underwater. Action must
9 be taken now to protect our marshes, swamps, and coastal communities. According to the Louisiana
10 Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, "75% of commercial fish species depend on the state's
11 wetlands." Therefore, we are calling on all fishermen to help our great state out.

12 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

13 Our government would place a fee on top of the price for a fishing license. We would send the
14 requirements of this bill to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, who would implement the
15 fee.

16 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

17 In Louisiana, most fishing licenses cost around \$20. We will add a fee of \$10 to the cost of buying a
18 license. Around 445,000 licenses are bought each year, and with our additional fee of \$10, we will have
19 an estimated \$4.5 million going toward planting trees and defending our coasts.

20 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

21 There are no penalties associated with this bill.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 213**

3 Maeve Dolan Episcopal School of Baton Rouge\
4

5 **TITLE:** To Improve Louisiana Public Schools

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 In Louisiana, much of the annual education budgets for public schools come from property taxes in the
8 area of the school. This means that students in low-income areas go to underfunded schools, giving them
9 fewer opportunities to succeed, continuing cycles of poverty in our state. This bill will distribute the same
10 amount of property taxes, just based on school population instead of area. This bill will not affect the
11 funding of charter schools, since separate programs exist for their financing. In the words of Benjamin
12 Franklin, "On education all our lives depend. And few to that, too few, with care attend." It is time to start
13 to heal our state economically, socially, and culturally through our too-often undervalued resource,
14 education.

15 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

16 Beginning with the next state budget approval, in June of 2024, Louisiana state legislators will take this
17 policy into account, redistributing funds accordingly. This will not interfere with other methods of funding
18 schools, such as grants and donations.

19 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

20 Louisiana Legislators will tax property as usual and re-distribute those same funds to public schools. The
21 funding will be divided and weighted by student population before distribution.

22 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

23 N/A



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023

HOUSE BILL 214

Robert Jacobs

dutchtown high school

TITLE: ban state testing in Louisiana.

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

teachers and students don't want state testing mostly because of how stressful it is. an article by education week .org says A majority of educators find that state-mandated standardized tests aren't useful in the classroom despite feeling a large amount of pressure to have their students perform well on those exams, according to new data from the EdWeek Research Center. And an article by Britannica procon.org says "Standardized tests only determine which students are good at taking tests, offer no meaningful measure of progress, and have not improved student performance." In the same article it does state pros to standardized testing and one of them is "Standardized tests offer an objective measurement of education and a good metric to gauge areas for improvement." Well that's what every test does. It states areas of improvement and students do get a paper that says what answers they got right and wrong which can help them improve. On the state test students only get their scores so how can students improve?

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

All tests, including state assessments, provide information about student learning that help us (teachers and parents) instruct students better and help them succeed. says support.cva.org. But here's the thing: state testing is just too stressful for kids. They have to go into a different class room with a different teacher and do a timed test. Instead this bill proposes that the state should get their data on how students are performing over time based on exams and tests. Because the student will not feel rushed and can take their time. The state will start by looking at the first test of the year then the midterms and then final exam of the year or they can look at the students AP exam scores. By doing this the students will also not have to worry about memorizing everything they learned throughout the year. Overall this will also help students' mental health. And the state will also know if the kids are meeting their goals by seeing how kids are improving over time. And this will allow them to make changes as needed. And if a student says that one class midterms or tests are harder than the others then they can request to be sent to tutoring or can change teachers if needed.

SECTION III: FUNDING

there is no funding

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

public schools are required to follow the laws of a state or country. This is because public schools are funded by taxpayers, and as such, they are subject to the same laws as any other government agency. Says Ariana Jones a commenter on quora.com. Meaning that if the bill becomes a law then schools must obey if not they stop getting funded and will in most cases get shut down.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 215**

3 Jacob Sruk Catholic High School

4 Patrick Kelly

5
6 **TITLE:** Coastline Protection Act

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 The Louisiana Coastline Is eroding at a rate of 30 football fields per day. To help fix this problem, we
10 must plant plants that act as natural barriers to block storm surge, and flooding, which would help the
11 eroding coastline. These plants Include bald cypress, and grove trees, which help keep the soil together,
12 by spreading their roots, and act as walls, and some other native bushes that help prevent costal erosion.
13 We will plant these plants along the state's marshes, and swamps, that are most affected by costal
14 erosion.

15
16
17 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

18 This bill will go into effect starting in august, of 2024, and go through December of 2024, because that Is
19 the times It Is best to plant these plants for the best development. we will pay Louisiana government
20 workers for the work they do.

21 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

22 Louisiana will place a 2% tax on Louisiana vaping products, as well as Donations which will be welcomed
23 by the Louisiana wildlife federation. With this money, necessary seeds will be able to be purchased needed
24 to plant, as well as the necessary money needed to pay for the workers to do their job.

25 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

26 There are no consequences for breaking this law.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 216**

3 Radia Karim Lafayette High School

4 Willie Chang

5 **TITLE:** Healthier Air, Healthier Lives.

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 In the United States, secondhand smoke is responsible for the death of more than 41,000 citizens every
8 year. Carcinogens and chemical additives plague the air after someone has smoked in that area. That can
9 affect not only the smoker but also others around them, including those who are immunodeficient and
10 children who are more susceptible to the danger of secondhand smoking. In 2012, the United States
11 implemented smoke-free laws inside restaurants, bars, and workplaces in approximately 387 counties. 12
12 months after those laws went into effect, hospitals found that there was over a 20% decrease in
13 admissions for heart attacks- a medical emergency directly connected to blockages often caused by
14 smoking. Correspondingly, New York enacted smoke-free laws in the places mentioned above. In the
15 following year, hospitals found that with around 3,000 reduced admissions, came 56 million dollars in
16 savings.

17
18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 This bill seeks to create designated areas to smoke instead of allowing people to smoke freely in public
20 areas, protecting citizens from inhaling second hand smoke which is beyond their control. This bill also
21 seeks to prohibit smoking in all areas, except for those designated. These designated areas will be
22 determined by having locals submit requests for where they would like the smoking area to be through a
23 website. However, locals cannot request smoke zones in areas that are within 30 ft of hospitals, parks,
24 and schools. These requests will be reviewed and adjusted accordingly by the city council, and if
25 justifiable, the council will issue a poll. Creating designated areas can not only reduce the amount of
26 second-hand smoke but also potentially reduce how frequently people smoke.

27
28 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

29 This bill derives its funds from a 5% tax on tobacco/nicotine products.

30 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

31 Those who violate the anti-smoking laws will face a 200 dollar fine.



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023

HOUSE BILL 217

Michael Malone Dutchtown High

Amelia Caillouet

TITLE: Regulations for Public School Sports

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

While sports in the high school setting may just seem like fun and games to most people, it is getting increasingly more clear that sports and getting more and more dangerous. People may think that the LSHAA does a lot to prevent serious injuries, but according to lshaa.org, all they currently make possible athletes do is take a physical examination, which contains things such as making sure their pulse is normal and basic vitals are okay (According to ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/The National Library of Medicine.) While these are important and do stop people who are not capable of becoming an athlete for a school sport, there are far more things that should be checked to ensure the safety of students. The Youth Sports Safety Alliance (youthsportssafetyalliance.org) describes many medical injuries and issues found in youth sports. Such as the number of heat related illness have increase by a substantial amount, with a 133% percent increase from 1997 to 2006. Tragically, 31 high school football players alone died from suffering a heat stroke during a sports performance in a 14 year period. Additionally, sudden cardiac arrest being a major concern in student athletes, with only 1 in every 10 who suffer this sudden condition surviving. Sudden cardiac arrest is caused by undetected heart conditions possessed by the athletes.

Before participating in sports the medical records of the students must be further expanded to prevent complications. This medical information would come from more specified tests and documents such as an electrocardiogram (ECG), and collecting deeper access to past medical history and hereditary medical conditions that could affect physical performance. Even after the athletes are approved to participate, they should still be closely monitored for any new signs of complications whether it be overexertion, heat exhaustion, or any other possible sudden conditions since some students could still be at risk.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill would be implemented before the summer of the 2024-2025 school year at all public schools when practices for a large portion of sports begin. All new medical records and tests will be in place for the students to take before participating in their sport, as well as instructing when it would be unsafe for a student to continue practice based on the physical conditions they are exhibiting or the temperatures outside.

SECTION III: FUNDING

The examinations and tests that possible athletes have to take, as well as any resources used would be funded by the Louisiana Department of Education.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If a school refuses to comply with the regulations and does not give their students the necessary tests and examinations to keep them safe, then they would be kept from running sports on campus. This would be enforced by the on-campus police officers. If teachers or coaches were caught knowingly running sports with incomplete medical information, then they would be put under examination by the principal or the school board to ensure the safety of the students.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 218**

3 Alexa Odell Dutchtown High school

4
5 **TITLE:** Teachers must respect the pronouns of students of all ages in schools

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 In the United States, over 18% of minors go by different pronouns than what they were born with,
8 meaning almost 20 million people are in this community. Although this may not seem important to some
9 people, it can be huge for a young person to not feel respected as a human, and part of feeling respected
10 comes from knowing their pronouns are respected. As of 2019, at least 55% of these minors tend to self-
11 harm and/or have suicidal thoughts and I want to help lower this number. Under Louisiana's current "Given
12 Name Act" teachers must "Use the pronoun for a student that aligns with the student's sex unless the
13 student's parent provides written permission to do otherwise." This bill proposes that the pronouns a
14 student goes by are their choice with no input from their parents and teachers must respect these
15 pronouns.

16 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

17 Starting in the 2024-2025 school year, teachers must acknowledge and respect the pronouns of all
18 students. At the beginning of the school year, teachers must ask students what their preferred pronouns
19 are and respect those pronouns year-round.

20 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

21 No funding will be needed for this bill to be put into place.

22 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

23 If teachers are found discriminating against students or disrespecting their pronouns, they will be
24 required to temporarily complete their work away from students and may be suspended if this action
25 continues.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 219**

3 Samantha Vaughan Central High School

4 Christina Cotton

5 **TITLE:** The nullification of Daylight Savings Time

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Daylight Saving is the act of shifting the clock back one hour to conserve daylight hours. Daylight Savings
9 was originally enacted to conserve electricity and resources during wartime. In contemporary times, we
10 have new methods to produce and conserve energy. Health professionals argue that a consistent time
11 year-round decreases the risk of depression and cardiovascular health risks that are often experienced
12 due to time changes. Therefore, for public health and safety, the same consistent year-round would be
13 beneficial. Arizona, Hawaii, and the territories already stay at the same time year-round. These states and
14 territories just keep the same standard time year-round. Daylight savings is an outdated concept that
15 proves more of a burden than a use.

16
17 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

18 Louisiana will no longer switch to daylight savings time for all official purposes. They will continue year-
19 round in Central Standard Time. This would go into effect on November 2nd, 2023. This date would be the
20 next time that daylight savings goes into effect, therefore the bill will keep Louisiana in Central Standard
21 Time.

22
23
24 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

25 No additional funding needed

26
27 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

28 No penalties applicable



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 220**

3 Esteban Hernandez Quiroz Central High School

4 Audrey Bickham

5 **TITLE:** Stay safe and secure around guns

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Due to the state of Louisiana's weak gun laws and high ownership percentage the state has been ranked
8 2nd in the nation in firearm death rates having an outstandingly high rate of 28.42, currently the state
9 requires lifetime and 5 year permit holders to provide proof of recertification every 5 years. This act will
10 focus on terminating the ability to receive a lifetime permit as well as shortening the 5 year recertification
11 requirement down to 3. This will minimize the chance of an individual's declining mental and physical
12 stability from going undetected before gun purchases or renewal. The Act would also ensure every
13 manufactured and legally sold firearm will be registered to the local law enforcements database followed
14 by a mandatory minimum of 7 day waiting period which Louisiana does not enforce as of now.

15
16 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

17 For this bill to take effect gun stores must check all of the consumers I.D's along with their training
18 certifications and a background check, the mandatory 7 day waiting period will give the stores time to
19 submit the consumers information to the Louisiana state police database giving the proper authorities
20 time to confirm and investigate all information presented as to ensure the validity of the consumer and
21 general safety.

22
23
24 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

25 This bill would be funded by a 1.15% city tax increase in order to reimburse local forces. As well as a 2%
26 tax increase on vapes and cigarettes (in an attempt to help lower underaged usage of these items)

27
28
29 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

30 Currently the penalty for a first offense illegal possession is a 6 month imprisonment along with a \$500
31 dollar fine, this act would double both penalties to 12 months and a \$1,000 dollar fine keeping the rest of
32 the multiple offense penalties the same.

33



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 221**

3 Tiana Bergeron

Central High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Change Louisiana's Primaries to a Partially Closed System

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 My bill is calling for a Partially Closed Primary in Louisiana because too many people are left
9 unrepresented in our primaries with the current voting system. The system now is a fully closed primary,
10 this means only registered members of a certain party can participate in primary elections, thus excluding
11 the voice of unaffiliated, independent, and non-registered voters. The state of Louisiana's independent
12 and unaffiliated voters cannot participate in any presidential primary elections because we have a closed
13 primary. A closed primary limits democracy in a state because it prohibits certain people from voting.
14 2.6% of Louisiana's population are unaffiliated, independent, or non-registered voters, which means
15 nearly 55,000 people aren't allowed to vote. That's why partially closed primaries should be enacted in
16 the state; this means unaffiliated or non-registered voters pick a party to align with for the primary
17 election while excluding the other parties from crossing party lines. Ultimately giving independent voters a
18 say in Louisiana elections.

19
20 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

21 Louisiana will shift from a closed system to a partially closed system, this will go into effect for the 2024
22 election cycle. In April, primary voter rolls will be updated to include independent voters.

23
24 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

25 This bill requires no financing or means of funding.

26
27 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

28 No penalties for this bill.



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023

HOUSE BILL 222

Maryam Musa Yola

University High School

Greta Bailey

TITLE: Revive the FCC Fairness Doctrine in the State of Louisiana

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

In recent years, the media, including television, newspapers, radio, and now social media, has become increasingly partisan. Alongside this, politics are becoming more divisive and more central to people's individuality. The media has been a large proponent of this and arguably created the deep divide between sides that is evident in today's political landscape.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

The FCC's Fairness Doctrine, which was repealed in 1989, should be used as a template for a similar bill in the State of Louisiana. The Doctrine will require that media outlets, previously described as television channels, newspapers, radio stations, and social media accounts, present a fair and transparent view of the opposing opinion on certain issues. These issues should be described as commentary about political candidates and officials, commentary about any issues that they choose to cover, and commentary about past, current, or future bills that are brought before either the Senate or the House of Representatives in both the State of Louisiana and the United States of America.

The Revival of the Fairness doctrine Act will penalize media companies and outlets via fine for partisan presentation of the points described above. The goal is to encourage them to include more bipartisan coverage in their works. The Doctrine will apply to Media companies and contributors, where contributors should be defined as individuals who frequently host, present, post, or write for a media outlet. "Frequent" should be defined as: at least four times per month. Contributors should also have noticeable impact and influence.

SECTION III: FUNDING

The funding for this bill should be expected to be marginally inexpensive. The funding for its enforcement should be sourced from the State of Louisiana's Office of Communications, which traditionally oversees the state's media. The bill should also be partially funded and supported by the fine. When the fine is paid the amount should be added to a fund that can be used to support the Doctrine in the future or, if the fund is in surplus, meaning \$100,000 or more, the money can and should be given to another department.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Media companies or contributors should be penalized if they do not sincerely talk about the other side of an issue for 30 seconds. This does not apply to all issues but the ones that were outlined above. Entities who do not adhere to the outlined requirements for The Revival of the Fairness Doctrine Act will be fined \$500 per offense.



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023

HOUSE BILL 223

Cole Trouard Catholic High School

Alijah O'Bear

TITLE: Remove Trigger Laws

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

This bill, as the title states, aims to get rid of trigger laws. Trigger laws are laws that are passed by a legislative body, but only go into effect once said event will "trigger" it, turning the law into an enforceable law. An example of a trigger law in Louisiana would be R.S. 40.1061 - Abortion prohibitions. It is a law that has a dubious clause that was signed before Roe v. Wade was overturned; the law states that the law will only go into effect if or when Roe v. Wade is overturned. Despite the spirit of the law being based on a dubious, contended understanding of what qualifies as personhood, the whole notion that unconstitutional laws can be "asleep" until such a time that a SCOTUS decision overturns the precedent case that keeps the law from being in-effect is simply ridiculous. This can lead to states beginning procedures to turn to SCOTUS as a political executive for signing, condoning, or vetoing a law. (Note that this bill has nothing to do with abortion, it is simply using this case as an example.)

Since the law was in a literal sense, unconstitutional under Roe v. Wade, which called abortion a fundamental part of a constitutional right to privacy that the 4th amendment, 15th amendment, and a couple of others which were ruled earlier to guarantee. The spirit of the law was contrary to the SCOTUS interpretation of constitutional law, and was only able to remain due to technicality, being that since there was no "actual harm" conducted by the State of Louisiana onto a defendant's constitutional rights, it could not be challenged for unconstitutionality.

This could be considered a legal booby trap; one will not notice it until the trigger hits, and one will not have to defend it in court because no one has been charged with it yet.

To sum it up, trigger laws are laws that only go into effect once a certain event takes place. This can be 2 years from the law being made, to 200 years after the law being made, and no one would know about it. Someone can break said law because they did not know it existed, and now they stepped on a landmine they never knew existed, and this person gets punished for it. Laws should not be made in advance; laws should be made in relevance to the current time and situation.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill will prohibit Louisiana Legislature from subverting inquiries of a law's constitutionality via the imposition of a "trigger" or condition involving the repeal of precedent decisions made by higher courts. Laws must be passed either with present constitutional precedents in mind, or to make a challenge of the constitutionality of a previous higher court precedent.

The law will take place immediately after passage.

SECTION III: FUNDING

No funding is needed for this bill.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

The Louisiana Supreme Court would declare the trigger law which breaks this law unconstitutional, rendering it void and advising the legislature to remove the trigger. It would primarily be a legislative restraint.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 224**

3 Addison Crain

Dutchtown High School

4 Kaia Bourgeois

5 **TITLE:** Clear the Air: Installation of Vape Detectors in High School Bathrooms

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 As we know, vaping in school is a growing problem among teenagers. According to the Louisiana
8 Department of Health, as of 2019, approximately 32% of high school students in Louisiana currently
9 vape. But kids aren't only vaping at home, they're vaping at school, more specifically, in school bathrooms.
10 Not only is it illegal for students under the age of 21 to be in possession of these products, but it is also
11 illegal for them to be brought to school. The National Institute of Drug Abuse explains how vaping and
12 breathing in second-hand vape has been shown to have extremely poor effects on a student's ability to
13 learn and show creativity, giving us reason to take further measures to maintain a proper learning
14 environment and to dissuade students from breaking the law in these locations.

15
16
17 In 2021, E-cigarette manufacturer Juul Labs Inc. made an agreement to pay \$10 million to settle a lawsuit
18 filed by the Louisiana Attorney General's Office in an attempt to limit the company's reach to minors. This
19 money was set aside to be used for programs that are designed to prevent or reduce the use of vapes
20 among Louisiana residents under 21. This bill proposes that using this settlement money, vape detectors
21 would be placed in each student bathroom in all public high schools. These detectors send alerts to the
22 school alerting them that vaping is detected, so they can then assess the situation.

23
24
25 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

26 This bill would require one vape detector to be installed in each student bathroom in all public high
27 schools before the beginning of the 2025 school year. The detectors would be required to be able to
28 detect vape smoke from the entire bathroom.

29
30 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

31 This bill would be funded by the 10 million dollar settlement Louisiana received from Juul Labs Inc.

32
33 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

34 If a school or school board refuses to comply with the law, they would be fined \$2,000. Each year the
35 school refuses to install the vape detectors after being fined, they would be fined another \$6,000. All
36 money collected from the fines will go towards the budget of the Louisiana Department of Education to
37 continue the improvement of health and safety in Louisiana public schools.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 225**

3 Shep Smith C.E. Byrd High School

4 Parker Townsend

5
6 **TITLE: Reinstating Rest Periods**

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 In students' younger years, nap time is a daily affair in primary education. This practice ceases to exist in
10 secondary education, and even later primary education. Primarily, this is due to the idea that students
11 become "too old" for resting periods throughout the day. However, the American Academy of pediatrics
12 found that 20-30% of high schools students fall asleep in class on a daily basis. Coupled with a more
13 difficult curriculum, this can be an inhibitor of alertness, cognition, and overall student learning.
14 Therefore, the reinstatement of resting periods in high schools across Louisiana can counter these
15 detriments to ensure maximum productivity throughout a full school day.

16
17 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

18 Every other day of the school week, students will be provided with a 25-minute resting period. Resting
19 periods will take place in the class immediately after the students' lunch break. Students are encouraged
20 to bring blankets and pillows to maximize rest. To allocate time, each of the seven class periods will be
21 reduced by four minutes, giving students three minutes to arrive at their next class and 25 minutes to
22 sleep. Students will be asked to refrain from using cell phones or doing work for other classes.

23
24 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

25 No funding will be required for this bill.

26
27 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

28 Any teacher who is found violating the implicated rules of naptime will be fined \$75 for each offense. Any
29 student found violating the implicated rules of naptime will serve a punishment at the school's discretion.
30 (ex. detention, suspension)



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 226**

3 Jackson Cooper

C.E. Byrd High School

4 Peyton Salter

5
6 **TITLE:** Implement a finance class as part of the curriculum for high school students in Louisiana and make
7 it a necessity to graduate.

8
9 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

10 Many college students and young adults have trouble spending too much money, learning how to file taxes,
11 and other things related to finance. According to budgeting expert Dasha Kennedy of The Broke Black Girl,
12 it's far too easy to believe you don't need to budget, and that your financial problems can be solved just
13 by earning enough money. However, this often leaves you spending money on "wants" without enough
14 regard for your future goals. This is a big problem because this can cause people to start to feel
15 depressed because they are barely making ends meet. Implementing finance as part of the curriculum
16 would help to solve this problem because it would help teach high school students how to manage their
17 money so they aren't running into as many debt problems straight out of high school. Also in a recent
18 Insuranks survey, 22% of millennials and Gen Zers said they don't know how to file taxes. This is a big
19 problem because this can have serious consequences such as being sent to federal prison. That would not
20 look good on a job resume. Once again this would be yet another skill that could be taught to these high
21 school students to try to keep them out of trouble and have a successful life without too many money
22 problems.

23
24 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

25 This class would be implemented as part of the math curriculum for seniors because they are the ones
26 who are about to go out into the real world, and they are the ones who are going to have to use the
27 knowledge from this class.

28
29 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

30 There would be money needed for new textbooks with the finance information in it, and since this would
31 be a class implemented in Louisiana it would need to come from the state Department of Education.

32
33 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

34 If this law is broken then the students at that high school would not be able to graduate. Since this class
35 would be a requirement students would have to take this class or they would not graduate.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 227**

3 Carla Powell-Lewis

Zachary High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Restraint and Regulation of Artificial Intelligence

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Artificial Intelligence, often abbreviated as AI, has long been the driving force of conspiracy theories, viral
8 videos, and many other things across the internet and media. Recently, AI has been used to show mainly
9 celebrities and important figures doing things they haven't. This includes talking to other people, saying
10 things they usually wouldn't say, and so on. However, it's been getting more and more serious. Forms of
11 propaganda are being created with the help of AI; serious criminal evidence is being altered with AI. As
12 time progresses, this technology can spread to the public and be heavily misused.

13
14 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

15 To execute this bill, I would first call for the holding of all accessible forms of artificial intelligence for
16 inspection. Inspections would create new jobs with the requirements that of FBI employees. The inspection
17 of these websites, apps, and databases will include if the companies are harboring data without the
18 permission of users, if the companies see any forms of misuse of AI in users and not reporting them, and
19 if the companies are altering users provided information with AI. These inspections will apply to upcoming
20 new AI companies as well.

21
22 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

23 Being that this issue is of U.S. concern, the main funding for the bill will come from the Department of
24 Homeland Security. The implementations of this bill will cost approximately \$750,000 to \$1,500,000 to
25 start. The funds for the bill will go towards employees who investigate the AI companies. AI companies will
26 also be expected to pay a proportional tax percentage of their earnings to fund this bill.

27
28 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

29 If AI companies choose to not follow the restraints and regulations provided by the bill, they will be
30 ordered to bring an end to the entirety of their company. Companies who willingly refuse minor restraints
31 and regulations in the bill will be ordered to pay fines up to \$500,000. The seriousness of the companies'
32 AI involvement will result in criminal investigation and trial.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 228**

3 Christine McCrory

Lafayette High School

4
5 **TITLE:** This bill requires all Louisiana businesses to provide pale orange medieval style clothing to diminish
6 societal norms and discrimination.

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Clothing is a device that uses colors, style, and fit to non-verbally express one's personality. It has been
10 used for centuries and developed drastically. In more recent years, clothing has become a symbol of power
11 and a way to express your wealth. This creates a social divide between the upper and lower classes since
12 lower classes cannot afford the same garments. This allows wealthier people to discriminate against those
13 who are less fortunate since one's clothing is a very obvious tell-tale sign that represents their
14 socioeconomic status. The price of clothing fluctuates depending on the materials used to make it, the
15 colors used, its brand name, etc. Because of this, some clothing is made affordable to only the wealthy.
16 This is what ultimately creates a social divide between the two classes. In addition, brand names have
17 turned clothing into a symbol of power and wealth. Brands such as Gucci, Dior, Louis Vuitton, etc are all
18 examples of brands that are used to represent one's wealth since they are priced extremely high and are
19 considered "luxury." This causes discrimination because someone who is able to afford these brands could
20 look down upon the people who can't.

21
22 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

23 All clothing businesses in the state of Louisiana are now required to provide the same style medieval
24 clothes to the public rather than the clothes they were selling previously. Women are to wear gowns that
25 stop at the ankle, a smock as an undertunic(loose garment worn under clothes), low buckled shoes, and an
26 optional bonnet. Men are to wear tunics (loose garments), a pair of trousers, pointed and long shoes
27 called poulaines, and an optional headcap. All of this clothing will be colored a pale orange. Outerwear
28 such as jackets and coats as well as undergarments are not required to oblige by this rule. All other
29 clothing that is not pale orange and medieval style is to be taxed 53.846% by the state of Louisiana. This
30 law will put an end to clothing being a symbol of power. It will stop discrimination against people due to
31 their clothing since everyone is wearing the exact same outfit. Even though eliminating different clothing
32 will not end discrimination, this bill serves as a way to diminish it. People will no longer be able to tell who
33 is higher class strictly based on their attire. The clothing will all be the same shade of pale orange to
34 prevent one color gaining a higher value than another. This law will go into effect by June 1st, 2025,
35 giving businesses time to acquire vendors to provide the clothing as well as planning advertisements.

36
37 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

38 No funding is needed for this bill.

39
40 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

41 Non-compliance will result in the tax on non-medieval style clothing to increase by 7.92% every week and
42 3 days. This tax will continue to increase for the length of time that a business does not comply.

43



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023

HOUSE BILL 229

Vance Piwonka

C.E. Byrd High School

TITLE: Cracking Down On News Network Misinformation Act

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

In the past years, misinformation has been spread more and more often and is unaccounted for. This has escalated to the point where news channels have begun spreading misinformation, leading to the case FOX News v. Smartmatic. In this case, Smartmatic sued FOX for spreading false statements about their voting machines, which were wrongfully claimed by FOX to be faulty and rigged. Another case of this happened in the case Dominion v. FOX News, where FOX claimed that Dominion's voting machines were as faulty and rigged as Smartmatic's. In a third case, Nina Jankowitz, a former DHS disinformation expert sued FOX for defamation after the news channel lied about her and she was subjected to death threats. Her address was released online, and she, as well as her family, was threatened and told to kill themselves. One of FOX's (Former, he was fired after the Dominion v. FOX lawsuit) anchors, Tucker Carlson, was sued after he spread misinformation and racist comments against immigrants. Carlson's lawyers had to say that FOX could not be verified as a news source; it is purely entertainment. However, Carlson stated on FOX, "Remember the facts of the story. These are undisputed." FOX still claims they are a news channel after multiple defamation and misinformation lawsuits. Similarly, CNN was sued for defamation by a Kentucky high school student, named Nick Sandmann, after CNN claimed he was the "face of an unruly hate mob." Sandmann was attending a March for Life anti-abortion rally and he and other people marching were videotaped mocking a pro-abortion Native American activist, and Sandmann was falsely claimed to be racist. This could lead to harmful acts by people who listen to these networks, and networks may follow in FOX's and CNN's footsteps to gain viewers.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill would make it illegal to spread misinformation (or defamation unless it is only and no less than the truth.) This bill would take place starting January 1st of 2024. The only way for misinformation to be spread is if it is clearly stated that is false and can not be trusted. It would be illegal news channels can not be called news channels unless they tell the truth and nothing but the truth. It would also be illegal for any person, including government officials, to say that what they said in a court case was true was actually a lie. This does not include misinformation spread due to a source that isn't verified; however, there must be proof for this exception to occur. Misinformation in this case includes information that is deliberately a lie and cannot be considered true without a source. It must be able to be verified for it not to be considered false.

SECTION III: FUNDING

This bill would require no funding.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Punishments for those who break this law include:

- Charges of assistance with murder if the victim is killed in rage by a listener or commits suicide
- Fines of at least \$1,000
- Compensation to the victim of starting at \$5,000
- Jail time of up to 6 months for slander; if written/typed on social media, up to 2 years for libel



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 230**

3 Audrey Welch

C.E. Byrd High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Increase mandatory minimum sentence for crimes committed with stolen firearms.

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Due to the rising violent crime statistics in Louisiana, much of which is committed with stolen firearms, an
8 effort needs to be made to curtail the use of stolen firearms. Various local ordinances have failed to pass
9 that would punish law abiding citizens for improperly storing legally owned firearms. These laws would
10 make criminals out of such law abiding citizens rather than punish actual criminals. Therefore this bill
11 proposes to add a minimum additional 10 year sentence for any criminal convicted of a crime while using
12 a stolen firearm. The result of passage of this bill will reduce violent crime in Louisiana with the use of
13 illegal firearms because a mandatory sentence applied to conviction will discourage firearm theft as well
14 as overall illegal firearm transaction and use. Furthermore, convicts who commit violent acts with stolen
15 guns will be behind bars for longer periods of time and will offer less chance of recidivism.

16 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

17 This bill will go into effect upon approval of the majority of the Electorate as it will be most effective as
18 an amendment to Louisiana's constitution. Enactment of this law can be relatively immediate as there is
19 no procedure that needs to take effect. This is a sentencing law for criminals who commit violent acts or
20 felonies with stolen firearms.

21 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

22 There is no exact monetary value to be equated with the passing of this bill, but this bill will however
23 decrease the cost of legal proceedings going through the state public defender's office for both defenders
24 and law enforcement, lowering insurance rates, and have an overall decrease in crime which will in turn
25 have a net improvement in the state of Louisiana's economy from increased investment.

26 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

27 The penalties to breaking this law are clear in the addition of a minimum 10 year sentence to criminals
28 involved in violent acts committed with stolen firearms.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 231**

3 Nicholas Hudson

C.E. Byrd High School

4
5 **TITLE: 4 Day School/Work Week**

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 The idea of a 4 day school/work week is ideal for the mind to grow. Hundreds of other schools have
9 adopted and taken into action the 4 day school/work week. This cites lower cost & better teacher
10 recruitment. Teachers and parents struggle to keep their kids entertained while they work five days a
11 week. Teachers have found an increase in student attendance and increased teacher morale due to a 4 day
12 school/work week. This doesn't just apply to school of course it can also apply to parents working jobs.
13 We know you all want one less work day to relieve you all from all that stress.

14
15 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

16 For this bill to work, teachers would need to adjust their schedule to fit the educational needs of the kids.
17 We would have to change the hourly pay to fit the same amount of money as a
18 5 day week. Schools with a 4 day school/work week save more money due to lack of transportation needs,
19 food products, appliances, & etc. This bill would take effect the week
20 after it is passed so everybody can have time to start adjusting to the new schedule.

21
22 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

23 Instead of spending money on putting in this bill you would save money. The maximum money that can be
24 saved from implementing this bill would be 5.43%. The average saving is 0.4% to 2.5% in savings which is
25 a lot in comparison to a 5 day school/work week where we spend more money rather than saving money.
26 We would have to change the hourly pay to fit the same amount of money as you would get in a 5 day
27 work week.

28
29 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

30 There would be no consequence given by the government if the law is passed. The only consequence would
31 be self imposed by continuing a 5 day school/work week. This could cause
32 the possibility of losing workers or students and going out of business, which would be due to the fact
33 that others would be on the 4 day school/work week schedule. A 4 day school/work
34 week seems much more enticing compared to a 5 day school/work week.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 232**

3 Sam Messina Episcopal High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Mandatory Blood Sugar Tests in Pediatric Visits

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Diabetes is a growing problem in the state of Louisiana. According to the American Diabetes Association,
9 roughly 32,000 people are diagnosed with diabetes yearly, and over 500,000 people currently have
10 diabetes. An even greater amount of of people have prediabetes with higher blood glucose numbers.

11 Diabetes is also very expensive costing the people in Louisiana over 5 billion dollars.

12 This bill aims to lower these numbers by making blood sugar tests mandatory for yearly pediatric visits. By
13 testing blood sugar numbers in youth, we can help kids understand the risks and problems that come with
14 diabetes. This bill will also help identify kids with elevated blood sugar numbers and help them fight or
15 treat diabetes more effectively.

16
17 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

18 This would go into effect immediately following the passage of this Bill. This will immediately take effect in
19 all pediatric visits as kids will start having blood sugar tests taken on their next visit. Kids and Doctors
20 will need to include these tests and results in any report made by the doctors. These tests will be free for
21 all kids so the health center would need to supply these tests.

22
23 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

24 Pediatric health centers already have the machines that are used to test blood sugars so there would be
25 no need to distribute any of those. The only thing that would need funding would be the test strips and
26 needles. The money for this would be given to the health centers via a 2000-dollar yearly government
27 grant. The government would get the grant money from its State Medicare funds.

28 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

29 If a pediatric health center is not performing tests, they will be fined 500 dollars a week until tests
30 resume.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 233**

3 Angelina Plaisance Lafayette High

4
5 **TITLE:** Prohibit the Use of the Gay and Trans Panic Defense

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 In recent years there have been advancements made to address the rising levels of hate crimes against
9 LGBT individuals at the federal, state, and local levels. But despite these progressions an affirmative legal
10 defense (a defense in which the defendant introduces evidence, which, if found to be credible, will negate
11 criminal liability or civil liability, even if it is proven that the defendant committed the alleged acts) known
12 as the "Gay and Trans Panic" defense remain valid defenses in many states, one of these states being
13 Louisiana. The gay panic defense is a legal strategy of a defendant who requests to be at least partially
14 excused from criminal conduct by portraying themselves as the victim of a homosexual advance. They do this
15 through the basis of either:

16 Provocation: sudden quarrel or action in the heat of passion,

17 Temporary insanity: a person, as a result of severe mental disease or defect, was unable to appreciate the
18 nature or wrongfulness of the defendant's acts,

19 Or self-defense: The use of force to protect oneself from an attempted injury by another.

20 My bill intends to remedy this by banning the use of this defense and all its subsections of defenses in
21 courts by the start of 2024. This bill would not penalize the lawyers who attempt to use it, but would
22 instead allow a judge to throw out the defense if it was attempted to be used as it will no longer have a
23 legal basis. This bill will also define the three defenses so that a judge may assess whether or not a
24 defendant is using these within the grounds of the Gay Panic Defense. No nonviolent sexual advance or
25 perception or belief, even if inaccurate, of the gender, gender identity or expression, or sexual orientation
26 of an individual may be used to excuse or justify the conduct of an individual or mitigate the severity of
27 an offense. To be considered a nonviolent advance there must be no use of force or injury to another
28 person while initiating any actions, words, or gestures that are intended to initiate or pursue a sexual or
29 romantic encounter with another person.

30 For purposes of this bill, "gender" includes a person's gender-related appearance and behavior regardless
31 of whether that appearance or behavior is associated with the person's gender as determined at birth.

32
33 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

34 In addition to the pre-decided rules of LA R.S 14:20 (Justifiable homicide laws) this affirmative defense
35 will be banned from being used in courts across the state of Louisiana as well as adding a more clear
36 definition to the legal terms used in them. At the start of the 2024 year all legal proceedings will
37 henceforth be subject to these following provisions:

38 I) Restrictions on the Defense of Provocation: For purposes of determining sudden quarrel or heat of
39 passion, the provocation was not reasonable if it resulted from the discovery of, knowledge about, or
40 potential disclosure of the victim's actual or perceived gender, gender identity, gender expression, or
41 sexual orientation, including under circumstances in which the victim made an unwanted but non forcible
42 romantic or sexual advance towards the defendant.

43 II) Restrictions on Diminished Capacity/Temporary Insanity: A defendant that does not suffer from
44 reduced mental capacity or mental disease would not form these based on the discovery of, knowledge
45 about, or potential disclosure of the victim's actual or perceived gender, gender identity, gender

1 expression, or sexual orientation, including under circumstances in which the victim made an unwanted
2 but non forcible romantic or sexual advance towards the defendant.

3 III) Restrictions on Self Defense: Under current Louisiana law, LA R.S. 14:20(a), to justifiably use self-
4 defense in a homicide, four elements must be proven: The attack must be unprovoked against the victim,
5 there must be an imminent injury or death, there must be a reasonable degree of force used against you
6 or a loved one, or there is a person making an unlawful/violent entry into an establishment. In order for a
7 defendant to justifiably argue self defense in a homicide case, one or more of these elements must be
8 evident. A person is not justified in using force against another based on the discovery of, knowledge
9 about, or potential disclosure of the victim's actual or perceived gender, gender identity, gender
10 expression, or sexual orientation, including under circumstances in which the victim made an unwanted
11 but non forcible romantic or sexual advance towards the defendant. Forcible romantic or sexual advances
12 will be classified as any other case of harassment, sexual assault, or rape, regardless of the perpetrator's
13 gender or sexual orientation.

14 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

15 This bill does not require any new funding.

16 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

17 If proposed in a court of law the defense strategy will be thrown out under a president of no longer
18 having any legal basis.
19
20



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 234**

3 Gabrielle Perrault

St. Joseph's Academy

4 Lorelei Robinson

5
6 **TITLE: Abolish Mandatory Minimum Sentences**

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 According to statistics from the summer of 2022, Louisiana's incarceration rate is higher than any other
10 state in the country and almost double the entire United States. This is partially due to mandatory
11 minimum sentencing laws. Mandatory minimum sentences are the smallest possible prison sentence a
12 court is allowed to impose on a person convicted of a crime. Although originally enacted to reduce crime,
13 mandatory minimums do not allow for all of the facts and circumstances of a case to be taken into
14 account when deciding a sentence. In Louisiana, most of these mandatory minimum sentencing laws have
15 been repealed. However, mandatory minimums for drug crimes are still in place. Certain mandatory
16 minimum laws require at least one year for nonviolent drug crimes. A study that took place in July 2022
17 found that nonviolent drug crimes make up almost 20% of Louisiana's prisons—not to mention how over
18 half of our inmates are nonviolent offenders. New legislation requires a minimum sentence of five years
19 for distributing any drug that, whether intentionally or not, causes harm. In other cases, such as being
20 caught growing marijuana, someone in Louisiana would face a mandatory minimum of five years for that
21 charge alone. Should this bill pass, it would remove mandatory minimums in Louisiana and ultimately help
22 reduce the gross overcrowding in Louisianan prisons as well as reduce the cost of maintaining them.

23
24 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

25 This bill will repeal mandatory minimum sentences from all sentencing laws that currently include
26 mandatory minimum sentences.

27
28 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

29 This bill requires no funding.

30
31 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

32 This bill has no applicable penalties.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**
2 **HOUSE BILL 235**

3 Sydney Alltmont Metarie Park Country Day
4

5 **TITLE:** Hate Crime Education In Public Schools
6

7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 In 2019, around 5% of hate crimes were committed by someone 18 or younger. During that same year,
9 over 8,300 kids were reported to be victims of identity-based bullying. Whether it be a swastika drawn on
10 a locker or derogatory terms said in a locker room, many youth are ignorant about the impact and gravity
11 of their words and actions against those different from themselves. The goal of this bill is to stop the
12 spread of hate in people while they are young and to create a world embracing different cultures instead
13 of discriminating against them. It is important to understand what a hate crime is and how to prevent
14 them from occurring.
15

16 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

17 Starting in elementary, a discussion would be held on how to embrace and accept others' differences. This
18 would be held a minimum twice a year, then it is up to the school to implement more meetings. This would
19 be held during a non-academic time. During the middle school years, schools would begin using The Office
20 of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Webinar Series about Youth Hate Crimes and Hate
21 Groups. This series not only talks about what a hate crime is, but how to prevent one and how to help
22 victims if needed. At the high school level, schools would hold in-depth discussions about hate crimes with
23 the knowledge built from elementary and middle school. These conversations would talk about real world
24 hate crimes.
25

26 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

27 Any funding necessary to implement this bill will come from the Louisiana Department of Education.
28

29 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

30 If school districts fail to adhere to the curriculum, 5% of spending will be taken. If a school refuses to
31 implement the curriculum, a mandatory meeting will be held with the Louisiana Education Department
32 where a fit punishment will be determined.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 236**

3 Bailey Finnan Mandeville High School

4 Brayden Pursell

5
6 **TITLE:** Motion to Remove Statute of Limitations For Statutory Rape Committed Upon Minors

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 In Louisiana, there is a statute in place that states that certain sex offenses committed upon minors are
10 no longer prosecutable after 30 years once said minor turns 18. This legislation will specifically focus on
11 the carnal knowledge of a minor or otherwise known as statutory rape. Louisiana law defines statutory
12 rape as the sexual intercourse between an individual 17 or older with a minor, and there must be an age
13 difference of two years or greater. According to the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault one in
14 four girls and one in six boys will be sexually victimized by their 18th birthday. The removal of this statute
15 of limitations will give these individuals the right to justice that they deserve.

16
17 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

18 As of 2024 the Louisiana government would remove the statute of limitations for the crime of statutory
19 rape upon minors.

20
21 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

22 This provision would require no means of financing.

23
24 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

25 If any courts or other legal prosecutors violate the expulsion of this statute, the Louisiana Supreme court
26 will further decide on the proper fines, suspensions, or other forms of penalties as deemed applicable.

27 This revision will not be applicable to any cases that violated the Statute before 2024.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 237**

3 Nicoline Perrin

Lafayette high school

4
5 **TITLE:** Indigenous People's Day

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Columbus Day is a recognized state holiday in Louisiana that symbolizes solidarity with Italian immigrants.
9 President Harrison recognized Columbus Day in 1892 in response to the killing of 11 Italians in New
10 Orleans motivated by the Anti-Italian movement. Since Columbus was an Italian icon, he became the image
11 of the Italian immigrant movement. Even if Columbus Day supports Italian immigrants' heritage and the
12 crimes committed against them, it completely degrades the unjust crimes committed against the natives
13 that came before under Columbus's rule. Columbus may represent Italian culture but he also stands as a
14 reminder of Native Americans and indigenous communities facing displacement, persecution, and the
15 erasure of their cultures. Columbus and his crew were known to exploit and mistreat the native
16 community. He enslaved them and forced them to abandon their religion.

17
18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 All federal workers will continue to have the day off. The holiday will be renamed to Indigenous people's
20 day and during this day schools will be required to educate students about local native american cultures
21 and tribal groups in Louisiana. This bill will be implemented for the first time on Monday, October 14,
22 2024.

23
24 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

25 No funding is required for this bill.

26
27 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

28 There are no penalties as the state will only be changing the name of this Federal Holiday.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**
2 **HOUSE BILL 238**

3 Eva Carpenter Haynes Academy
4 Angel Ma

5
6 **TITLE:** Sex Education for Empowerment, Equality, and Development for Schools
7

8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Many factors including genetics and lifestyle factors like nutrition, health, and environment push the
10 earlier signs of puberty. Young women and men in the present day are starting to experience the effects
11 of puberty sooner than in the past; In fact, boys experience puberty at around nine to ten, indicating that
12 it is important for them to be properly educated earlier. Giving primary school students a more formal
13 education about their hormonal changes could benefit them greatly. Not only does more sex education
14 inform pre-teens, but it can prevent teen pregnancies, and release more information about correct
15 contraceptive usage and birth control, pubescent changes, and sexually transmitted diseases.
16 According to the CDC, the number of births per 1,000 females aged 15–19 is 24.5 in Louisiana, which
17 ranks it the seventh highest in the U.S. The rate is around three people per grade. In Louisiana, the
18 current law restricts sex education to grades seven through twelve, which often falls after the age when
19 many children experience puberty and other related changes. In addition, there is no specific legal
20 requirement for when comprehensive sex education should be provided, which leads to a common practice
21 in which the majority of school systems offer a single semester of sex education in late high school. This
22 timing is suboptimal, as it occurs far too late in students' lives to address this critical issue.
23

24 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

25 This plan shall be enacted on a new starting semester. There will be a mandatory class for grades three
26 through five lasting for one semester that will be part of the physical education course. This course shall
27 only be taken once by each grade and students will not need to take it again during the rest of their
28 primary school years. Teachers will have professional development and training to deliver an open and
29 non-judgmental sex education curriculum. As well, feedback reports will be collected from teachers,
30 students, and parents to make continuous improvements to the bill. While sex education is very necessary,
31 there will be alternative options provided for families with specific cultural or religious concerns who wish
32 for their children to not take the class. Such alternatives will include counseling that will be completely
33 confidential for students whose parents opt their children out of the mandatory sex education course;
34 students can voluntarily go if they have any questions about their sexual health.
35

36 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

37 This bill will use funding from state and local government money set aside for public schools. The state
38 shall fund the money training for teachers and local districts shall fund any additional materials needed by
39 the class such as textbooks, anatomy teaching-models, etc.
40

41 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

42 Penalties shall be imposed if a primary school is caught not following the curriculum, being unprofessional
43 about the curriculum, and/or teaching inaccurate information. Should any of these happen, the school
44 shall be fined \$20 per day until the misconduct is addressed. The state and local district governments are
45 intended to enforce these penalties and inspect each school to make sure they are getting taught the
46 correct curriculum.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 239**

3 Marianna Harris

Lafayette High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Increase Teacher Retention

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 The State of Louisiana, as of January 2023, has already begun implementing a “comprehensive
9 recruitment and retention plan” which include things like the Grow Your Own/ pre-educator pathway
10 (offered in over 90 schools), a 1500 dollar pay increase for teachers, and creation of the first
11 Superintendent’s Teacher Advisory Council. According to the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE),
12 overall teacher retention has already increased two points to 86% this past year, but there is still room
13 for improvement. My plan is to create a state grant in which teachers would be able to apply for 500
14 dollars to spend on their classrooms each year. This grant has the ability to reach 500 teachers a year.
15 Providing the opportunity to fund a more positive work environment for teachers across the state is
16 important because, according to a study done by the The Peabody Journal of Education, teachers’
17 perceptions of their work environments “were the most significant predictors of beginning teacher’s
18 morale, career choice commitment and plans to stay in teaching.”

19
20 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

21 The LDOE’s Office of School System Financial Services will create an application for the grant in which
22 teachers will write an explanation of how they would use the funds and how it would impact specifically
23 their environment and their students. The application will be available under grant opportunities on the
24 LDOE website. The Office of School System Financial Services will also review applications.

25
26 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

27 An additional \$250,000 will be allocated to the LDOE’s Office of School System Financial Services for this
28 grant each fiscal year.

29
30 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

31 This bill does not require any penalties.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 240**

3 Violet Reeves

Mandeville High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Forbade the acts of book bans and pulling books.

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 To stop the act of removing books from shelves and having pages or paragraphs removed due to content.
9 As a form of censorship, the act of pulling or banning books occurs when private individuals, government
10 officials, or organizations remove books from libraries or school reading lists because they object to their
11 content, ideas, or themes. Advocates for book pulling or banning fear that kids will be swayed by its
12 contents and raise questions on complex topics. Many books that are pulled target issues from minority
13 groups; in this targeting, advocates fail to realize that librarians research the books that are on the
14 shelves themselves.

15
16 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

17 Any book that has been pulled or banned from any public or school library can be put back up to the
18 discretion of the librarian. All attempts by advocates to ban or pull books will be shut down.

19
20 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

21 Funding to help public libraries is provided by the Federal Library Services and Technology Act, a section
22 of the Museum and Library Services Act administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. To
23 facilitate access to resources in all types of libraries for the purpose of cultivating an educated and
24 informed citizenry. For the school libraries, the funds will be taken by the Department of Education.

25
26 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

27 Citizens or organizations that make threats against librarians are to be taken seriously by the police.
28 Depending on the content of the threat, they will be prosecuted under RS 14:122 and will face fines no
29 more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not more than five years, or
30 both.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**
2 **HOUSE BILL 241**

3 Sofia Anello Mandeville High School
4

5 **TITLE:** Implement a Foreign Language enrichment program in all public elementary and middle schools
6

7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 This bill requires the implementation of a language learning class in all Louisiana public schools for
9 students grades 4-6. This class will be taught as an enrichment course in primary schools throughout the
10 state. Students will be able to learn either Spanish or French in enrichment programs placed throughout
11 the school week. These classes will be an introduction to the language for students, and will be the
12 foundation for the required language courses taken later on.
13

14 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

15 This new program will gradually be implemented throughout the state of Louisiana. By the year 2030 all
16 primary schools in Louisiana who teach 4th-6th graders will have this program in their schools. During
17 this year, schools within the state who teach 4th-6th grade will be required to hire at least one Spanish
18 or French teacher. At least one language teacher must be hired to teach the students in the school. Each
19 school has the ability to decide whether they teach Spanish or French within the school. Students will
20 begin taking classes upon entering the 4th grade and will attend these classes once a week.
21

22 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

23 Each primary school implementing this program will be given an initial \$100,000 Dollars to fund this new
24 program. This money will be taken from the state's education budget, and will be granted to school
25 districts directly to be used on the enrichment program. The base funding will be used to cover a teacher's
26 salary, the basic classroom materials (desks, classroom)If a school needs a larger budget for this
27 implementation, they can send an appeal to the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
28 (BESE) for the amount of money they need.
29

30 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

31 This bill requires no penalties.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 242**

3 Camille Christopher

Mandeville High School

4 Nicholas Franklin

5
6 **TITLE:** Reform Police Training

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 In Louisiana, police officers are required to spend a minimum of 496 hours at a Peace Officer Standards
10 and Training (POST) Academy. We propose increasing this number to 750 over 37 weeks. This will also
11 add a Mental Health Crisis Class where officers will learn how to safely de-escalate situations and will
12 work closely with Mental health professionals. We also propose to add Continued Learning to police
13 officers. This program requires all active police officers to take 20 hours of training at a POST Academy
14 biennially.

15
16 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

17 The POST Academies will be given the funding necessary to provide the additional classes. The class's
18 curriculum will be created by expert Police Officers and Mental Health Officials to ensure the trainees will
19 be given correct and up to date information.

20
21 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

22 Additional financing will be required, however it will be used to better an important system in our society.
23 Louisiana spends about \$2,445 Million each year already on police funding, increasing this to about
24 \$2,000 Million should be sufficient. This number is based on the Minnesota budget of \$3,571 Million
25 adjusted to Louisiana's population. Minnesota has a population of 5.7 Million and Louisiana's is about
26 4.6M, so authorizing this spending should be sufficient, and it can be decreased in coming years after
27 these programs are established for longer.

28
29 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

30 If the police officers do not complete the Continued Learning within the required time frame, they risk
31 losing their license.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 243**

3 Sophia LeBlanc

Mandeville High School

4 Henry L'Hoste

5
6 **TITLE:** Harsher Punishments on Fentanyl.

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid that is up to 50 times stronger than heroin and double that of
10 morphine. In 2022, 64.9% of drug-related fatalities in Louisiana involved fentanyl, according to post-
11 mortem toxicology tests. That number drastically increased by 41.6% of fatalities involving fentanyl in just
12 the three years prior in 2019. In New Orleans alone 94% of drug overdoses involved fentanyl. Just 2
13 milligrams of fentanyl, equal to just a pinch of sand, is considered a lethal dose. Criminal traffickers can
14 possess up to 40 grams of fentanyl before they face the 7-year mandatory minimum prison sentence but
15 only an eighth of that can end someone's life. This means a trafficker can murder up to 20,000 people
16 before they would face a seven year sentence. As of right now, anyone found illegally manufacturing or
17 selling this drug in Louisiana can be convicted minimum of 7 years for the first offense, 10 years the
18 second, life in prison for the third offense.

19
20 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

21 Anyone found making and or selling this drug will be sentenced to 25 years first offense, 40 years second,
22 and life in prison for third offense. As a drug this powerful can lead to death if consumed purposely or
23 accidentally, anyone who possesses fentanyl for the intent to use without a valid prescription will be
24 sentenced by the already existing Louisiana law stated above and by a trial by jury. This bill will be used
25 as the guideline for fentanyl related crimes in Louisiana after it is passed, and will not affect the
26 sentencing of people already convicted.

27
28 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

29 In Louisiana, the Department of Public Safety and Corrections pays for the cost of prisons.

30
31 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

32 No penalties are necessary for this bill.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 244**

3 Kit Russell Woodlawn

4
5 **TITLE:** Let They/Them Live

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 On July 19, 2023, the state of Louisiana passed bill HB648. This bill prohibits doctors from helping
9 transgender minors to receive any sort of care to help them transition. It includes hormones such as
10 estrogen, testosterone, and puberty blockers. In addition, it also bans doctors from performing surgeries
11 such as facial feminization surgery or chest reconstruction.

12 The name of the bill is the "Stop Harming Our Kids Act". The bill was originally vetoed by Governor John
13 Bel Edwards, but overridden by a vote of 28-11 in the Senate. In his reasoning for vetoing, Governor
14 Edwards writes, "This bill denies healthcare to a very small, unique, and vulnerable group of children." The
15 arguments for the bill were that such surgeries and hormones are child "mutilation". Between the years of
16 2017 and 2021, 0 gender reassignment surgeries were performed in the state of Louisiana. Only 465 out
17 of 794,779 children under Medicaid were diagnosed by a licensed healthcare provider. Out of the 465,
18 only 57 were considered for puberty blockers or hormone replacement.

19 Out of an already small percentage of children diagnosed, only a small amount of these children even
20 received care. Currently, in the state of Louisiana, only 12 healthcare providers are giving care to these
21 children. The process to be eligible for such care includes a diagnosis of gender dysphoria (a condition
22 that is recognized by a wide range of medical organizations), at least 2 years of therapy and counseling
23 for the children, and counseling for the parents of the child. In 2022, it was estimated that only around
24 3% of previously transgender individuals detransitioning, so the possibilities of the minor later regretting
25 their transition is low. Additionally, transgender children are at higher risk for depression and suicidal
26 thoughts and attempts. This bill would increase these rates due to children not having the chance to
27 receive care, care which already has an extensive process to receive.

28
29 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

30 This bill would repeal bill HB648. No changes will be made to the current healthcare options for
31 transgender minors in the state of Louisiana, nor will it change the process for those to be eligible to
32 receive such care. If passed, the bill will be implemented on January 1, 2024, the same date the "Stop
33 Harming Our Kids Act" is supposed to go into effect.

34
35 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

36 This bill does not require funding.

37
38 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

39 This bill does not have a penalty.



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023

HOUSE BILL 245

Anne Marie George

Metairie Park Country Day School

Grace Wang

TITLE: Closing the Achievement Gap in Education (CAGE).

An Act to Reform How Public Schools are Funded and Close Achievement Gaps

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Throughout the country, and especially in Louisiana, there is a disparity between school funding in poorer, low-income areas and wealthier, high-income areas. While the disparity in educational outcomes hinges upon many factors, inequality in public school funding is a major contributor, which leads to achievement gaps between students at schools with less funding than their wealthier counterparts. A McKinsey study has determined that achievement gaps across the country have cost the country more money than all recessions from the 1970s combined. They estimate that from 1998-2008, the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) would have \$670 billion higher if there had been no gap between wealthy and low-income students. According to the study, individuals with college degrees earn 84% more than individuals with only a high-school diploma. Education increases income, which results in greater economic growth. Higher-income families increase consumer spending, which constitutes 70% of the economy; with increased consumer spending comes more demand, the creation of more jobs, an increase in workers' wages, and thus more spending, formulating a cycle that leads to economic expansion. Currently, funding for public schools is largely reliant upon property taxes; however, this results in areas of lower property values to receive less funding for their schools than those who live in wealthier regions. In a study conducted by the American Educational Research Association, in political subdivisions across the nation that cut or froze school funding after the Great Recession, including Louisiana, student achievement among economically disadvantaged students declined dramatically. Although Louisiana's constitution does not allow for cuts from the state for per pupil spending, it allows for a freeze in funds, which can have the same effect as a funding cut when inflation is accounted for; this is exactly what occurred following the recession in 2008, in which Louisiana's annual base per pupil spending increase of 2.75 was eliminated. From 2014-2015, the legislature approved a one-time 2.75 percent increase that brought the base per pupil spending to \$3,961, which is the value it is today. However, in order to keep up with inflation that has occurred since 2008, Louisiana's base per pupil spending should be \$4,642. If the 2.75 percent increase had been maintained since 2008, the base per pupil spending would be \$5,194 in the 2018-2019 school year. The average amount spent per public school student is \$12,359 in Louisiana, while the national average for per pupil spending at K-12 public schools is \$16,080, though the overall average amount of money spent per pupil by schools in the United States was \$19,380. A study conducted by Northwestern University economist C. Kirabo Jackson reveals that in schools where spending was increased by 12 percent, graduation rates also increased, while increasing spending on students 10% during their years in public school ultimately boosted their adult wages by 7%. In order to create greater equity regarding school funding, and thus closing the achievement gap, a new system must be constructed. This system must provide an equal amount of state funding to schools, which exceeds a newly established minimum funding per pupil, that is drawn from the state general fund. The increase in money allocated by the general fund for the Department of Education, and thus public schools, would be supplemented by State Education Property Tax, increased taxes on alcohol and tobacco, and an increase in state sales tax while lower local sales tax. In moving away from local taxes, and specifically local property taxes, being the main supporters of school funding, the disparity of school funding as a result of

1 low-income versus high-income areas would be diminished. Overall, this will help close the disparity of
2 educational funding between low-income and high-income regions in Louisiana.

3 4 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

5 With the implementation of this bill, there will be a greater revenue for Louisiana's State general fund, and
6 thus more money for the state to distribute equally per student. By increasing the state's base per pupil
7 spending from \$3,961 to \$10,000 allocated per pupil, the minimum amount of funding a child receives will
8 be greatly increased. Furthermore, in maintaining the usage of local property tax in funding education, the
9 \$10,000 becomes a minimum standard of education funding in the state, helping to close the gap between
10 can be added upon to achieve higher funds per pupil, all while increasing the basic standard of education
11 funding overall. The change in tax funding shall begin on October 1, 2024, and schools shall start
12 receiving \$10,000 per pupil beginning August 1, 2025.

13 14 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

15 The increased funding toward the state general fund, and thus allocated for increased per pupil funding,
16 will come from an increase in the state sales tax to 5.3%, while having a decrease in the maximum of local
17 sales tax to 6%. Additionally, tax on alcohol and tobacco will increase. Beer and malt beverages will
18 increase to \$15.00 per barrel, liquor to \$0.96 per liter, and sparkling wines to \$0.66 per liter. For still
19 wines, alcoholic content not over 14 percent will be taxed \$0.24 per liter, alcoholic content over 14
20 percent but less than 24 percent will be taxed \$0.42 per liter, and alcoholic content over 24 percent will
21 be taxed \$0.66 per liter. Cigars will be taxed over \$144 from the manufacturer's net invoice per thousand,
22 while cigarettes will be taxed \$0.65 per cigarette. Smoking tobacco will be taxed 39.6% of the
23 manufacturer's net invoice price. Smokeless tobacco will be taxed 24% of the manufacturer's net invoice
24 price. In regards to vapor products, tax per milliliter of vapor product will increase to \$0.18. Lastly, this
25 bill will establish a State Education Property Tax at 0.6%, and whose funds will go directly toward
26 education.

27 28 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

29 There are no penalties associated with this bill.
30



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 246**

3 Bhavisha Mavadia

Haynes Academy

4 Leah Zheng

5
6 **TITLE:** Teacher Compensation Enhancement Act

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Picture a place where teachers are respected for their hard work and dedication towards their students
10 through fair compensational salaries. However, this is not the case in most educational institutions,
11 especially in the Louisiana Department of Education. On average, teachers in Louisiana have an average
12 salary of around \$32,000 with the highest earners making around \$51,000. According to The Bureau of
13 Labor Statistics the number of vacant positions for educators is over 40,000 and is expected to grow
14 over the coming years as well. These teacher vacancies and low salaries tie directly into decaying
15 educational systems. In state ranks for education, Louisiana is ranked one of the lowest. This Act will not
16 only promise to increase the salaries of teachers in Louisiana, but will also rightfully reward the excellence
17 displayed by these teachers as well. As a result, teachers of the highest level of excellence will be able to
18 help prevail in the educational system of Louisiana.

19
20 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

21 A meeting will take place between the Louisiana Department of Education and the Louisiana Department
22 of Revenue (LDR) to discuss the new plan. This bill will then be implemented on the first day of the 2024 -
23 2025 school year.

24
25 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

26 The money will come from local funding and the Louisiana Department of Revenue. The current percentage
27 of state and local funding used is around 3.26%. However, this bill will increase the percentage to around
28 3.5%.

29
30 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

31 The LDR and Louisiana Department of Education will monitor the activities of different parishes. If a
32 parish is non-compliant with this act, a fine of \$15,000 will be implemented.



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023

HOUSE BILL 247

Dehlia Trainer

Lafayette High School

TITLE: Protecting and Expanding Louisiana's Coasts (A Natural Alternative)

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Over the 25-year span from 1985 to 2010, Louisiana lost about a football field of land on average per 100 minutes. Land erosion in Louisiana is an extremely important issue and could result in losing the entire state within the next century. Hard shorelines and barriers, such as sea walls and concrete bulkheads that are currently being used, often do more harm to local wildlife and shorelines than good. Living shorelines, on the other hand, utilize natural elements like rocks, reefs and plants to fortify the shore against erosion. Biodegradable yet sturdy, coconut fiber, known as coir, is an extremely durable material and can be used to make coir logs, which are great for building up soil layers and giving natural vegetation a stable place to take root which helps keep the land intact and makes it harder for coastal erosion to occur. This bill will construct a "test": a mile-long living shoreline along the Gulf of Mexico, beginning at Port Fourchon and continuing alongside the coast in the Northeast direction for a mile to form the mile-long stretch. Someone will be assigned to monitor it regularly and determine if the project is successful. If it's successful, then the project will expand and more living shorelines will be built along the coast, hopefully preventing coastal erosion and actually succeeding in coastal growth instead, which is a vastly important step toward saving our state.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

There will be a "test" mile-long living shoreline constructed alongside the coastline. This mile-long segment of coastline is to ensure that the project of the living shoreline will work and succeed in growing the coast. The living shoreline will be constructed by several resources. There will be a base constructed of rocks along the river bank. Moss and grasses will be added to help anchor sediment to the river bank. Coir logs will also be placed along the river bank. Native vegetation will also be planted along to encourage the growth of as many plants as possible with firm roots in the ground, which will hold the soil and ground together. The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) will decide which native vegetation would be most suitable to plant with the living shoreline and on the coir logs and which is most suitable for that specific area. The amount of testing time for the first mile-long segment of living shoreline will be 3 years. A monitor appointed by the CPRA will do monthly "checks on the area". They will document any possible growth of the coastline. The CPRA will then, after the three year period, determine if the project is successful, ie. if the shoreline has grown at all. If the shoreline hasn't grown, the project and monitoring will continue for another 2 years. If the shoreline still has not expanded, the project will end. If the shoreline has grown and the test is successful, then the project will continue to expand. Every 2 years, one more mile will be constructed, continuing in the Northeast direction and along the coastline of the Gulf of Mexico, excluding the areas where protection is already in place, unless the specific areas need the extra protection of the living shorelines. After the first addition to the mile-long segment, once there's 2 miles of the living shoreline in total, the monitoring will decrease to every 6 months. After the first additional 2 installments, once there is a total of 3 miles, the monitoring will decrease to once a year.

SECTION III: FUNDING

The Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) of 2006 created revenue sharing provisions for the four Gulf oil and gas producing states (Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas) and their coastal political

1 subdivisions. GOMESA funds are to be used for coastal conservation, restoration and hurricane
2 protection. Louisiana receives, according to the Natural Resources Revenue Data, an estimated
3 \$156,161,553 per year (approximately \$8.5 billion total) in GOMESA funds during Phase II, which will last
4 from 2016 to 2055. Twenty percent of this funding goes directly to parishes, and the rest, approximately
5 \$124,929,242, will go to the state government to be used by the Coastal Protection and Restoration
6 Authority (CPRA). According to Natural and Structural Measures for Shoreline Stabilization, the price of a
7 living shoreline is \$1,000 to \$5,000 per foot. Therefore, approximately \$5,280,000 to \$26,400,000 is
8 what is needed for a one mile stretch of living shoreline. The cost will be allocated from the GOMESA
9 funds given to the state annually. Approximately \$528,000 is needed for maintaining the mile-long
10 stretch annually, which will also be allotted from the GOMESA funds. The amount to maintain it annually
11 will be less than 1 percent of the annual funds from GOMESA that are able to be used by the CPRA. If the
12 project succeeds and the living shoreline expands, the amount that was used for the original mile-long
13 segment will be how much each additional segment will cost. The annual cost to maintain the additional
14 segments will also just be the original amount multiplied by the total amount of mile-long segments. For
15 example: If the project is added on to twice for a total of 3 miles, then the annual cost to maintain it will
16 be 3 times the original cost to annually maintain the mile-long segment.

17 18 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

19 There will be no penalties necessary because the state government is taking the action described in this
20 bill.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 248**

3 Gabrielle Damico

Lafayette High School

4 Purba Das

5
6 **TITLE: W.L.D.O (We Let The Dogs Out)**

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 People love puppies. Time and time again, studies have shown puppies boost positivity and lower anxiety.
10 Mental health is a particularly pervasive issue in Louisiana compared to other states. Compared to the
11 32.3% of adults reporting either symptoms of anxiety or depressive disorder in the U.S. in February of
12 2023, 39.1% of Louisiana citizens reported the same symptoms. Studies from the NCBI (National Center
13 for Biotechnology Information) have shown that human-animal interactions lower blood pressure, heart
14 rate, stress, and anxiety while boosting social functioning and motivation.

15
16 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

17 In an effort to lower mental health issues in Louisiana, this bill mandates biannual visits from therapy
18 dogs in state-run corporations. Additionally, it provides tax benefits for private corporations who opt into
19 this program. Effective as of January 1st, 2025, this program will involve a collaborative effort among the
20 Louisiana Departments of Health and Labor, the Louisiana Office of Behavioral Health-Mental Health
21 Services, partnering clinics, and state universities that have a veterinarian school. They will also develop
22 and issue thorough guidelines that state specific details outlining the mandatory biannual limit for canine
23 visits, the required certification and training benchmarks for the participating puppies, the protocols for
24 corporate offices to ensure compliance with the Act, and the process of the scheduling and execution of
25 the visits. The program would acquire dogs from shelters in the state and may utilize already-standing
26 therapy dog programs from participating clinics. The puppies will be trained by Louisiana's public
27 universities with veterinary schools and cooperating clinics and must pass a temperament test that
28 ensures the dogs know basic commands and are well-behaved. They must also be fully vaccinated and
29 have records to show this. Based on their annual income, private companies that opt-in will get a
30 reduction of 1/15 to 1/7 of their annual state income taxes. Only private businesses that have 25 or
31 more employees can opt-in to this program. Businesses where puppies' presence can endanger the health
32 of either the customers or workers will be prohibited from being qualified for the program. If the presence
33 of the puppies threatens the health of any employees, they will be permitted to stay home for those two
34 days of the year. Additionally, offices will be responsible for disinfecting after puppy visits.

35
36 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

37 This program will cost an estimated \$750,000 per fiscal year to implement. This includes the cost to
38 screen and train the dogs, facilitate the movement of the dogs and personnel, and other necessary costs.
39 Currently, the state budget has a 330 million dollar surplus, meaning that this program would not cut into
40 current appropriations. Funding would come from this surplus.

41
42 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

43 There are no penalties as this is an opt-in bill.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 249**

3 David Huang Baton Rouge Magnet High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Digital Citizen’s Personal Information Protections Act

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Internet users have little personal protection against data collection and surveillance unless they inform
9 themselves and take the extreme precautions needed to combat it, and even then the measures that can
10 be taken against data collection are limited compared to the extremes private companies and
11 governments are able to take to get their data. One example of sensitive personal data protections being
12 breached or are entirely non-existent is District of Columbia v. Facebook, Inc., where Meta Inc. failed to
13 protect the data of its users in the District of Columbia, causing almost half of all D.C residents to have
14 their data breached during the 2016 American presidential election. Another is the mere existence of the
15 ANT/TAO catalog, an extensive catalog of tools capable of penetrating and accessing network equipment
16 (cellphones, computers, etc) with or without an Internet connection, provided by the United States own
17 National Security Agency (NSA). New protections must be put in place to prevent the immoral surveillance
18 and data collection of our Internet users.

19
20 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

21 All parties already know to be capable of the monitoring and collection of data will be monitored by a new
22 “Cybersecurity” branch of the State of Louisiana’s Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency
23 Preparedness (GOHSEP) to ensure no activities:

- 24 - Collecting, using, or selling the personal information and data of Internet users is happening without
25 their knowledge or consent
- 26 - Using espionage/spying software on any Internet-connected devices of those who haven’t been
27 convicted or suspected of a crime
- 28 - Involving the distribution of any powerful Internet-connected device based espionage/spying software
29 to anyone for any purpose

30 happen within state borders or occur to anyone within state borders. Any party found to be in violation of
31 these previous clauses will be subject to the penalties listed below and the monitoring stated above.

32
33 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

34 In order to finance the employee/monitors, 4% from both the GOHSEP and the Louisiana NSA will be
35 initially budgeted during the next five years. After the five year period, changes will be made according to
36 current needs.

37
38 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

39 All parties who would previously be in violation of this law will only be subject to the continued monitoring
40 done by the GOHSEP as long as they willingly surrender all illegal surveillance technology.

41 All new parties who have been found in violation of this law will be subject to a confiscation team seizing
42 all property with the capability and intention to illegally survey, along with a \$1,000 fine for each item
43 found in violation of this law. They will then continue to be monitored by the GOHSEP until there is
44 reasonable evidence to prove no suspicious activity is continuing.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 250**

3 Sophia Kryszewski

Lafayette High School

4 Ava Voss

5
6 **TITLE:** Clothes Call: The Louisiana Uniform Liberation Act

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Currently, Louisiana laws allow local governments and school boards to adopt dress codes and uniforms
10 as they see fit. Uniforms are believed to create a sense of equity among public school students as every
11 person no matter social class or economic status is dressed uniformly. In creating equity among students,
12 bullying should theoretically decrease, but this is not the case. In a study from Ohio State University that
13 looked at over 6,000 students, students who had to wear uniforms did not show any difference in
14 behavior versus those who did not. Having to buy school uniforms might also prove to be difficult for the
15 very families and students they are supposed to protect. Uniforms do not allow for self-expression, which
16 decreases students' sense of individuality, which decreases their feeling of "school belonging".

17
18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 To better student individuality and belonging, this bill will prohibit public schools from requiring their
20 students to wear uniforms. This will go into effect for the 2025-2026 school year, and will apply to all
21 public elementary, middle, and high schools.

22
23 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

24 No funding is required for this bill.

25
26 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

27 School boards are not to allow for the adoption of uniforms for public schools. If there are any public
28 schools that require a uniform, then it is up to the local school board's discretion on how to penalize
29 them. However, any school board that enforces a uniform on its public school students will be put on pay
30 probation and receive cuts in funding from the state government.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**
2 **HOUSE BILL 251**

3 Blaise Polk Mandeville High School
4

5 **TITLE:** Legalize Rolling Stops Under 35mph
6

7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Rolling stops (decreasing speed to beneath 10mph but not reaching 0mph at an intersection) should be
9 legal when drivers are both entering and exiting a road with a speed limit under 35mph. 1. They add no
10 unique danger. 2. Places where similar measures have been implemented (such as the introduction of
11 unsigned intersections in Seattle) have reported a reduction in accidents. 3. Rolling stops are better for
12 the climate by reducing a vehicle's carbon emissions by improving the efficiency of driving.
13

14 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

15 The general public will be informed of the change through the media. Both police officer's and driver's
16 education curricula will be updated to fit the bill's provisions.
17

18 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

19 The bill requires no funding.
20

21 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

22 Police officers who wrongfully stop persons performing rolling stops will be held accountable with
23 accordance to their record. Individuals performing a rolling stop at an intersection will be expected to
24 adhere to the following guidelines of right-of-way: (1) any vehicle already in the intersection will maintain
25 the right of way; (2) vehicles who approach at similar times must fully stop before the rightmost vehicle
26 crosses first.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 252**

3 Charley Bergeron St. Joseph's Academy

4 Sara Pasquier

5
6 **TITLE: Buy-back Guns (BBG)**

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 This bill offers a fair amount of money for citizens to voluntarily turn in assault rifles and illegally
10 purchased guns. It will give these citizens a chance to receive money and a chance to get rid of illegally
11 purchased guns with no repercussions. This bill aims to lower the homicides and suicides in America
12 caused by firearms. Every day in America, 327 people are shot and 117 people are killed on average. In
13 Australia where guns could be returned for money, firearm suicides went down 57% and homicide by
14 firearm went down 42%. Cities such as New Orleans and New York have given money for citizens to turn
15 in firearms with success.

16
17 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

18 Citizens will be able to return firearms to different churches and other community groups committed to
19 the security of families and individual citizens. Law enforcement officials at these buyback events in order
20 to facilitate the proper handling and processing of the returned firearms. Individual's returning firearms
21 will not have to identify themselves and they will be asked no questions. Firearm buyback events are
22 advertised at the community level in order to maximize participation and reach interested citizens of a
23 community. These events will be held the first Saturday of every month in 2024.

24
25 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

26 In order to finance this bill, guns and ammunition in the Louisiana will receive a 0.01% tax increase.

27
28 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

29 There are no penalties associated with this bill.

30



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 253**

3 Avery Deaville

Lafayette High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Ensure Fresh Produce for Students

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 In the year of 2022, Louisiana ranked as the 4th highest state for childhood obesity, a statistic that is
9 entirely unacceptable. My bill proposes an opt-in program that will fund fresh produce and compost bins
10 and services for all public schools in Louisiana in an effort to reduce this statistic. A diet rich in fresh
11 produce can help to reduce the risk of heart disease (the #1 reason for death in America), prevent some
12 types of cancer, and have a positive effect on blood sugar. For many children, approximately 285,000
13 who live below the poverty line, most cannot afford produce at home, and school is where they will receive
14 their best meal of the day. It is important that school lunch is as nutritious as possible, and can serve to
15 give back to our environment as sustainably as possible. Composting attracts very beneficial organisms to
16 the soils ecosystem that will help to reduce the need for fertilizers and pesticides. When we give back to
17 the Earth by composting, the Earth will give back to us with produce that is even richer in nutrients than
18 before.

19
20 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

21 This bill will be implemented in 2 ways:

- 22 1) All schools will serve at least one fresh produce option that is equal to an average weight of 100g or
23 more (1 apple, 1 banana, 1/2 of a large orange, 8 baby carrots, etc.)
24 2) All schools will have at least one compost bin inside of the cafeteria. Schools will be able to decide what
25 they would like to do with this compost at their own discretion.

26
27 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

28 In order to fund this bill, there will be a millage (temporary property tax) of 0.3% implemented for a 5-
29 year period. This will cover both the cost of produce and the cost for produce collection
30 services/composting bins. After the millage has expired, it will be up to the Board of Education for the
31 State of Louisiana if they would like to renew it or abolish it. Any funding from the millage not used within
32 the 5-year period for the program can be allocated for other uses at the Board of Education's discretion.

33
34 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

35 This is an opt-in program, so there are no penalties necessary.



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023

HOUSE BILL 254

Grace Buras St. Joseph's Academy

TITLE: Reduce Louisiana Food Waste and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Louisiana is ranked fifth among the other states for food waste. While this is a wonderful rating, Louisianians still produce almost two hundred pounds of food waste per person. The food waste then goes to landfills, where Carbon dioxide and greenhouse gases are produced in major amounts. According to the Advocate, Louisianians in East Baton Rouge Parish pay over \$35 monthly for their trash to be picked up once or twice a week. South Korea faced similar problems as Louisiana, having excessive amount of food waste polluting their environment. So, in the 1900s and early 2000s, South Korea passed laws that prohibited food waste in landfills and required their citizens to dispose of food waste in a separate disposal bin, where the waste could then be processed into fertilizer, animal feed, and biogas. The citizens pay a small tax for the food waste they produce, causing both a realization of the amount of food being discarded and a direct payment to the facility for their utilities and workers. The facility then breaks down the food waste to create fertilizers, animal feed, and biogas used to power surrounding homes and buildings. This method has been used since 1996 and has helped South Korea produce almost no food waste since 2013. Louisiana can reach a similar outcome with the same process being used in major cities in apartments, restaurants, hotels, and grocery stores. These businesses and parishes will also find this process to be more cost effective, dropping the monthly trash bills and providing these businesses with more money that can be used elsewhere.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This law will take effect as soon as a processing facility is built to collect the waste, as well as trucks to gather the food waste from the participating restaurants, hotels, grocery stores, and apartments. Louisiana government will produce a special machine like those in South Korea that weigh and hold the food waste. These machines will be placed next or near to businesses' disposal that wish to agree, where trucks will collect the waste and transport it to the processing facility.

SECTION III: FUNDING

A first \$300-600 million dollars will be needed to create a food waste processing facility and to pay for the few trucks needed to collect the waste. An estimated \$1 million would be needed to produce the special bins to collect the food waste. In Louisiana, taxes on groceries are 4.45%, so 2% of these taxes will be collected and set aside for this bill's budget. Donations from environmental organizations will also be used to finish off any needed bills.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

No penalties will be imposed in the first stage of this bill when apartments, restaurants, hotels, and grocery stores are given the choice to follow this bill. Once all Louisiana spaces previously stated follow this bill, a fine of \$50 will be given to individuals who refuse to discard natural food waste into the respective bin.



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023

HOUSE BILL 255

Kholbie Nethery

Woodlawn High School

Jalen Olinde

TITLE: Suicide Pills for the Terminally Ill

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Over 50% of people with terminal illnesses suffer from moderate or severe pain. Living with this pain takes a huge toll on the mental state of the individuals who are experiencing such an illness, causing them to suffer both physically and mentally.

The state of Louisiana ranks 27th in the United States in terms of hospice care quality. Only 46.7% of patients are able to be admitted into hospice care while the remaining percentage of eligible patients aren't able to receive care due to the unavailability of room in hospice.

Physician-assisted death refers to when a physician prescribes a patient a lethal dose of medication to allow the individual to end their own life.

Ten states have already implemented a system of physician-assisted death into their healthcare system which include California (42.3%), Colorado (50.4%), Hawaii (48%), Maine (52.9%), Oregon (54.5%), and Washington (45.5%). The percentages represent the quality of each hospice.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

For a patient to participate in physician-assisted death, they must be a resident of the state of Louisiana, at least 18 years old, and have been diagnosed with a terminal illness that will lead to death within six months. A resident of the state of Louisiana is defined as someone who spends more than 6 months of the tax year in the state, maintains a permanent place of abode in the state, and resides in the state.

Patients who are terminally ill will have the decision to have a physician prescribe them medication which would end their lives. Propofol will be the drug that is used for this process. 99% of terminally ill patients, who've used this method, have preferred to take Propofol. Before giving the patient the option to participate in physician-assisted death, the physician must confirm the terminal diagnosis and determine that the individual is capable of making rational decisions. Meaning that the patient will have to be clear of any mental diagnosis that can affect the way they think or make choices. Furthermore, the doctor is obligated to talk with the patient about other terminal care methods before resorting to physician-assisted death. Patients would also need to make three oral requests to their physician, each separated by a week, followed by a written waiver. During the three oral requests, at least one registered nurse must be present to make the oral requests valid. Physicians who assist in physician-assisted death must be an M.D. (doctor of medicine) or D.O. (doctor of osteopathy). Waivers will be given to the patients after their third and final oral request. The waivers will explain to the patient about any potential downsides or side effects when given the medication.

SECTION III: FUNDING

There's no government funding needed for this bill because since it's the individual's choice, they will be responsible for their own medical fees.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If the physician fails to communicate with the patient about alternative terminal care, their medical license will be revoked. If all other procedures are followed correctly, then the physician will not be penalized for assisting in the death of the patient.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 256**

3 Abby Watts St. Joseph's Academy

4 Madeline Cannon

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

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Mental disorders affect 22.8% of people or about 57.8 million, 1 in every 5 adults, in the U.S., but over
10 39% of Louisianans according to the Louisiana Department of Health. More than 70% of people with a
11 known mental disorder never seek help from a professional. Over 1,000 deaths per year are due to drug
12 overdose, which could be prevented with added support. This bill will add more behavioral health clinics in
13 low-income areas to help those in need. Those areas include people who earn less than an average of
14 \$40,000 for a four-person family a year. A behavioral health clinic is similar to urgent care but for mental
15 health. The clinics will offer services such as screening and assessment, emergency crisis care, evaluation
16 and treatment, medication management, specialized services for children and teenagers, and specialized
17 criminal justice services. 18.6% of Louisiana lives below the national poverty line of \$30,000 per year in a
18 4-person household which is about 7% higher than the national average of 11.6% of Americans living in
19 poverty. Louisiana also has the 3rd highest violent crime rate in the nation and the highest incarceration
20 rate in the world. The mental health facilities would be easier to access for those who cannot afford to
21 travel far for mental health treatment. If treatment is offered for common mental illnesses, then people
22 will be less likely to commit crimes, thus lowering the crime rate and incarceration rate. Suicide is the third
23 leading cause of death in young people aged 10 to 24, and Common mental disorders are twice as
24 frequent among the poor as among the rich because poverty increases risk of mental illness and mental
25 illness increasing chances of going into poverty. If this bill is implemented, the crime rate will decrease,
26 and receiving mental health help will be normalized.

27
28 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

29 Our bill plans to build 30 new clinics in low-income areas around Louisiana because low-income areas are
30 statistically more likely to be affected by crime than high income. This bill will build 1 Mental health
31 facilities for every 150,000 people. Each facility would be staffed with fulltime employees including: 2
32 Administrators, 2 Physicians, and 3 support staff.

33
34 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

35 This will cost about \$250,000 per facility, for a total startup cost of \$7.5 million. Total operating cost for
36 each facility would be 1 million dollars annually.

37 The money needed for this will come from a 9-cent tax on individual stamps. This will raise about 30
38 million dollars annually. This will provide specific funding for the community to provide mental health
39 facilities for the residents.

40
41 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

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

43



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 257**

3 Hayley Cavalier

St. Joseph's Academy

4 Mackenzie Shannon

5
6 **TITLE:** Add Curriculum Requirements to Behind the Wheel Driver's Education

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 According to Louisiana Highway Safety Traffic Data Report and Louisiana State University Traffic Report,
10 in 2022, Louisiana had about 150,000 car crashes with 852 deaths. 12.8 percent of these fatalities
11 consist of youthful drivers. Not only this, but Louisiana has the 7th highest teen driver fatality rate in the
12 US, and teen drivers are 3x more likely to be involved in fatal crashes. This bill aims to reduce this number
13 and to promote cautious driving in young individuals. This bill will require the addition of engaging
14 curriculum to the behind-the-wheel driving part of driver's education. Currently, the students are only
15 supervised in their drives, and there is no practical learning involved. In this bill, the driving instructor will
16 feed scenarios to the driving student. After they receive the scenario, the student will provide answers to
17 what they would do in those situations. The instructor will give feedback and critique the student's
18 answers. They will also point out different hazards to be aware of. This will instill defensive driving
19 practices into the student's subconscious mind at an early level. Defensive driving is the process of being
20 able to identify hazardous situations on the road before they occur to be prepared for any situation. This
21 bill will give young drivers that ability, making our roads safer and saving lives along the way.

22
23 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

24 This bill will help beginner drivers be more engaged during behind-the-wheel driving lessons by having the
25 instructor ask hypothetical questions or give suggestions about what the driver will do in certain
26 situations according to their surroundings. Each driving school around Louisiana will need to add a list of
27 questions or certain things to point out for each instructor to ask during behind-the-wheel lessons that
28 will prompt the driver to act as a defensive driver while on the road. Each driving school is allowed to
29 come up with their own set of questions they believe are applicable and will be effective. The questions
30 and tips should coordinate with certain situations drivers will face in some places. For instance, at a busy
31 intersection, "what will you do if that car runs a red light?" or "pay attention to the drop off at the edge of
32 this road and maybe drive more towards the center." These, along with other questions/tips, will allow the
33 driver to become subconsciously more aware of their surroundings. This law will take effect on June 1,
34 2024.

35
36 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

37 There is no funding for this bill.

38
39 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

40 Each driving school is subject to the same penalties faced when breaking any other regulations outlined by
41 the Department of Public Safety, including, but not limited to, fines up to \$500 and revocation of license
42 of school or instructor by the DPS.

43



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 258**

3 Anna Camille deBlieux

St. Joseph's Academy

4 Louisa deBlieux

5
6 **TITLE:** Limiting the use of AI programs to evaluate fact-based college assignments

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 As AI (artificial intelligence) applications skyrocket, many secondary educational institutions, which are
10 defined as any post-high school public education, have begun implementing usage of AI programs to
11 evaluate students' assignments. Specifically, programs designed to detect cheating and plagiarism through
12 AI have become commonplace. Though these programs seem like a positive addition to higher education,
13 many students are experiencing problems with the programs falsely identifying work as plagiarized or
14 copied from other students, particularly when the programs are used for assignments where a large
15 percentage of work is subject to objective evaluation. For example, AI program Turnitin even has a
16 disclaimer that it is not a reliable indicator and should not be used as the sole basis for adverse actions
17 against a student. However, Louisiana State University is currently using Turnitin to evaluate many types
18 of student assignments, even those that are primarily objectively evaluated such as science labs, and is
19 providing no avenue for students to challenge the findings generated by Turnitin. In fact, with the advent
20 of AI detection for plagiarism and cheating, LSU saw a nearly 500% increase in instances of student
21 academic dishonesty, and over 300 students were penalized for cheating in a single introductory science
22 lab last year. These types of AI detection programs have also shown heavy bias against non-native English
23 speakers. This bill will restrict the application of AI programs for these purposes and provide for
24 secondary manual review in instances where AI is used to identify plagiarism or cheating.

25
26 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

27 This bill would take effect for the 2024-25 school year and would require every public secondary
28 institution in Louisiana to revise their policies and procedures to restrict the usage of AI programs to
29 detect plagiarism and cheating in evaluation of student assignment for fact-based assignments. Fact-
30 based assignments would be defined as those in which assignments are primarily (greater than 50%)
31 evaluated on an objective, rather than subjective, basis. This bill would also require every public secondary
32 institution in Louisiana to revise their policies and procedures to add a layer of human manual review to
33 any instance wherein AI programs are used to detect plagiarism and cheating for the evaluation of any
34 student assignment.

35
36 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

37 No funding is necessary for this bill.

38
39 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

40 Failure to comply with this statute would create a legal presumption in favor of a student who challenges
41 a finding of plagiarism or cheating that was based upon the utilization of detection programs that use AI.
42 Repeated refusal to comply with this statute, defined as failure to amend policies and procedures within
43 one academic year or as more than five (5) student challenges of such AI-supported findings of cheating
44 or plagiarism within any academic year, shall result in the withholding of up to 1% of state funding from
45 such state public secondary educational institution.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 259**

3 Isabella Hammack

St. Joseph's Academy

4 Angelina Nguyen

5
6 **TITLE:** Reroute TOPS

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 TOPS, standing for Taylor Opportunity Program for Students, is a scholarship program for college
10 students in Louisiana. To apply for tops, you must have attended at BESE-approved high school, a
11 minimum TOPS GPA of 3.5 (TOPS core curriculum classes), a minimum ACT score of 23, be a US student or
12 permanent resident, and enroll full-time as a freshman within a year of graduating from high school. The
13 amount of money gained from TOPS varies depending on the college you plan on attending. Every year
14 hundreds of Louisiana's smartest students almost immediately leave Louisiana after college, yet they have
15 used their Louisiana TOPS to pay for college. Between 2005 and 2020, Louisiana lost around 305,000
16 residents, almost all of whom had recently graduated college.

17
18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 For every year that you have received TOPS for a Louisiana college, you must work in Louisiana for a year
20 after you graduate. The type of job specifications does not matter, nor must they apply to your major
21 and/or minor.

22
23 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

24 This bill requires no funding.

25
26 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

27 If you choose to move before that time is up, the TOPS becomes like a student loan that you would have
28 to pay back. (e.g., you get TOPS for 4 years and you work in Louisiana for 2 but choose to move to North
29 Carolina for the other 2 years, you must pay back 2 years' worth of TOPS.) This is invalidated if you
30 choose to transfer to a school outside of Louisiana. You do not need to get a job immediately after
31 college, but you must still work a full year for every year you have received TOPS.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 260**

3 Riley Gray Lafayette High School

4
5 **TITLE: Healing Hearts & Healthy Starts**

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Foster children, often coming from backgrounds filled with abuse, neglect, and traumatic experiences,
9 form a deeply vulnerable segment of our society. An overwhelming 80% of children in foster care grapple
10 with significant mental health issues, starkly contrasting the 18–32% seen in the general population
11 (NCSL). Among these issues, a quarter of foster children exhibit strong signs of post-traumatic stress
12 disorder, while displaying behaviors that signal increased aggression, distrust, and disobedience towards
13 adults.

14 According to the Center for Law and Social Policy, 80% of incarcerated adults have a history in foster care
15 during their childhood or teenage years. This correlation between foster care and incarceration
16 underscores the urgent need to address the mental health needs of children in the foster care system. The
17 risks don't cease upon leaving the system or upon aging out. In fact, one in four foster children faces the
18 risk of homelessness within four years, a circumstance correlated with substance use disorders, mental
19 illness, and a higher likelihood of engaging in risky behaviors after aging out of the system.

20 This Act is designed to address these pressing concerns and help those in Foster Care not only heal, but
21 grow as people, allowing them to move on from these issues that affect their mental, social, and physical
22 health on a day-to-day basis. It makes the participation of foster children in government-funded therapy
23 and counseling sessions tailored to each child's specific needs required. It places these services in the
24 capable hands of licensed and proficient mental health professionals. In doing so, it strives to create an
25 environment where those in foster care can heal, thrive, and look forward to brighter futures.

26
27 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

28 Starting on January 1st, 2027, this bill will be in place, allowing for a period of transition to these new
29 requirements. (The transitioning period will be from January 1st 2025 to January 1st, 2027). During this
30 transitional period, the Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) will actively engage in
31 communication with the legal guardians of individuals currently in foster care to ensure a smooth
32 implementation of these changes. DCFS will utilize various communication methods to inform legal
33 guardians of the upcoming alterations, including written notices, telephone calls, etc., ensuring that they
34 are well-informed about the modifications to new therapy and transportation requirements. This
35 transitional period will also allow for changing of foster parent status to those signed up before this bill
36 has been passed.

37 Starting on January 1st, 2027, All persons in foster care under the care of the Department of Child and
38 Family services (DCFS) shall be required to participate in government funded therapy or counseling
39 sessions. The therapy requirement applies to persons under foster care of all ages, and the type and
40 frequency of therapy shall be determined based on the individual needs of each person. All therapy
41 services required shall be provided by licensed and qualified mental health professionals, including
42 licensed clinical social workers, psychologists, psychiatrists, and counselors, who all have previous
43 training and/or experience in working with children and trauma survivors. Legal guardians of these
44 persons under foster care are mandated to ensure that their foster child attends therapy sessions.
45 Department of Child and Family services (DCFS) caseworkers and designated staff shall monitor the
46 compliance of foster children and legal guardians with therapy requirements. This monitoring shall include

1 regular check-ins, coordination with therapy providers, and reviews of therapy progress. Check-ins will
2 happen every 4-6 months if therapy attendance is regular, Just as regular DCFS check-ins would be.
3 However, if there is a history of non-compliance with these appointments, check-ins will become more
4 frequent (Timing is situational).

5 The persons under foster care will have the option to go through the process already put in place to
6 change therapists to match their comfortability. (This process may differ place by place, as most places
7 just require you to fill out a form but some may require you to seek therapy somewhere else by asking
8 your doctor and/or current therapist to refer you to a different place/mental health professional).
9 Transportation will not be provided or funded as foster parents are already required to have a valid
10 driver's license and access to a vehicle or other form of transportation in order to be a foster parent.
11 Being able to provide transportation to therapy sessions will be a requirement of legal guardians of foster
12 care children upon the enactment of this bill (Just as being able to provide transportation to other
13 appointments, school, etc. would be required).

14 15 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

16 To finance these payouts, Louisiana will allocate an additional 26 million (\$26,624,000) to its Medicaid
17 budget. This represents only a small fraction of the state's recent expenditures (of approximately 14
18 Billion), accounting for approximately 0.19% of the total budget. This money allocated will come from
19 Louisiana's expected \$330 million general surplus funds the next fiscal year after this bill has been
20 passed. This funding is specifically designated to cover the expenses associated with providing at most
21 weekly therapy sessions for every foster child in Louisiana. All expenses (even the co-pay) will be funded
22 this way. This allocation ensures that there will be no need to increase tax rates on Medicaid.

23 24 25 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

26 Non-compliance with regular therapy requirements set for the foster child(ren) will be addressed through
27 a multi-tiered approach:

28 I. First Offense: in cases of non-compliance, the legal guardian will receive a warning and be provided with
29 additional support and resources to ensure therapy compliance (ex; Assigning a case manager or social
30 worker to work closely with the foster family to address challenges related to therapy attendance)

31 II. Subsequent Offense(s): If non-compliance persists, the Department of Child and Family services (DCFS)
32 may initiate a review of the foster child's placement to determine the best course of action, including
33 possible reevaluation of the child's living situation or legal guardianship.

34 If therapy requirements are unable to be met due to personal or extenuating circumstances (or any other
35 situations that may prevent regularly scheduled attendance at these meetings), then the legal guardian
36 shall be required to promptly notify the Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) and provide
37 documented evidence of such circumstances.

38 If therapy requirements are unable to be met due to personal or extenuating circumstances that are
39 difficult to provide documented evidence for (e.g., oversleeping, missing an alarm, getting stuck in traffic,
40 etc.), then the legal guardian shall be required to promptly (ASAP) notify the Department of Child and
41 Family Services (DCFS) and provide a documented explanation of such circumstances. DCFS will work with
42 the legal guardian to assess the situation and determine appropriate alternatives or adjustments to
43 therapy schedules, ensuring the best interests and well-being of the foster child. In such cases, penalties
44 will not be imposed.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 261**

3 Olivia LaMotte

St. Joseph's Academy

4 Addison Richard

5
6 **TITLE:** Recertify school staff members for CPR, AED, and first aid training every five years

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 One of the leading causes of death in college athletes is SCA or Sudden Cardiac Arrest. While CPR is not a
10 guarantee, college coaches and all staff members from preschool to high school should know how to
11 perform this which can save many lives. The American Heart Association estimates that "100,000 to
12 200,000 lives of adults and children could be saved each year if CPR were preformed early enough". While
13 this does not apply as much to younger children, choking does. Choking is one of the leading causes of
14 injuries among young children. The New York State Department of health states that "one child in the US
15 dies from choking every five days and more than 12,000 children are taken to the ER each year for food-
16 choking injuries." While teachers must have Pediatric CPR, AED, and First Aid certification, The Louisiana
17 Department of Education does not require teachers to maintain this. They also do not require Custodians
18 to have basic certification. This bill would require all staff members in schools, pre-k through high school,
19 as well as college coaches, across the state of Louisiana to be taught by Red Cross instructors on how to
20 administer first aid and CPR to adults, children, and infants, as well as how to use an AED.

21
22 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

23 During July and August, the classes will be held at different schools across Louisiana. They will be supplied
24 by the Red Cross and will occur every 5 years. If any of the staff members are absent from their scheduled
25 class, they must attend the next possible one but there will be a fine of 55 dollars.

26
27 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

28 This bill will use the program FMS which is under the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Foundation. The money will go
29 to the Red Cross to be divided up amongst the different parishes in Louisiana depending on how many
30 teachers/instructors will need to be trained. The FMS gets their own money from many donations, and we
31 will be taking 0.42% of their overall budget. The money will be under their Health department, and there
32 will be 30 instructors at each event.

33
34 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

35 If the school does not sign-up teachers for the class the schools will have to pay 55 dollars to the
36 program, FMS, for each staff member that has not gotten recertified every 5 years. If teachers are not
37 able to attend then they must pay the fine instead.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 262**

3 Joey Robert Baton Rouge Magnet High School

4 Bethiel Weldeghiorghis

5
6 **TITLE:** An Act to Require Full Ingredient Labels on Feminine Hygiene Products

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 This bill will require companies that produce period products to disclose any and all ingredients included
10 in them on the packaging.

11 Currently there are no requirements or regulations on the ingredients of feminine hygiene products, and
12 companies are not required to disclose the ingredients in their products. On multiple occasions, it has
13 been found that bleach or other chemicals including mystery fragrance ingredients were in period
14 products. These chemicals often pose harm to the human body.

15
16 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

17 For the law to take effect, the new requirements for the period products would need to be explained and
18 announced for companies. The law would take place on January 1st, 2024 and would require all companies
19 selling feminine hygiene products in Louisiana to adhere to the law even if they are not based in Louisiana.
20 Companies would be required to list any detectable amount of any ingredient on the packaging of their
21 products.

22
23 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

24 No funding necessary

25
26 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

27 If a company is found in violation of this law by not including the ingredients on the packaging, then the
28 company will be fined twenty percent for each six months that the law is not followed.

29 If it is found that the companies have violated this law by falsely including their ingredients on the
30 packaging, sales of the product in Louisiana will cease until the company can provide accurate information
31 on their product regarding ingredients.



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023

HOUSE BILL 263

Riya Reddy Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies

Ryan Pham

TITLE: Prisoners Over Profit (POP)

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

The idea that the state of prisons and the criminal justice system are appalling does not even begin to describe the harsh conditions prisoners have to face. For some, they are forced to sit in a small cell for 22-23 hours a day with limited contact with the outside world, or even their loved ones. This punishment typically outweighs the crime. According to the organization Pew Trusts, 1 in 3 people currently in prison have been convicted of petty crimes, such as theft and drug possession. Research has shown that this long-term solitary confinement causes a plethora of issues, including anxiety, depression, paranoia, personality changes, and even memory problems. What is even worse is that studies done by the Bureau of Justice in 2018 have shown that out of the 401,288 prisoners across 30 states, 68% of prisoners were arrested 3 years after release, with 83% arrested within 9 years after release. Based on this, even a minor theft conviction could have a lifelong influence on a person, forcing them to bounce around from job to job or home to home. This bill plans to incorporate a rehabilitation program for all prisoners and advocate for the removal of these extended periods of seclusion and the improvement of living conditions.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

The bill will be enforced immediately once enacted and will start with the construction of an in-prison rehabilitation facility complete with doctors, psychologists, and other professionals. This program will begin with the Orleans Parish Prison, and if it succeeds, it will expand to more prisons throughout the state. The Louisiana Department of Public Safety & Corrections as well as a board of qualified psychiatrists, medical professionals, and social workers will oversee the program. Background checks, mental health evaluations, and frequent drug tests will be routinely done for these professionals. In addition, work will be started by volunteer-run programs to end long-term solitary confinement with peaceful protests and help from state executives. Living conditions will be altered to provide some comfort for prisoners, such as better food, increased cleanliness, reduced overcrowding, and less violence from prisoners. The matter of food will be regulated by an offshoot program by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Cleaning and monitoring of sanitation facilities will be done by prison staff as well as the Louisiana Department of Health under the Building and Premises Program. Overcrowding and violence will be managed by routine background checks of prisoners done within the in-prison rehabilitation facility to find those who have ended up in prison for reasons related to mental health and substance abuse disorders and provide them help elsewhere, via twelve-step programs and counseling. These resources in the prison rehabilitation programs will also be given to prisoners after their sentences.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Funding will be taken from numerous different sources such as the Louisiana Board of Pardons and Paroles, which will offer around 0.5% (\$4,000 - 5,000) per year. In addition, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) will donate excess money from profits spent to the prison reform plans (around \$10,000). The Louisiana Department of Public Safety & Corrections (DPS&C) will give around 0.25% of their budget, allocating around \$1,500,000.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If prisons do not comply within the first month of passing, they will be given a warning. Then, after a couple more weeks, a small fine (around \$5,000) will be charged. Lastly, if in another month there is no compliance, the prisons will be charged with a large fine (around \$25,000) and issued state government help to establish their programs.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**
2 **HOUSE BILL 264**

3
4 Anurup Bhakta Haynes Academy

5
6 **TITLE: Stop Saltwater Intrusion!**
7

8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Hundreds of thousands of Louisiana residents rely on the Mississippi River and other aquifers as a source
10 of clean water, but a saltwater wedge has threatened one of the most necessary resources for human
11 survival. The situation is looking bleak: a steep layer of saltwater (a saltwater wedge) has begun creeping
12 up the Mississippi — nearly 70 miles — and into coastal water-wells, contaminating large amounts of
13 freshwater wells and pipelines. Locals in Plaquemines Parish and other coastal parishes have been
14 negatively impacted. Beyond the effects on Louisianians, saltwater encroachment jeopardizes the safety
15 of wetlands, worsening coastal erosion. Although a pipeline is being constructed to stop saltwater
16 intrusion, it is simply temporary and short-sighted planning. A permanent solution is needed for the
17 future of Louisiana coastlines and residents.
18

19 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

20 To solve this, a restriction area will be established from the coast to further inland to decide where water
21 wells, private or public, cannot be drilled. Previously established water wells that are too far within the
22 area will be sealed or plugged. The area will be decided on the severity of the saltwater intrusion in a
23 region (ppm of salt in tap water), distance from the layer of saltwater in the Mississippi, and the size &
24 location of aquifers. As a further safeguard, an interconnected system of the public water systems will be
25 made. Private water systems who join this larger network will receive slight tax reductions on their own
26 system. A larger connection is to ensure if one area is lacking, other areas can make up for it, such as an
27 upriver parish supporting downriver parishes. To reduce saltwater intrusion in already contaminated
28 aquifers, artificial recharge — the injection of freshwater into water sources — will be done, a process
29 already followed by other coastal counties. Sewage from wastewater plants will be treated to achieve
30 large amounts of freshwater. The treated wastewater will be injected into contaminated aquifers to
31 increase pressure and keep intrusive seawater out.
32

33 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

34 The Department of Natural Resources has 24.3% unspent authority. Up to 20% of the unspent budget will
35 be used for the three plans: to maintain and calculate restriction areas, to create new pipelines for the
36 water system network, and to treat and inject freshwater into existing aquifers.
37

38 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

39 Water-well owners who do not follow the established restriction area will be revoked of their ownership
40 license and will have their water-well decommissioned. Previously established water-wells will not receive
41 penalties, but will have to be plugged if they are too far within the restriction area.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**
2 **HOUSE BILL 265**

3
4 Steven Stogner Catholic High School

5
6 **TITLE:** Grant Tax Deductions to Corporations Investing in Hydrogen Power

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 The purpose of this bill is to give a corporate income tax deduction to any business that produces
10 hydrogen power in Louisiana. Hydrogen is an energy carrier produced by electrolysis, a process that uses
11 electricity to break apart water. What sets hydrogen apart from other energy sources is that it is clean,
12 efficient, and abundant. When hydrogen is combusted in a fuel cell, the only products besides electricity
13 are warm air and water vapor. 2.2 pounds of hydrogen produces about the same amount of energy as 6.2
14 pounds of gasoline.

15
16 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

17 If this bill is passed, companies that are building or operating hydrogen plants will receive a 25% break on
18 their corporate income tax if at least 85% of their employees live in Louisiana. The tax break will give
19 companies an incentive to run plants in Louisiana. Subsequently, these companies will hire more workers.
20 The economy will greatly benefit, and the state of Louisiana will become a leader in promoting clean
21 energy.

22
23 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

24 No funding is necessary for this bill.

25
26 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

27 No penalties are necessary for this bill.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**
2 **HOUSE BILL 266**

3
4 Clay Dejean Alexandria Senior High

5
6 **TITLE:** Improved Roadways

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 The roadways in Louisiana are in very poor condition. As the most used form of transportation, roadways
10 need to be maintained and repaired often. Poor roadways can cause car accidents and can cause damage
11 to the cars that drive on them. According to the Louisiana Coalition to Fix Our Roads, Louisiana motorists
12 spend a combined \$2 billion due to the poor condition of our roadways.

13
14 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

15 This bill will be enacted January 1st, 2024. This bill will call for repairs of roadways, and future
16 maintenance of the roadways. This bill will also call for any damages to vehicles caused by unmaintained
17 roadways This will create more jobs, as we will need workers for the maintenance and workers surveying
18 the roads frequently to ensure their maintenance.

19
20 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

21 This bill would be funded by the existing tax on gas.

22
23 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

24 No penalties necessary.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**
2 **HOUSE BILL 267**

3
4 Clay Dejean Alexandria Senior High

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20 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

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22
23 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

24 No penalties necessary.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**
2 **HOUSE BILL 268**

3
4 Clay Dejean Alexandria Senior High

5
6 **TITLE:** Repeal Gender-Affirming Care Ban

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Over the past few years, there have been many anti-trans and anti-LGBTQ legislature proposed and
10 passed. This sets a concerning precedent for the rights and lives of those who are a part of the LGBTQ+
11 community, especially when it comes to their access to healthcare. Earlier this year, House Bill 648 was
12 passed, which banned all gender-affirming care for those under the age of 18, with or without parental
13 consent. This bill banned the administration of hormones, puberty blockers, all surgeries, etc. Banning
14 gender-affirming care affects not only trans children but also cis-gendered children with different medical
15 conditions, such as gynecomastia surgery for boys with overdeveloped breasts. Legislation restricting
16 access to gender-affirming healthcare is not only detrimental to LGBTQ+ peoples, but those who are
17 cisgendered aswell and cannot be allowed.

18
19 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

20 This bill will be enacted on January 1st, 2024. This bill will repeal House Bill 648, and allow all peoples
21 with given consent and/or parental consent will be allowed any optional healthcare that aids in their
22 ability to live peacefully and comfortably with/in their bodies.

23
24 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

25 This bill would require no funding.

26
27 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

28 No penalties necessary.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**
2 **HOUSE BILL 269**

3
4 Everett Kramer Jesuit High School
5 James Denning

6
7 **TITLE:** Railroad Rejuvenation Bill

8
9 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

10 The Louisiana railroad system is often overlooked even though it is an economically and ecologically
11 efficient and safe mode of transportation. Trains are 3-4 times more fuel efficient than trucks. On a train,
12 passengers are 17 times less likely to die compared to travelling by car. By transporting goods with
13 trains, 10-40% of the cost of transport can be saved. Getting passengers interested in railway travel by
14 advertising the Louisiana railroad system will aid in the current global effort to reduce humanity's carbon
15 footprint. This bill will procure federal funding for the development, maintenance, and advocacy for the
16 use of Louisiana railroads.

17
18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 Funding will be obtained and put towards subsidizing railroad companies over a period of six years with
20 gradual implementation to help them expand and advertise this positive mode of transportation of freight
21 and passengers.

22
23 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

24 Over the course of 6 years, primary funding will come from a totaled 20% of the annual budget of the
25 DOTD (Department of Transportation and Development), with secondary funding coming from grants
26 gifted by the LDEQ (Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality).

27
28 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

29 N/A



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**
2 **HOUSE BILL 270**

3
4 Izabella Duncan Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies

5
6 **TITLE:** No to Unsafe Additives

7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Introduction: The foods that are sold in the U.S. are dangerous to our health. Obesity rates have tripled
9 over the last 60 years according to USA Facts. Also, the mental health of people under the age of 30 have
10 gone down significantly, and one of the reasons is the artificial, processed foods we eat. Some of the
11 many artificial ingredients used in American foods include sodium nitrite, High fructose corn syrup, sodium
12 benzoate, mercury, artificial sweeteners, bleaching agents and sulfur dioxide. Several studies, according to
13 the National Institute of Health, these ingredients are linked to asthma, heart disease, cancer, obesity,
14 adhd, and growth problems. To add on, according to Toxicological and Teratogenic Effect of Various Food
15 Additives: An Updated Review, benzoates cause teratogenic(substance that interferes with normal baby
16 development) effects on pregnant mothers.

17 Furthermore, processed ingredients can damage your intelligence. For example, sugar and high fructose
18 corn syrup can decrease your learning ability, while artificial sweeteners reduce cognitive abilities. Also,
19 the fried oils and saturated fats(mainly vegetable oil) used in fast food is at such a high level where eating
20 it often negatively affects your dopamine levels and is linked to adhd. To add on, trans fats and
21 convenience foods increase risk of Alzheimer's. In case that wasn't enough information, these foods cause
22 inflammation in your brain, which could lead to mood disorders. We should get rid of these specific
23 artificial ingredients.

24
25 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

26 Starting in 2027, The L.A. The Department of Health can create a list of ingredients that are deemed
27 unsafe, ranging from mild to severe, including those that have previously been deemed safe. The
28 ingredients above will be on the list. When making new additives, companies must submit them to the
29 department of Health to be tested for negative effects. They will be determined unsafe if it causes any
30 physical/neurological damage. Corporations will be rewarded for using safe ingredients.

31 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

32 The Louisiana Health Department can give a 11% bonus to each food corporation that creates a new,
33 safe, artificial/natural additive for food.

34
35 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

36 Food scientists who make or sell the additives listed above or any new ones deemed unsafe will have their
37 licenses revoked for a month. Making/selling distributing dangerous additives during this period will cost
38 a \$200 fine for each incident.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**
2 **HOUSE BILL 271**

3
4 Allison Riley St. Joseph's Academy

5
6 **TITLE:** P.R.O.T.E.C.T. (Prevent Repercussions for Online and Technological Exposure of Children and Teens)

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 In a world where monetized online media has taken the world by storm, leaving “influencer” as a top
10 career choice for many children, more young people are being taken advantage of in the online sphere. It’s
11 scarily easy to stumble upon a young child posting dances or get-ready-with-me videos on platforms like
12 YouTube, Instagram, or TikTok to thousands of viewers, with the comments flooded with ill intentions.
13 While some of these platforms have age restrictions, it’s easy for any user to notice that’s not always
14 followed and can be sidestepped by so-called “family vlogs” or “mom-run” accounts. In these “family
15 vlogs” there’s a distinct pattern of mild to severe emotional abuse for the child, who oftentimes has no
16 say in how much or if any of their actions are shared to these million-person audiences. And while many
17 parents innocently share a spelling bee final on their Facebook live, there will still be many more who
18 belittle and force their children into being a part of their media. Seeing how child actors and performers
19 are treated in the state of Louisiana, with the mandated blocked trust account and working condition
20 requirements under the Louisiana Child Performer Trust Act of 2005, child influencers should be treated
21 similarly, with at least a portion of their income being set aside for their own use, and to protect against
22 their unfair treatment. Under the act, 15% of earnings are required to be deposited into a blocked trust
23 account by the minor’s guardian(s), and applies to work contracts of \$500 dollars or more, which excludes
24 most background acting work.

25 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

26 The implementations of the existing Louisiana Child Performer Trust Act of 2005 (RS 51:2133) will be
27 expanded to include children (minors from in-womb to age 18) featured in vlogging, movies, television,
28 and image posts. The act will be further expanded to require that 30% of the performing minor’s earnings
29 are to be deposited in a blocked trust, to be set up by the minor’s guardians within 30 days of
30 employment, to be accessed by only the minor in question upon the age of 18, or by a guardian in the
31 name of the minor when a court of competent jurisdiction has deemed necessary. The 2005 act will be
32 further expanded by applying to work contracts of \$50 dollars or more (as well as vlog-style viewer
33 compensation that pays \$0.05 or more per view), in the name of the guardian or minor, when the
34 employment includes the featuring of the minor in any visual or auditory manner (i.e., voice, facial
35 exposure, bodily exposure, photograph, likeness, name, narrative, indecent or otherwise, where the child
36 is featured in any way for more than 25% of the run-time of any video, or is the subject of conversation,
37 named or otherwise, for 25% of the video, or is the main point of conversation in a text, blog, or photo
38 post). Employment contracts, as defined here, include online platform posts, monetary advertisement
39 agreements, work contracts, and gainful employment of any kind where compensation was received in
40 exchange for the minor or guardian’s services. This does not apply to non-monetized or formerly
41 monetized media.

42 Louisiana Revised Statute 23:251, which prohibits the employment of minors as acrobats, stunt riders,
43 gymnasts, and the like, will be expanded to include self-made virtual content put out, posted, or otherwise
44 released online, in a private or public account, by minors under the age of 13 as “illegal, indecent, or
45 immoral exhibition.” This would also include that parents, guardians, relatives, tutors, teachers, talent
46 agents, siblings, as well as any other adult in control or care of the minor for any period of time who

1 encourage or allow a minor to post images, videos, or identifying information in the online sphere, is
2 guilty of contributing to the delinquency of minors, and upon conviction thereof, shall be fined or
3 imprisoned. This applies to both monetized and non-monetized media.

4 5 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

6 No funding is required.

7 8 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

9 If a guardian fails to set up a blocked trust account and deposit no less than 30% of earnings, as
10 implemented in the Louisiana Child Performer Trust act of 2005, the earnings are to be saved by the
11 Louisiana Treasury until the minor reaches the age of 18. As per Revised Statute 23, Chapter 3, Part II,
12 adults who contribute to the delinquency of minors are subject to fines of 25-1,000 dollars and/or
13 imprisonment of thirty days to six months. Any court finding that a minor has suffered damages for any
14 penalties of this act incurred by a guardian or other adult, may award to the minor monetary damages,
15 including cost of legal representation.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**
2 **HOUSE BILL 272**

3
4 Alaysia Raymond St. Joseph's Academy

5
6 **TITLE:** Expunge non-violent crimes from criminal records

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Unreasonable unemployment. More than 50% individuals that are or have been incarcerated are in prison
10 for non-violent crimes, also 60% of formerly incarcerated people find themselves jobless. 45% out of 50%
11 aren't hired for jobs because of their "criminal record". Meanwhile, over 30% of these individuals aren't
12 felons, nor are they murderers. They could possibly have a family. So why shouldn't they be able to make a
13 living like everyone else? Why should they be regarded from the workplace because of one small mistake
14 they've made in the past?

15
16 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

17 How could I possibly fix this situation? Before former inmates choose to apply for a job, they should apply
18 to the government to ask for removal of crime from their record, only if the crime that was committed
19 didn't include murder or assault. This bill could possibly help former prisoners (and their families) get back
20 on their feet after being in prison for an extended amount of time and help them perhaps find a
21 permanent and stable job.

22
23 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

24 This bill requires no funding.

25
26 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

27 This bill has no penalties.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**
2 **HOUSE BILL 273**

3
4 Raygan Irvin St. Joseph's Academy
5 Mary Savoy

6
7 **TITLE:** Limit the consumption and production of sodas

8
9 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

10 13.5% of high school students reported drinking a can, bottle, or glass of soda, two or more times per day
11 in the past week. It is an exceptionally large product in the US, many different companies produce it, and
12 it is one of the main industrial profits of the US. The consumption rates of soda in Louisiana are
13 increasing tremendously in young adolescents. According to the 2022 state of obesity Repot, Louisiana
14 has one of the highest rates of childhood obesity in the nation for kids between the ages 10-17, ranking
15 third in the nation at 22%. In January 2022 the Healthy Kids Meal Beverage ordinance passed a law
16 limiting children's meals to contain only water, milk, or 100% fruit juice. The ingredients that some
17 carbonated products contain are harmful to those who consume large quantities daily, leading to long
18 term medical problems increasing the healthcare costs for society. Soft Drinks contain Bisphenol known as
19 BPA, a hormone disruptor, used to line soda cans linking to several public health and medical problems.
20 They also contain Phosphoric acid which interferes with the body's ability to use calcium leading to
21 osteoporosis (the weakening of teeth enamel). The most known ingredient is Caffeine. Caffeinated soft
22 drinks disturb one's sleep patterns causing insomnia, making premenstrual syndrome worse, linked to
23 birth defects, forms of cancer, high blood pressure, etc. These factors center around the growth of young
24 adolescents, which are the target groups for soda companies. Banning soda is not the goal, the goal is to
25 lower the consumption of soda.

26
27 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

28 First, we would start by limiting the access of soda distribution in schools and workplaces. We would
29 provide drink alternatives for students containing less chemicals. Secondly, offering free educational
30 programs and classes about nutrition would be a great start to inform people about what chemicals they
31 are consuming daily. Some of these programs can be implemented within schools, especially in public
32 education systems, and these programs would occur during after-school hours. Lastly, we will work
33 together with Louisiana Commodity Supplemental Food Program, a USDA nutrition program, designed to
34 supplement the diets of children up to the age of 6 and seniors over the age of 60.

35
36 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

37 The funding will come from the Bureau of National Services and the Department of Health, it will be used
38 to offer free education programs and classes about nutrition to adolescents and young adults.

39
40 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

41 There are no penalties associated with this bill.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**
2 **HOUSE BILL 274**

3
4 Caroline Thomas St. Joseph's Academy
5 Eliza Hanner

6
7 **TITLE:** Raise Incentives to Foster Older Children

8
9 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

10 In the United States alone, there are roughly 391,098 children in foster care systems, about 6,272 of
11 these children reside in Louisiana. As well as 6,272 children in foster care, there is a disproportionate
12 amount of 2,822 registered foster families. According to the Louisiana Department of Child and Family
13 Service, the current rate per day that foster parents are paid is \$19 per child. The Adoption and Foster
14 Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) asserts that in 2021, 45.6% of children in foster care in
15 Louisiana were over the age of six, but even still, 69.1% of children who were adopted were age 6 or
16 below. This leaves almost half of the foster care population to remain mostly untouched when it comes to
17 adoption. Because of this, children often age out of the foster system, and they are left on their own to
18 try and survive. Over 1/5 of children who age out of the system become homeless, and these children are
19 also more likely to abuse substances and have encounters with the justice system. By placing more older
20 children in homes, they have a better chance to be adopted or to integrate into society so that they can
21 provide for themselves.

22
23 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

24 This bill will raise the rate of what foster families are paid to take care of children older than 6. This will
25 start with a flat rate of \$21 and raise by 10% for each group of three ages. 7-9-year-olds will start at
26 110% of the flat rate, 10-12-year-olds at 120%, and so on and so forth until age 18. As well as
27 increasing the rate, it will include an upfront payment of \$1000 for 7-9 year olds, raising \$500 per age
28 group identified in the rates.

29
30 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

31 The funding for this bill will come from the residual funds of the Department of Child and Family Services.
32 It will take 7.7% of the 84.7 million dollars in residual funds, providing 6.5 million dollars in funds to
33 execute this bill.

34
35 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

36 There are no penalties for this bill.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**
2 **HOUSE BILL 275**

3
4 **Averi Truitt** **St. Joseph's Academy**

5
6 **TITLE: Add More Cameras for School Buses**
7

8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Through 2010-2020, over 67 students were killed, and 46,000 students were injured, caused by car
10 drivers. not abiding by the stop law of school buses. Currently, there are 125 school buses throughout
11 Bossier City with equipped cameras in only Louisiana. Along with Bossier City, Baton Rouge tried to pass a
12 bill for new cameras, but that has yet to happen. All these accidents would not have happened if school
13 buses had superior quality cameras to track down these offenders by catching their vehicle model and
14 license plate. Rs 32:80 bill is for overtaking and passing buses, and is the law taught in driver's ed. This is
15 the law that states a vehicle must stop both ways from a school bus when the stop signs are out and
16 when lights are flashing.
17

18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 This bill will implant a defined law for outside cameras on buses that are excellent quality and are able to
20 capture offenders of the stop law. In 2021, there was an estimate of 31,681 school buses in Louisiana.
21 This bill will require all school buses to be equipped with SD4FHW-1 cameras. This camera has a GPS and
22 is the standard surveillance camera that would be placed on the front of the bus. Any car that goes
23 around or in front of the bus will be tracked by the camera and will take a photo. The camera will be
24 connected to the rest of the school bus surveillance.
25

26 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

27 A SD4FHW-1 model camera is \$800 each, and if 31,681 school buses were to have one each, the total
28 would be over 25 million. This funding will be from Louisiana Education Grants, which on average, spend
29 up to 7 billion each year.
30

31 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

32 Any penalties fall under RS 32:123 for stop signs and yield signs. If an accident would occur with the
33 death or injury of others, with the car driver at fault, that driver could be subjected to six-twelve months
34 of imprisonment, a fine of \$1k-\$5k, and a driver's license suspension for a year. These penalties would be
35 determined and not fully used during a case.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**
2 **HOUSE BILL 276**

3
4 Abby Eldredge St. Joseph's Academy
5 Kristen Wilhelm

6
7 **TITLE:** Create Self Defense classes for Women

8
9 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

10 According to Jenifer Kuadli, every 1 out of 6 women has been a victim of attempted or completed rape.
11 More than half of Louisiana residents experience physical violence in their lives. According to the Rape,
12 Abuse, and Incest National Network, the average ages that women are raped is 12-34. Women who
13 complete self-defense classes are 50-60% less likely to be raped. Self-defense classes increase women's
14 confidence and will have reduced risk personal injury during an attack. Self Defense classes decrease fear
15 and anxiety of being attacked. The average number of assaults reported in Louisiana is almost 3000 more
16 than murders in the entire country. Taking a self-defense class can make women feel safer in the result of
17 an attack and feel more confident in themselves and their abilities.

18
19 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

20 This bill will mandate that all women older than 12 and younger than 35 will be required to take a free
21 self-defense class two or more times a year. This class will be offered all year and will be open to women
22 from 6am-10pm Monday-Saturday. At every class, there will be a digital sign-in to assure that women are
23 going at least two times a year. The government of Louisiana will be able to check this to assure that
24 women are attending their classes. These classes will be held in a rented apartment available in the
25 city/area of a city where the classes are held. This class must be taught by a woman with a training
26 background. A woman must have had military or police training to teach this class. This class will teach
27 women how to defend themselves against the everyday challenges that they face while in public. With this
28 bill, women will be able to defend themselves from the possibility of rape and/or assault.

29
30 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

31 The funding from this bill will come from a 0.05% tax on all gym membership payments and purchases.
32 This is an average of \$0.0 275. Some of this funding will be used to compensate the instructors for their
33 teaching of the self-defense classes. The rest of the funding will go to renting apartments for the classes
34 to be held in.

35
36 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

37 If a woman does not attend at least two of the classes a year, she will be fined a \$100-\$500 fine.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**
2 **HOUSE BILL 277**

3
4 Cameron Wilkinson St. Joseph's Academy

5
6 **TITLE:** Add bicycle lanes and walking paths

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources says that Louisiana accounts for 3.8% of national carbon
10 emissions and in 2022, the Trust for America's Health said that Louisiana had an obesity rate of 40.1%
11 and ranks 2nd in the nation. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency,
12 transportation generates the largest share of greenhouse gas emissions at 28% in 2021. In 2020,
13 Louisiana produced 39.1 million metric tons of transportation-related carbon dioxide. Per capita,
14 Louisiana produced 40.8 metric tons while New York produced 7.9 metric tons. New York permits less
15 carbon dioxide and has a lower obesity rate of 29.1% because it is the most walkable state in the United
16 States. This is because there are sidewalks and bike lanes almost everywhere.

17
18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 This bill will add more sidewalks and/or bicycle lanes to the secondary roads. This will be done by adding
20 on to existing sidewalks or roadways. Adding sidewalks onto roadways will be done by converting an
21 existing four-lane undivided roadway to a three-lane roadway consisting of two through lanes and a
22 center two-way left-turn lane. Bicycle lanes could be added onto roadways by being added to the
23 servitude on secondary roads.

24
25 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

26 There are federal grants given to Louisiana for infrastructure. Grants also come from Louisiana to help
27 build bike paths, an example is a grant called Rails to Trails given to Lafayette that turns old railroad
28 tracks into bike lanes. Adding sidewalks will be funded by taking about 0.01% of the money given to the
29 state by the Department of Transportation and using it to add on to or build sidewalks over the course of
30 however many years it takes to finish the project.

31
32 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

33 This bill has no penalties.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**
2 **HOUSE BILL 278**

3
4 Lulu Sheets St. Joseph's Academy

5
6 **TITLE:** End recreational fishing and boating on the Mississippi River

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 The Mississippi River is big source for our economy and if the river is shut down it costs roughly 300
10 million dollars per day. This makes it imperative that the river stays moving cargo in and out safely.

11 Another thing that is important to note is that the ships in the Mississippi on average move at the fastest
12 at 6 knots which is equivalent to roughly 6 mph. which means that they are unable to move out of the way
13 in time to save someone if they are in the water and if someone falls out of their boat trying to get out of
14 the way the river will be shut down to retrieve them. If someone is in the water or on a boat relative to a
15 ship that is carrying flammable gasses (which is common) and the pressure valve pops and the gas spills
16 out if someone is smoking near it, them and the ship would blow up as well as the person smoking and if
17 it's ammonia that is spilled and someone is on the river no matter the type of boat they will suffocate and
18 die because of the fumes, so it is of the utmost importance that people know these risks and do not boat
19 or fish on the river. This bill will save innocent lives from an early death. This bill will make it illegal to
20 recreationally boat and fish on the Mississippi river.

21
22 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

23 If you can imagine how difficult it is to see a person from those large ships, as if you're looking at the sky
24 at birds very high up and trying to tell whether it was a plane or a bird well on a ship it's the same you
25 can't tell the difference between a log and a person from a mile away and most of the time you can't even
26 see them. If you can understand that then you'll understand how dangerous it can be if you're on a boat
27 much smaller than the cargo ships. 17% of boating accidents are fatal, and nationally 4,291 accidents
28 have been reported and of that 658 people died. As of august 2020 there had been 9 fatalities from
29 boating accidents and 50 non-fatal accidents reported.

30
31 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

32 No funding will be necessary.

33
34 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

35 If you are caught fishing on the Mississippi, you'll be given a warning, after the second time being found
36 your fishing license will be suspended, and if you are caught for a third time your license will be revoked
37 and you will have to pay a fine of up to 3,000 dollars.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**
2 **HOUSE BILL 279**

3
4 Walker Prejean Lafayette High School
5 Evan Patton

6
7 **TITLE:** Bringing Justice to Drunk Driving Victims

8
9 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

10 Children who have lost a parent are two times as likely than children with both parents to have
11 impairments in their everyday lives. These impairments include, but are not limited to: depression, PTSD,
12 and vulnerability to negative life events. These children suffer in many different ways every single day.
13 Drunk driving is also one of the biggest problems facing today's America. In 2021, 40% of all motor
14 vehicle crashes in Louisiana were alcohol related, and alcohol impaired driving was involved in 299
15 fatalities. This is almost one death a day in Louisiana alone. Louisiana has an opportunity to bring justice
16 to drunk driving victim's families as well as deter its occurrence through this bill. If passed, this bill will
17 require drunk drivers who directly cause the death of a parent to pay child support to the victim's
18 children. The funds in question can cover rent, groceries, mental health services, etc. for the children to
19 curb some of the effects of a parent loss. We believe that even though this will not fill the void left in the
20 hearts of the victims' families, it will at least bring justice to their name.

21
22 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

23 This bill targets drivers under the influence who commit vehicular manslaughter on parents who either had
24 custody of a kid or were paying child support at the time. As part of their sentence, they will have to pay
25 child support for the affected children. This provision only applies to individuals who are 18 years of age
26 or older to account for undeveloped minds causing carelessness. However, when the individual turns 18,
27 they will be included in the program.

28 15% of individuals' income will go towards child support for the affected family. For example, an individual
29 working for a wage of 20 cents an hour will pay \$6.3 a month. Individuals who make \$1 an hour will pay
30 around \$31 a month. While these seem like low numbers, funding will be allocated to help prisons ensure
31 income on the higher end of carceral wages. This is added to relief checks already in place by the
32 government. This mandate ends when the victim's child(ren) turn(s) 18. If an individual does not work
33 while serving time, they will be set to pay \$25 a month, or \$300 a year. This is a mandatory program for
34 public prisons, but opt in for private prisons. These checks will be delivered to the victim's families at the
35 end of every fiscal year. This program will be enacted on January 1st of 2025.

36
37 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

38 A yearly \$250,000 will be allocated from the state budget's surplus to ensure that prisons have decently
39 paying wages. Spending of this funding will be at the discretion of the prisons.

40
41 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

42 Punishment for those who commit this specific crime is included in section 2 of this bill.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**
2 **HOUSE BILL 280**

3
4 Ivan Perez Alexandra Senior High School

5
6 **TITLE:** The Importance of Teaching Sex Education to Students

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 In the year 2023, only about 11% of schools in Louisiana educate their students about Sex Education. The
10 consequences of not introducing pre-teens on this particular subject may likely lead to unplanned
11 pregnancies, catching a sexually transmitted disease (STD), and feeling ashamed of their body due to the
12 lack of understanding of what is "normal" for their age group. When students are not informed of the risks
13 of STDs, they believe they are clean and do not get tested. Because of that, 6 in 10 young people are
14 unaware they have HIV (a form of STD) and risk transmitting the disease to their partner. It is no surprise
15 that if one is mindful of what they do with their bodies they are less inclined to use protection when
16 engaging in sexual behavior. The program will highlight the importance of consent, the use of
17 condoms/birth control, and on how to remain sexually healthy. On November 20, 2019, LPHI released the
18 results of a survey directed toward parents regarding sex education in schools. The data yielded that 83%
19 believe it is important while another 80% demands that it should be required to offer the program.

20
21 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

22 Children from ages 9-10 (typically in fourth grade) will have an introduction to sex education with an age-
23 appropriate discussion with an unbiased registered nurse or physician, and a qualified instructor verified
24 by the state board of Louisiana. The course will last depending on the age group which will begin to get
25 more detailed as they move from grade to grade, ending in 12th, considering the ages of 16-18 is the age
26 of consent. There will be guidelines to ensure that the proper materials are being discussed in a way in
27 which is easily understood. In order to keep the students up to date on accurate information based on
28 their bodies, the instructors will be given a basic rundown of new discoveries. However, if a parent or
29 guardian does not wish for their child to learn sex education, an "opt out" form will be given. The student
30 should be in one class in order to graduate simply for their own benefit and will not be allowed to move
31 onto the next stage of their life without having the basic knowledge of sex education.

32
33 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

34 Those that are administering the lesson will be paid their usual salary and will be assigned a grade
35 depending on what they are certified to teach in.

36
37 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

38 Failure to comply with this law will result in an investigation of the school and funding may or may not be
39 cut based on the level of offense.
40



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**
2 **HOUSE BILL 281**

3
4 Avishka Fernando Haynes Academy

5
6 **TITLE: Require Music Education in Public Schools**
7

8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 The arts are a large part of many people's lives. Whether it be music, visual art, or writing, everyone
10 encounters some part of the arts in their daily lives. Music is however the biggest of these three.

11 Wherever you go, you will hear music whether it's down the street, in the elevator, playing on the
12 loudspeakers at a retail store, or even your own headphones.

13 Music education should be a required part of public education as it would be beneficial for everyone if
14 they could appreciate the smaller things in life. Music works in a way no other art form does, as it can
15 evoke emotion neither visual or writing can. Music can make a person laugh and cry, music can make
16 someone love their life all over again, music can make even the darkest of times seem just a little bit
17 better.

18 Statistics show that "schools with music programs have an estimated 90.2% graduation rate and 93.9%
19 attendance rate compared to schools without music education, which average 72.9% graduation and
20 84.9% attendance," (Children's Music Workshop). GPAs also seem to increase with Music Education "Four-
21 year music students achieved a significantly higher mean GPA score than the non-four-year participants,"
22 (Institute of Education Sciences).

23 Educating our children and our children's children on the beauty and necessity of music, even if it is
24 mandatory, would be in the best interest of not only Louisiana, but the world itself.

25 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

26 This bill can be put into action almost immediately. In Louisiana, in order to graduate high school students
27 must take and pass an art credit sometime throughout their highschool career. This bill proposes to
28 replace this Art Credit with a Musical Arts Credit. Schools cannot opt out, nor can students. Students can
29 choose to play an instrument, sing, or help coordinate music events, but still must learn music theory in
30 some way shape or form. Instruments can be provided by the school board to each school to distribute to
31 their student bodies.

32 Instructors who would like to learn to teach music, can take extra classes provided by the school board.
33 For schools who don't have teachers available, the school board will take teachers from other schools and
34 distribute them on specified days to teach classes during school hours. When teachers may not be
35 available local musicians can be trained and hired to teach as well.

36 Schools will be required to teach songs like the National Anthem, Ave Maria, Handel's Messiah Chorus,
37 Tfila Yiddis, and Aromemcha Adonai, and other culturally and musically significant pieces to encourage
38 awareness and inclusiveness within schools and our new generations.

39 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

40 Funding will come from the Louisiana Board of Education taking cuts from their routine arts funding. This
41 is to buy instruments and necessary equipment to teach students.

42 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

43 Penalties will be imposed by the School Board by cutting funding for other extracurricular activities and
44 programs until classes begin within the school. On top of this students may not graduate without this
45 credit on their transcript.



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023

HOUSE BILL 282

Lesley Dodd Mandeville High

Ella Kornfuhrer

TITLE: Protect Louisiana fishers and shrimpers from foreign imports

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Louisiana has always been a seafood and sea life staple of The United States of America, and it's tenacious sea-faring denizens have forged the food and culture modern citizens know and love. These fishers and the culture they have bestowed upon the Louisiana people is being threatened, not by domestic competition or natural processes, but by foreign bodies. Imports from outside countries have caused the decrease of the price of shrimp due to the sheer amount of farmed shrimp. As of June 2, 2023, the price of shrimp in Louisiana is \$1.10, which is three times less than what it was a year prior. 90% of the American shrimp market is filled with imported products, with regulations and taxes barely inhibiting their domination of the industry. This leads to the Louisiana shrimp and many other seafood markets being heavily strained, causing the price of sea-faring produce to plummet. Louisiana shrimpers are left with increased competition, decreased income, and low hope. This injustice negatively affects the Louisiana people and is an issue that deserves the attention of this prestigious congregation. I suggest the implementation of regulations on foreign shrimp entering Louisiana ports with tariffs on all foreign seafood imports into the state of Louisiana.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Regulations will be imposed on imports if they wish to do business within the state of Louisiana, and standing regulations not mentioned in the bill or that act alone will stand. Requirements will be checked at port and the responsibility will be allocated to the Louisiana Shrimp Task Force, an active organization that reports to the LDWF. The requirements and regulations include: a maximum amount of 5,000 lbs of shrimp that they can hold and 5,000 lbs that can be sold at a time, a red "imported" sticker that must be placed on the packaging on all imported shrimp, and other regulations found necessary to protect the people and marine life of Louisiana. The Shrimp Task Force will hold thorough inspections bi-yearly; violators of the regulations, failure to comply, and refusal of inspections can receive penalties listed in Section IV.

SECTION III: FUNDING

A foreign shrimp tax increase of 25% will be imposed on all foreign seafood imports selling in the state of Louisiana, including any other taxes deemed necessary. They will target large foreign companies and fund the state, The Louisiana Shrimp Task Force, the LDWF, and new regulations imposed by the bill.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

The penalties for violating or failing to comply with the tax Change and Regulations can include harsh fines and loss of license. (Severity of fines and time period for license confiscation is decided by the judicial body reviewing the case.)



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**
2 **HOUSE BILL 283**

3
4 Autumn Baldrige Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

5
6 **TITLE:** Remove School Uniforms in Public Schools

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 The average school uniform costs about \$500 for a set. In a family of four, this could cost up to \$2,000
10 per year, not including alterations and mending.

11
12 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

13 This bill will prohibit public schools from requiring uniforms. By the beginning of the 2024-2025 school
14 year, public schools that currently require uniforms will have to take it out of their student handbook
15 guidelines.

16
17 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

18 This bill needs no funding.

19
20 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

21 If a school fails to meet the no-uniform requirements, then a police officer will be stationed there until the
22 guidelines are met.



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023

HOUSE BILL 284

Mason Bond Haynes Academy

Will Triplett

TITLE: Mandate Attendance to Debates for Candidates for State Office

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

In elections on both national, state, district, and even city scale, many candidates have used name recognition, connections and their own personal assets to ensure their victory, or to ensure that other candidates can not at any time enter political circles. On a national level, Andrew Yang, a presidential candidate, had to pull out due to his own lack of funding and has yet to run again, without many people hearing his ideas or goals. Additionally, many candidates will leave themselves unrepresented as they believe their opponents have no chance to win against them, invalidating the sanctity of such events. A prime example of this is Jeff Landry, who did not attend many debates, and still won the governor elect position in Louisiana. Many have speculated that this was because he was worried that people would have a lower chance of voting for him if he had to actually get on TV and fight for his beliefs. While debate no-shows have always occurred, it seems to be becoming a more common occurrence in more modern times, as candidates become more reliant on their name or party recognition, and buzzwords or ideologies to get themselves into office. To add on to these details unbalancing debate and elections, many candidates have used their own personal funds to launch smear campaigns against their opponents, hoping to drown their chances in a flood of pure disrespect.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Each government-held election would have a designated amount of debates, organized by the government, that all hopeful candidates are required to attend. There would be no cutoff for candidates' answers to ensure that all candidates are able to say what they want to say. These debates will give candidates the platform to speak that they want, as well as to challenge the ideas of other candidates. However, the candidates would no longer receive private funding, and all received payments would be put into a collective pool. The government would also highly encourage and promote these debates to the voters, creating a higher likelihood of voter knowledge, and making elections more fair for candidates who don't have much of a chance in today's system. The Louisiana government would put this into effect immediately with elections at the state level, and would tell the governments of various cities and parishes to do the same.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Funding would come from the donations presented by various sponsors and donors for different candidates, to be placed into a collective pool to be split evenly among the candidates and put towards debates.. Should the total amount of capital to be spent per candidate equal to less than an equivalent value to 1.25 million USD, the candidates would have to supply a percentage of their personal wealth to reach the target value

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Any candidate who does not attend these debates, without getting clear permission beforehand, will not be allowed to run for the office. If a candidate overspends on their campaign outside of these debates, they will receive a fine of \$200k, and be removed from the race if a second infraction is made.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**
2 **HOUSE BILL 285**

3
4 Sofia Leo Episcopal School of Baton Rouge
5 Meredith Hill

6
7 **TITLE:** Secure Your Load Act

8
9 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

10 Among all fifty states in the U.S., only eleven states, including Louisiana, do not require tarping one's load.
11 In these states, people are responsible for securing their own load, but they do not always do so. For dirt,
12 rocks, sand, or gravel, a driver in Louisiana must cover their load with a tarp. With the Secure Your Load
13 Act, we would require the securement of equipment, furniture, or other large items with straps and/or
14 bungee cords. If a vehicle from a company is caught with their equipment not secured, the Act would fine
15 the company, not the driver of the vehicle. An article produced by Verduyn Tarps, an online website used
16 to buy trucking equipment, states facts about states that are not required to tarp their load. Verduyn
17 Tarps reports that tarping your load is a crucial part of ensuring cargo and personal safety. An article
18 written by Dudley DeBosier, a law firm that specializes in injuries, states that debris on the road can be
19 detrimental and are hard to avoid while driving. Things like furniture or appliances on the road are sure to
20 cause hazardous driving and could lead to damage, injury, or death. Also, deciding who would be liable for
21 damage can get complicated. For example, if a driver swerved to protect themselves and hit another car in
22 the process they could be held accountable for the damage. According to The American Automobile
23 Association (AAA), debris caused more than 200,000 crashes in the U.S. between 2011 and 2014. These
24 incidents caused thirty-nine thousand injuries and over 500 deaths. This bill will help ensure that
25 equipment/supplies are securely fastened and will not harm others if they become loose from the vehicle.
26 We want to create a community where drivers feel safe on the roads.

27
28 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

29 Implementation: Police officials will be informed of the new law and will be required to enforce it by
30 handing out tickets to offenders when they are caught. The Secure Your Load Law will take effect on
31 January 1, 2024.

32
33 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

34 No financing is required for this bill.

35
36 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

37 If someone is caught with their load not secured in Louisiana, they will be fined \$250 for the first offense
38 and \$300 for subsequent offenses.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**
2 **HOUSE BILL 286**

3
4 Nate McLean Episcopal High School
5 Daniel Lindsey

6
7 **TITLE:** Organ Donation Quid Pro Quo

8
9 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

10 This bill will drastically change the current problem faced in organ donation. In 2022, nearly 2000
11 Louisianians were in need of an organ transplant while only 739 organ donations were made. This left
12 over 1200 people in Louisiana without organ donations. This bill will improve Louisiana's organ donation
13 rate of 36.95% in 2022 to incentivize becoming an organ donor.

14
15 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

16 Only registered organ donors in Louisiana will be allowed to receive organs, meaning that Louisiana
17 citizens must be registered organ donors to apply for an organ transplant. Also, registered organ donors
18 will be unable to opt out of being an organ donor if they receive an organ donation. Our bill will go into
19 effect on January 1st, 2026.

20
21 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

22 There are no costs associated with this bill.

23
24 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

25 There are no penalties associated with this bill



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 288**

3 Kate Lyons Episcopal high school

4
5 **TITLE:** An act enforcing all employers in Louisiana to pay employees a minimum wage of \$15.00 per hour.

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Louisiana's poverty rate is 18.6 percent making it third highest in the nation

9 Louisiana is estimated to have a 3.2 percentage point reduction in poverty rate if the minimum wage was
10 \$15 per hour

11 Increased minimum wage has a direct correlation with decreased crime rates

12 Be it enacted by the YMCA Youth Legislature of the State of Louisiana. Section I. DEFINITIONS:

13 A. Employer: a person or business that employs one or more people for wages

14 B. Employee: someone that another person or company hires to perform a service for a wage

15 C. Employ: to give work to someone and pay them for it

16
17 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

18 A. The minimum wage shall be raised from \$7.25 per hour to \$15.00 per hour for all employees regardless
19 of age.

20 B. The Louisiana Department of Labor shall enforce the minimum wage law by conducting audits,
21 interviews, and inspections quarterly to ensure all employees are paid in accordance with the new
22 minimum wage law

23 C. The minimum wage shall be adjusted annually to keep up with inflation and the cost of living.

24 F. If employees are paid less than the minimum wage they are entitled to file a civil lawsuit against their
25 employers to recover unpaid wages

26 G. Schools and educational institutions shall provide resources and information to students regarding
27 their employment rights, including the minimum wage.

28 I. Any adjustments or amendments to this act shall be proposed based on the findings of these
29 assessments

30
31 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

32 The funding for this bill will come from a combination of employee contributions and grants from the
33 louisiana department of labor

34
35 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

36 1st offence; employers will be fined in accordance with how they paid their employees

37 3rd offence; Employers will face imprisonment, time imprisoned will depend on how they paid their
38 employees



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**
2 **HOUSE BILL 289**

3
4 Addison Crain Dutchtown High School
5 Kaia Bourgeois

6
7 **TITLE:** Clear the Air: Installation of Vape Detectors in High School Bathrooms

8
9 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

10 As we know, vaping in school is a growing problem among teenagers. According to the Louisiana
11 Department of Health, as of 2019, approximately 32% of high school students in Louisiana currently
12 vape. But kids aren't only vaping at home, they're vaping at school, more specifically, in school bathrooms.
13 Not only is it illegal for students under the age of 21 to be in possession of these products, but it is also
14 illegal for them to be brought to school. The National Institute of Drug Abuse explains how vaping and
15 breathing in second-hand vape has been shown to have extremely poor effects on a student's ability to
16 learn and show creativity, giving us reason to take further measures to maintain a proper learning
17 environment and to dissuade students from breaking the law in these locations.
18 In 2021, E-cigarette manufacturer Juul Labs Inc. made an agreement to pay \$10 million to settle a lawsuit
19 filed by the Louisiana Attorney General's Office in an attempt to limit the company's reach to minors. This
20 money was set aside to be used for programs that are designed to prevent or reduce the use of vapes
21 among Louisiana residents under 21. This bill proposes that using this settlement money, vape detectors
22 would be placed in each student bathroom in all public high schools. These detectors send alerts to the
23 school alerting them that vaping is detected, so they can then assess the situation.

24
25 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

26 This bill would require that one vape detector be installed in each student bathroom in all public high
27 schools before the beginning of the 2025 school year. The detectors would be required to be able to
28 detect vape smoke from the entire bathroom.

29
30 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

31 This bill would be funded by the 10 million dollar settlement Louisiana received from Juul Labs Inc.

32
33 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

34 If a school or school board refuses to comply with the law, they would be fined \$2,000. Each year the
35 school refuses to install the vape detectors after being fined, they would be fined another \$6,000. All
36 money collected from the fines will go towards the budget of the Louisiana Department of Education to
37 continue the improvement of health and safety in Louisiana public schools.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**
2 **HOUSE BILL 290**

3
4 Gavin Ferrand Metairie Park Country Day School
5 Christian Myers

6
7 **TITLE:** Death Penalty No More

8
9 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

10 The death penalty is inherently flawed and there is no way to tell how many innocent people have lost
11 their lives due to this system. Since the 1970s, 1579 people have been executed. We will never know how
12 many of those people were truly innocent and died for nothing. There is also evidence that minorities and
13 economically challenged people face the death penalty disproportionately compared to others. 43% of
14 people executed since 1976 have been minorities and 55% of people currently awaiting execution are
15 minorities, which is disproportionately compared to others. There is also no real evidence that the death
16 penalty deters crime. States that have the death penalty do not have a lower crime rate compared to
17 states that do not have the death penalty. For example, Louisiana, a state with the death penalty, has the
18 most murders per capita in the nation compared to New Hampshire, a state without the death penalty,
19 that has the least murders per capita in the nation. It is also cheaper for an inmate to have life
20 imprisonment than for them to be executed by the state. It costs the state up to or more than \$281,000
21 to execute one person. Finally, the death penalty brings up moral and ethical questions that is if, we the
22 society, can decide whether someone lives or dies. It is time for Louisiana to join the other 23 states and
23 abolish the death penalty.

24
25 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

26 By the year 2025, the death penalty will be completely abolished in the state of Louisiana. Any person on
27 death row shall be given a new sentencing.

28
29 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

30 Any money previously allocated to the death penalty will be absorbed by the prison budget of the state of
31 Louisiana.

32
33 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

34 The state government shall not perform the death penalty. No judge can mandate any death sentences.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**
2 **HOUSE BILL 291**

3
4 David Russo Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies

5
6 **TITLE: Abolish Daylight Savings Time**
7

8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Daylight Savings Time is a form of time implemented in the Standard Time Act of 1918, during World War
10 I, to add more daylight hours in the working day and conserve energy resources within the country during
11 the war. Daylight Saving Time changes the time nationally on the second Sunday of March, moving forward
12 an hour at 2:00 A.M, and back to normal time falling back an hour on the first Sunday in November.
13 During times of war, this change was helpful, but in the modern day, science has proven otherwise.
14 Daylight savings throws off the internal timer within our bodies, and this causes many health risks to
15 individuals, such as throwing off circadian rhythms, and also and fluctuating hormones, which can cause
16 mood instability, irritability, metabolic issues, and all of these things lead to other events, such as the
17 possibility of car crashes and other accidents on the way to work. On average, it takes two weeks for the
18 brain to adjust to Daylight Savings Time, and in people like children, it could affect cognitive development
19 when their sleep pattern is disrupted for this long period of time. Under the Uniform Time Act, states have
20 the option to stay in standard time the whole year. States such as Arizona and Hawaii have already
21 passed legislation where they stay in standard time year round, and Louisiana should join them.
22

23 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

24 If the bill is passed, then Louisiana would stick to standard time year around, meaning that on the second
25 Sunday of March, the time would not jump forward an hour, but rather stay the same.
26

27 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

28 No funding is needed as all that would happen is the clocks would be set back if the bill was passed, and
29 that is all.
30

31 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

32 If a company enforces daylight savings time amongst its employees and constituents of Louisiana, they
33 will be fined \$50,000, and that money would be utilized for other Louisiana programs to further the
34 economy and development of other programs.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**
2 **HOUSE BILL 292**

3
4 Sarah Heebe Metairie Park Country Day School

5
6 **TITLE:** The Tax Revolution Act

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Louisianaians around the state overwhelmingly voted to remove the tax-exempt status of nonprofits
10 owning land that is a danger to public health in October. However, that was just a small example of the
11 many ways our tax code is misused in this state. Louisiana's tax system is an inept spiderweb of
12 exemptions, exceptions, contradictions, and confusion. The people have spoken; Louisiana is long overdue
13 for a better tax system. Crime, poor education, crumbling infrastructure, and more plague the state. All of
14 these issues would be greatly improved with increased government funds. Not to mention, turning away
15 from special interests would draw companies with crucial jobs back to Louisiana by creating a level playing
16 field for all businesses.

17
18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 The state tax system will eliminate the current exemptions or reduced-tax status for every tax save for
20 the following: food for consumption at home, residential utilities, prescription drugs, nonprofit
21 organizations, educational materials, ophthalmologic devices, wheelchairs, hearing aids, and the Louisiana
22 Tax-Free Shopping Program.

23
24 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

25 No funding is required.

26
27 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

28 Penalties do not apply.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**
2 **HOUSE BILL 293**

3
4 Londyn Norwood Metairie Park Country Day
5 Kate Wood

6
7 **TITLE:** Prohibition of Prisoner’s Involuntary Servitude

8
9 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

10 An act regarding the prohibition of involuntary servitude in the criminal justice system.
11 Involuntary servitude: A legal and constitutional term for a person laboring against that person’s will
12 (forced) to benefit another, under some form of coercion, to which it may constitute slavery.
13 Criminal justice: the delivery of justice to those who have been accused of committing crimes. The criminal
14 justice system is a series of government agencies and institutions.
15 Louisiana prohibits slavery and involuntary servitude, except in the criminal justice system. Twenty out of
16 the Fifty States within the United States of America allow involuntary servitude as criminal punishment.
17 The enactment of involuntary servitude in the criminal justice system often involves levels of
18 discrimination based on race (assignment to jobs with higher/lower levels of payment and experience
19 gained) that contribute to systemic inequities that disproportionately impact communities of color.

20
21 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

22 The First Section of the Thirteenth Amendment, which prohibits all involuntary servitude with the
23 exclusion of the criminal justice system, must be Amended within the constitution of the State of
24 Louisiana. This Bill will go into effect on January 1, 2025. Once enacted, involuntary servitude within the
25 criminal justice system, within the borders of Louisiana, shall be strictly prohibited.

26
27 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

28 Incarcerated workers are paid an average of \$0.02 per hour (sometimes with a three year period without
29 pay). Minimum wage in Louisiana is \$7.25. To fund the employment of free workers, it is asked that the
30 Louisiana Department of Revenue allocate state and local tax dollars.

31
32 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

33 Any Louisiana Prisons that do not comply with the eradication of Involuntary Servitude will receive a 5%
34 decrease in funding from the state government.



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023

HOUSE BILL 294

Aima Shahid Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies

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

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

It's no secret that Louisiana's economy is not the best; in general, our state has multiple issues from constant hurricane threats to managing COVID-19 procedures. However, this should not deter the attempts of the Louisiana government to seek solutions to poverty and homelessness. Louisiana has a poverty rate of 19.6% being the second highest in the United States; this mostly affects women, children, and people of color. More importantly Louisiana ranks second highest in child poverty with an astounding 26.34% or 284,760 children. Louisiana is also fourth highest in income inequality mainly due to the high accumulation of poverty in the state. Separately, households can get assistance from the national government in the form of welfare (TANF), food stamps (SNAP), EITC (earned income tax credit), rental assistance, LIHEAP (low-income home energy assistance program), and Medicaid. These programs, however, are not a permanent fix for necessities. In Louisiana, 578,000 adults reported that they had difficulty affording enough to eat. Before 2021, 12% of Louisiana households were on the brink of falling below the poverty line, it has only worsened following the pandemic. Furthermore, 28% of Louisiana's population is homeless, ranked 10th in the nation. Jefferson and Orleans parish alone have about 302 homeless people -- enough to fill up a small public school-- per 100,000 people as of 2018, this amount has substantially increased since the beginning of the pandemic. At the same time, homelessness does result from a number of reasons; these can be unemployment or simple irresponsibility, from gambling or addictions. Louisiana's employment rate is tremendously low to begin with.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

The solution is to provide universal income in the form of welfare to Louisianians monthly. This is not only applied to those under the poverty line; the amount of money attained will vary on the number of residents in a household and the annual income. Generally households that make less than \$40,000 annually would receive this stipend. This form of assistance should be given to these low-income citizens to be spent on their necessities, whether its rent, groceries, mortgage, child-support, or the electricity bill. Similarly, UBI or Universal Basic Income is a governmental program where every citizen receives a set amount of money on a consistent time frame. The goal of UBI is to attenuate poverty and eliminate any need for other assistance programs. Countries like Canada, Belgium, and Australia have used UBi to help their citizens. A report of the effect of UBI in Canada shows that UBI can become a tenable investment for Canada improving their economy by 80 billion dollars per year, supporting businesses, assuaging poverty, and creating hundred of thousands of job opportunities for the unemployed. The implementation of this bill will be done over time to ensure it is executed properly. It should require no more than four months to estimate the amount of Louisiana citizens requiring this payment, including those that are homeless. In the first month, it should be determined through IRS tax forms how many citizens below the poverty line require assistance. The following month, the number of homeless citizens per parish should be accounted for, each given a \$2,000 stipend (this is a set stipend for those that are strictly homeless to cover the cost of rent for an apartment, food, and transportation). During the third month, households that are making below \$40,000 annually should be sought out through their tax forms and payment shall be determined. During the last month, the values for each household should be determined from a scale of \$300-\$1500.

1 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

2 Funding of this will come from The Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program. A portion will
3 also be reserved from the federal government's state funding for welfare assistance.

4 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

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



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023

HOUSE BILL 295

Landri Domingue Dutchtown High School

TITLE: Increased Wage Transparency to Ensure Equal Pay in Louisiana

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

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

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

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

SECTION III: FUNDING

There is no funding necessary for this bill.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Any company or corporation that does not make pay statistics available to workers will receive a warning of the first offense with a deadline of 60 days for the company to implement the bill. The US Census Bureau classified any company with less than 500 workers as a small company and any company with more than 500 workers as a large company. The second offense will be a fine of \$50,000 for a small company and \$100,000 for a large company. A third offense will be a fine of \$100,000 for a small company and \$200,000 for a large company and/or further legal action. Additional penalties can be given if individual names are disclosed without the consent of the employee. Penalties include a fine ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000 depending on the severity of disclosures.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**
2 **HOUSE BILL 296**

3
4 Henry Swope Metairie Park Country Day
5 Easton Moore

6
7 **TITLE:** Louisiana Rapid Construction Act

8
9 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

10 Section 1: Purpose

11 1.1. The purpose of this Act is to streamline construction procedures, minimize bureaucratic impediments,
12 and expedite infrastructure development throughout Louisiana.

13
14 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

15 Section 2: Expedited Permitting Process

16 2.1. Establish an expedited permitting process for construction projects by designating a dedicated task
17 force composed of representatives from relevant state agencies, industry experts, and local authorities.

18 2.2. Mandate the task force to review and streamline permit application procedures, ensuring prompt
19 approval within reasonable time frames without compromising safety standards.

20 2.3. Provide clear guidelines for permit applications, reducing redundancy, and enhancing transparency in
21 the review process.

22
23 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

24 Section 3: Incentives for Efficient Construction Practices

25 3.1. Offer incentives, such as tax credits or subsidies, to construction firms employing innovative and
26 efficient construction methods that significantly reduce project timelines without compromising quality or
27 safety.

28 3.2. Encourage the adoption of environmentally friendly construction practices and the use of sustainable
29 materials by providing incentives for projects meeting specific eco-friendly criteria.

30
31 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

32 Section 4: Public-Private Partnerships

33 4.1. Promote public-private partnerships to expedite the execution of infrastructure projects, encouraging
34 collaboration between governmental bodies and private entities.

35 4.2. Develop frameworks for effective cooperation, ensuring shared responsibilities, risk management, and
36 transparent contractual agreements to expedite project implementation.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**
2 **HOUSE BILL 297**

3
4 Lyric LaFrance Dutchtown High School
5 Madison Bechet

6
7 **TITLE:** Mandatory Sex Education in Schools

8
9 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

10 In 2020, there were 3,676 teen births in Louisiana. 15% of those teens had already had children before.
11 This could have been prevented if there was one sexual education lesson in every high school in Louisiana.
12 The lesson would be held in a science class in each grade. Something similar has already been implemented
13 in Vermont, where there were 139 teen births in 2020. Adding a sexual education lesson would inform
14 teens about protected sex and make them aware of the consequences of unprotected actions.

15
16 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

17 This bill would be implemented in August of the 2024-2025 school year.

18
19 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

20 If implemented, this bill would be free of charge since the science teacher is already employed.

21
22 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

23 If a school does not comply with this bill if implemented, they will be charged a fee of \$100 for each
24 science class.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**
2 **HOUSE BILL 298**

3
4 Adam Chittom Episcopal Baton Rouge Highschool

5
6 **TITLE: X to X**
7

8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 This bill would make it so social media websites or applications that have both a posting system and a
10 messaging system would be unusable by minors, or people under 18. This includes but is not limited to,
11 Twitter or X, TikTok, Instagram, and Facebook. This bill will also be applied to upcoming platforms that
12 have the same features. The main reason for creating this bill is to decrease the amount, and hopefully
13 eradicate, depression in children caused by these sites (64% of users are diagnosed after using these
14 sites) as well as child kidnapping or rape. 82% of child-sex crimes are started by social media, and 90% of
15 kids who are victims of these crimes have some kind of social media presence. These sites would require
16 new users to show proof of age upon signing up for the site via an ID, birth certificate, etc.
17

18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 This bill would become a law on January 1, 2025
20

21 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

22 There will be no funding of the creation of the system.
23

24 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

25 The first punishment for one of these sites being shown to not require age verification would be a fine of
26 \$50,000. A site could also be fined in the instance they have a very lenient verification, like accepting
27 obviously faked IDs. The second and third punishments are a fine of \$100,000. After 4 warnings, the site
28 would be taken down until they show proof of them applying the verification system. However, if the site
29 is shown to not have them again, and rack up three more punishments, the fourth punishment would
30 cause the site to be terminated permanently.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**
2 **HOUSE BILL 299**

3
4 Ben Morvant Metairie Park Country Day School
5 Chloe Jones

6
7 **TITLE:** Tactical Urban Re-Turn Lightspeed Enactment (TURTLE)

8
9 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

10 For emergency services, speed is of the utmost importance. To this end, the Louisiana State government
11 has seen it fit to equip all emergency service members with an automobile to service these needs. These
12 automobiles (more often known as "cars") have proven to be a vast improvement from horses, camels,
13 mules, chariots, and other older forms of transportation. However, they too, are limited. Largely, in size,
14 operating cost, and ability to navigate tight spaces such as a corn maze, indoor cornhole complex, corn
15 mills, corn harvesting plant, or other related facilities. By equipping all emergency services with shoes that
16 have an engineered wheel in the heel, more commonly known as "Heelys". They have the potential to
17 greatly improve the ability to navigate around tight corridors at high speed. Several third parties have
18 verified these shoes's ability to allow the user to travel up to 75 miles per hour. The Turtle Act seeks to
19 implement these shoes as an aspect of their everyday kit.

20
21 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

22 For Turtle to be implemented, police departments and EMT/Paramedic services will begin to replace the
23 standard issue boot with a pair of all-black, light-up wheeled shoes. The lights will serve the same
24 purpose as lights on the standard issue vehicles of these departments. Fire departments will not be issued
25 these shoes as the often high-heat environment could damage the shoe or wheel component.

26
27 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

28 All existing funding towards the footwear of emergency services will be redirected to be spent on wheeled
29 shoes. Any excess money not spent on wheeled shoes from this source of funding will be spent on
30 replacement parts and other accessory shoes such as training or running shoes.

31
32 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

33 Wearing wheeled shoes is not mandated, but highly recommended.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**
2 **HOUSE BILL 300**

3
4 Mikalen Washington Zachary High School
5 LaJade Smith

6
7 **TITLE:** Energy Conservation Procedures

8
9 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

10 Currently, Louisiana ranks in the top ten for most energy consumed in the United States. It is important to
11 conserve energy to help protect the environment from things like pollution and global warming. Louisiana
12 relies heavily on the oil industry which is why our energy levels are so high.

13
14 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

15 To conserve energy, Louisiana can implement that parishes with high energy levels be required to switch
16 to an alternative energy source. For example, the parish can choose to switch to a solar-based energy
17 source which is less harmful to the environment. Another option would be for the parish to use wind
18 energy from wind turbines. This bill will help decrease Louisiana's global emission levels.

19
20 This law would be effective as of February 1,2024.

21
22 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

23 \$300,000 is needed to implement this bill. The parishes with higher emission levels will have to pay taxes
24 to fund this bill which will be 2.5% of their yearly income meaning this tax will be paid once a year.

25
26 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

27 If this law is not abided by, then the individual person will be fined \$200 for every month it is not
28 followed.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**
2 **HOUSE BILL 301**

3
4 Adam Perry Zachary High School

5
6 **TITLE:** Restraint and Regulation of Artificial Intelligence

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Artificial intelligence, often abbreviated as AI, has long been the driving force of conspiracy theories, viral
10 videos, and many other things across the internet. Recently, AI has been being used to show mainly
11 celebrities and important figures doing things they haven't. This includes talking to other people, saying
12 things they usually wouldn't say, and so on. However, it's been getting more and more serious. Forms of
13 propaganda are being created with the help of AI, and even important documents are being altered
14 through it. As time progresses, this technology can spread to the public and be heavily misused.

15
16 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

17 To execute my bill, I would first call for the holding of all accessible forms of artificial intelligence for
18 inspection. The inspection of these websites, apps, and databases will include if the companies are
19 harboring data without the permission of users, if the companies see any forms of misuse of AI in users
20 and not reporting them, and if the companies are altering users provides information with AI. These
21 inspections will be applied to upcoming AI companies as well.

22
23 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

24 Being that this issue is of U.S. concern, the funding for my bill will come from the Department of Homeland
25 Security. The issues I have stated are of Homeland Security concern, which is why it is necessary that it
26 should be the funding for it. The implementations of this bill will cost approximately \$750,000 to
27 \$1,500,000 to start. The funds for the bill will go towards employees who investigate the AI companies.

28
29 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

30 If companies choose to not follow the restraints and regulations provided by the bill, they will be ordered
31 to bring an end to the entirety of their company. Companies who willingly refuse minor restraints and
32 regulations in the bill will be ordered to pay fines up to \$2,000,000. The seriousness of companies' AI
33 involvement will result in criminal investigation and trial.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**
2 **HOUSE BILL 302**

3
4 Harmoni Goins Southern University Laboratory School

5
6 **TITLE:** Provide Restitution for the Wrongfully Convicted/Accused

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Statistics show that 4-6% of people incarcerated in US prisons are innocent which means 1/20 criminal
10 cases result in a wrongful conviction. Louisiana ranks as one of the top 9 states to wrongfully accuse and
11 convict innocent people. This problem is more prominent in low socioeconomic communities and has
12 gravely affected the lives of many people, not just the accused, but also their families. In addition, more
13 than half the time, accused individuals do not have the resources to afford an attorney or representative.
14 If they can not afford a representative they are then acquainted with a public defender from the state.
15 Should the public defender lose the case, that person becomes a part of the penal system which has
16 lasting negative effects on everyone involved. As a result, the individual wrongfully accused and
17 prosecuted is tragically violated in several areas such as his/her right to liberty, his/her right to a fair
18 trial, and his/her freedom from cruel and unusual punishment, just to name a few. Consequently, the
19 profound results of this could be declining mental health and well-being, stigmatization and public
20 perception, loss of trust in the justice system, problems seeking employment, and loss of opportunities
21 and time. These accusations and convictions will ruin the lives of these people and make their lives
22 unnecessarily harder and close to impossible to rebuild.

23
24 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

25 As this bill is set into motion the accused shall be compensated every month at \$1,500 for the amount of
26 time served. The wrongfully convicted or accused will also be provided with a therapist/counselor. The
27 state will also provide an official statement for employment to ease the employment struggle and all
28 charges shall be erased.

29
30 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

31 The funding will be placed in the Louisiana State Penitentiary Budget, which has a total amount of \$698.4
32 million dollars.

33
34 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

35 NA



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**
2 **HOUSE BILL 303**

3
4 Talyn Saulsby Southern University Laboratory School
5 Brailyn Dumas

6
7 **TITLE:** Remove the possibility of parole option for convicted rapists

8
9 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

10 In Louisiana, convicted rapists are offered parole after serving 75% of their sentence. In 2019, 2,273
11 rapes were reported in Louisiana, causing Louisiana's crime rate to rise to 3,711 crimes per 100,000
12 residents. If this bill goes into effect, convicted rapists will have to complete their prison sentences.

13
14 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

15 If this bill is passed, It will be implemented on January 1st, 2024. This law will go into effect to cover all
16 parishes and all courts in the state of Louisiana. All convicted rapists will have to complete a full prison
17 sentence. If the full sentence is complete and convicted sex offenders commit sex crimes again such as
18 battery, molestation, sexual assault ect. they will have to serve double their previous prison sentence.

19
20 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

21 No Funding Needed

22
23 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

24 If the law is broken, the judge that offered parole to convicted rapists then that judge will lose the subject
25 matter of jurisdiction, and that judge's orders are void.



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023

HOUSE BILL 304

Peyton Mason

Southern University Laboratory School

MaKayla Price

TITLE: To require all Louisiana daycares and schools to have access to Control systems installed for the safety of the students, faculty, and staff.

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Since the tragic events of the 1999 Columbine High School shooting in Littleton, Colorado left 13 dead and 20 injured, protecting schools from the threat of mass shootings and other violence has been prevalent in the minds of many organizations and institutions. Unfortunately, it does not seem like enough has been done. Statistics show that there have been almost 70 more school shootings since Columbine and the number of days between school shootings decreased from an average of 124 days between 1999 and 2014 to just 77 between 2014 and 2018. These numbers are concerning and highlight the need for better security solutions for schools in order to not just keep students safe, but also engaged in the classroom. Protecting the lives of students is obviously the most important aspect of school security, however, more benefits lie just below the surface. When a school is safe, the students can thrive in an encouraging environment that is not plagued with fear or disrupted with lockdowns. Safety can encourage them to be in school more often and be more involved in activities that keep them on campus. Students need to be able to see the location they learn in as a safe place that will help them grow, which is difficult with the near-constant news cycle of different schools somewhere in the nation whose security didn't protect them well enough. Feeling secure at school can encourage better lives for its students- academically, socially, and emotionally. Automated security doors can be programmed to suit each daycare, elementary, or high school needs. Interlocking doors with card access systems can be utilized so that only authorized students, teachers, and staff can gain entry to a building. Walkthrough metal detector door systems can immediately prevent entry the second a weapon is detected. All schools must provide a safe and secure environment if students are to thrive academically, socially, and culturally. Most teachers, students, and parents are all worried about safety in schools.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Implementing something as simple as access control with security doors can make a big difference. The access control ensures only authorized individuals like students and faculty have entrance into the building. This is often paired with rapid weapon detection to ensure no dangerous items are allowed inside. Although metal detectors and security doors for schools are extremely important, there is no one-size-fits-all solution to security. When looking into security solutions for schools, it's important to remember that what may be necessary for one grade level may be too much for another. For example, weapons detection with access control might be a little excessive in an elementary school and insufficient for a high school. Thus, understanding the nature of the most concerning threats and how to mitigate risks at different locations is important to school security. Controlling the entrances for schools is critical, but only a part of a comprehensive plan. Protecting students requires a variety of security solutions along with safety training and drills for staff and students alike. The more thorough these processes are, and the more comprehensive the security solutions, the more positive outcomes schools will see when it comes to student safety. Schools and communities will need to ban together for the safety of students. If this Bill is passed, these educational facilities will need to have all equipment installed within 2 years after the bill has passed.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Funding will be the responsibility of the school district.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Failure to implement this law within 8 years will result in loss of state funding.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**
2 **HOUSE BILL 305**

3
4 Ryleigh Haynes

Southern University Laboratory School

5
6 **TITLE: Mandate Drug Intervention Program in Public Schools**

7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 A high school drug intervention program will promote drug awareness and drug prevention for all students
9 in the state of Louisiana. Right now the state of Louisiana is dealing with an opioid drug problem that is
10 significantly impacting our youth. The drug fentanyl is a synthetic opioid drug that is highly addictive.
11 There are many teenage overdose cases that have occurred in the United States. The intake on how many
12 people are dying from this drug increases annually. Fentanyl deaths have tripled from 31 per month in
13 2019 of July to 87 per month in 2021 of May. It has only decreased by half over a few months in
14 December of 2021. It has been proven the overdose rate of fentanyl occurs in males, at least 70% of the
15 United States has done fentanyl. Compared to 30% of females that have died from fentanyl overdoses.
16 Based on demographics fentanyl overdoses occur by whites (60%), Hispanics (21%), and blacks (13%). This
17 bill proposes to eliminate teenage drug overdoses in the state of Louisiana.
18

19 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

20 Right now there isn't a law for the state of Louisiana that addresses this problem. We want every school
21 to receive drug awareness training and for every teacher, parent, and student to know how to administer
22 the drug Narcan. Narcan, also known as naloxone is a medicine that blocks opioids from overdoses, it's
23 also called an opioid antagonist. It relaxes a person's body and restores normal breathing to stop the
24 overdose. Narcan doesn't have an effect on someone who doesn't have opioids in their system. The idea is
25 for the faculty and parents to learn how to administer narcan in the event a student or their child
26 overdoses. The youth is our future and passing this bill saves a life, and also gives us hope for the future.
27 This puts us one step forward in eliminating the opioid crisis. This law should be proposed in next year's
28 legislative session to be implemented immediately following.

29 Once the bill is passed, I want a state law similar to what Virginia has under Executive Order 26 creating
30 a full comprehensive strategy to combat fentanyl and opioid abuse. Executive Order 26 has 5 key
31 initiatives but I want to focus specifically on numbers three and four. "...educate our communities for
32 action to address fentanyl and opioid abuse and overdoses; ..expand access to evidence-based
33 treatments;" enhance public safety measures to counteract activity by illicit drug manufacturers and
34 distributions; (2) invest in and enhance prevention and recovery efforts (3) educate our community for
35 action to address fentanyl and opioid abuse and overdoses; (4) expand access to evidence-based
36 treatments; and (5) comprehensively organize our government to transform and strengthen Virginia's
37 response to the fentanyl opioid crisis.
38

39 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

40 In the state of Louisiana, there are over 640,000 high school students spread across 1,303 schools.
41 Based on these numbers and the number of overdoses that have occurred, it would cost \$82,000 for the
42 Narcan drug and the training budget is estimated at \$300,000. This bill could be funded through federal
43 taxes and federal funds. Also, the Department of Health and hospital could also support funding this
44 proposal because public safety and drug prevention fall under their umbrella.

45 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

46 NA



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**
2 **HOUSE BILL 306**

3
4 Madisyn Olinde Southern University Laboratory School
5 Taleah Banks

6
7 **TITLE:** Allow for Public Schools to provide Personal Hygiene Vending Machines in Schools.

8
9 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

10 Students from low socioeconomic status backgrounds should have regular access to health and personal
11 care products is a hygiene requirement. Students not having easy access to hygiene facilities can lead to
12 severe health problems, such as bacterial infections, cough and cold, and a multitude of hygiene concerns
13 that can lead to health risks.

14 This is needed in public schools because these products can help to reduce the stigma associated with
15 menstruation. By making hygiene products easily available in public spaces, vending machines normalize
16 the experience of menstruation and help to reduce the shame and embarrassment associated with it.

17 This bill will allow schools to install vending machines that will provide personal hygiene items to
18 students, teachers, and staff as well. This will prevent students from looking and asking for items. They
19 will know where to go at all times. As a result, available personal items will be available to anyone as
20 needed.

21 The school must meet the needs of students academically, mentally, and personally. They must provide
22 for the well-being of the WHOLE CHILD!!

23
24 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

25 This law will be effective next school year 2024-2025. To make this bill a reality, each school must secure
26 its own vending machine(s).

27
28 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

29 No funding required

30
31 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

32 School districts that fail to implement this law will jeopardize some of their state funding streams.
33
34



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023

HOUSE BILL 307

Vaishu Kumbala Haynes Academy

TITLE: Report Cards Are Dead (R.A.D)

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

The current grading system in Louisiana public schools, in which some students start receiving report cards as early as 1st grade, can give rise to academic pressure, stress, and a tendency to prioritize grades over learning. In some countries like Denmark, which is ranked second by UNICEF for child well-being outcomes, formal grades aren't issued until around the 8th Grade, allowing students to focus on learning and easing stress that may emerge around grades. Adopting an alternate, feedback-centered approach in Louisiana that prioritizes growth and learning over grades and formal benchmarks of achievement for students in 3rd Grade and under will foster an environment with less academic pressure and allow students to understand the value of academic growth and learning. As stated by a Harvard University report, "The most common source of stress for high school students, according to the 2017 APA Stress survey, is school itself, with about 83 percent of teens identifying school as a major stressor."

Implementing this program for younger students would not only promote and reward learning and growth but it could potentially help lower this statistic and benefit student mental health in the long-run.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Ten public schools across Louisiana will be randomly selected to pilot the R.A.D program during the 2024-2025 school year. Schools will be barred from issuing formal report cards that use an A-F grading scale for students in 3rd grade and under. While tests and quizzes are encouraged to be administered as usual and the curriculum will not be changed, results will only be tracked for the purposes of a state-developed evaluation template/rubric that teachers fill out at the end of each quarter, focusing on students' Math, English, Social Studies, Science, Problem Solving/Creativity, and Social Skills. With this method, families will be given actionable feedback to help students improve with less academic pressure than the current grading system. A task force (consisting of teachers, parents, education officials, and stakeholders) will be established by the Louisiana Department of Education to oversee this program and prepare a report evaluating the program and its effectiveness in the pilot schools to be publicly released at the end of the school year, and if this program is found to be effective, starting in the 2025-2026 school year, it will go into effect in all Louisiana public schools.

SECTION III: FUNDING

There will be no funding required for this bill.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If a school does not comply, the school's administrators and an administrative official from the school district will be required to meet with officials from the Louisiana Department of Education, along with members of the program's Task Force. After the meeting, if the school continues to not comply, \$10,000 in funding will be cut from the school each academic year.



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023

HOUSE BILL 308

Alyarall Bradley Education Trust

TITLE: A Bill to Create an Office of Diversity and Inclusion for the State of Louisiana

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

The State of Louisiana should create a sophisticated Office of Diversity and Inclusion that meets the needs of all its citizens and therefore promotes prosperity among racial lines. Louisiana is a boiling pot of ethnicities. According to the Census and population estimates of 2022, the state is composed of 62.5% whites alone, 32.8% African-Americans, 5.8% Hispanic or Latino, 1.9% Asian, and 0.1-0.8% other. It is imperative that all of the ethnicities listed recognize one another in a place full of diversity and culture such as Louisiana. To include goes beyond acceptance. The Office of Diversity and Inclusion should actively promote interaction between different groups of people such as hosting events and engaging in conversations about laws and bills that limit diversity in Louisiana. Fortunately, smaller-scale institutions such as the Louisiana State University and the Louisiana Department of Insurance have systems in place to promote diversity and inclusion, but those are not enough. Diversity and Inclusion needs to be promoted on a larger statewide scale to prevent low voter turnouts such as that of the October 14, 2023 Louisiana Governor election.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

In order for an Office of Diversity and Inclusion to be created, the Louisiana state legislature has to agree to in-act this law. Most importantly, support or disapproval of the law should be gathered by polling Louisiana citizens. The law **MUST** go into effect before the Presidential and Congressional Election of November 2024 occurs.

SECTION III: FUNDING

While creating an Office of Diversity and Inclusion is worthwhile, it surely is not cheap. It is expected to cost in the high hundred thousands. However, most of that includes congressional salaries of the people tasked with running such offices. Thankfully, those salaries are covered by the Louisiana Department of Treasury (the department's budget might need readjusting). It is needless to say that the entire office would be publicly funded by the state of Louisiana. Taxes should not be raised as the Office of Diversity and Inclusion is meant to help and not harm.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

There are no consequences for breaking this law, if passed.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 309**

3 Josalyn Green Education Trust

4
5 **TITLE:** The Reduced Cancer Risk Act (RCR)

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 This bill, titled the Reduced Cancer Risk Act (RCR), aims to address the issue of air pollution and its
8 contribution to a high cancer risk in Louisiana. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA),
9 Louisiana ranked first in air pollution in 2019. This bill proposes the establishment of mandatory buffer
10 zones between chemical plants and communes to reduce the cancer risk faced by Louisiana residents.
11 Currently, there are over 740 petrochemical plants in Louisiana, some located as close as a 3-mile radius
12 from communes. This bill seeks to ensure the safety of residents by requiring a buffer zone of at least 45
13 miles to separate these communes from chemical plants in order to mitigate the health risks associated
14 with exposure to pollutants.

15 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

16 For this bill to take effect, chemical plants that do not meet the required buffer zone length will need to
17 be relocated to ensure the safety of neighboring communes. If a plant cannot relocate due to a lack of
18 space, it may remain in place. However, this bill requires that all future plants be designed in compliance
19 with the buffer zone requirements.

20 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

21 The implementation of this bill will require funding for the relocation of chemical plants and the
22 establishment of buffer zones. The funding for this can be sourced from banks and other financial
23 institutions that currently finance the development of chemical plants.

24 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

25 There are no specified penalties associated with this bill.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **HOUSE BILL 310**

3 Jared Lane Education Trust

4
5 **TITLE:** Eliminate the Louisiana Income Tax

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 The Eliminate Louisiana Income Tax Act (ELI) proposes the elimination of the Louisiana income tax for all
8 residents in the State of Louisiana. This bill aims to give residents more control over their spending and
9 attract more companies and job-seekers to the state. Recent Census data has shown a trend of people
10 leaving high-tax states and moving to lower-tax states. By eliminating the income tax, Louisianans will
11 see an increase in take-home pay.

12 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

13 The Louisiana Department of Revenue shall develop a plan to phase out the state's income tax by January
14 1st, 2025.

15 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

16 The funding required for the implementation of this bill will be allocated to transition workers into a state
17 without income tax. This funding will be sourced from the State of Louisiana's surplus budget.

18 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

19 There shall be no penalties associated with this bill.



2 **HOUSE BILL 311**

3 Sumer McEachin Education Trust

4
5 **TITLE:** Reducing Class Sizes in Louisiana Schools

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Louisiana's education system is facing challenges due to large class sizes, which hinder effective learning
8 and teacher-student interactions. Large class sizes can result in decreased individualized attention, lower
9 student performance, and increased teacher stress. This bill aims to address these issues by reducing
10 class sizes in Louisiana schools, ultimately improving the quality of education. The primary goal is to
11 enhance the learning environment for students by ensuring smaller, more manageable class sizes.
12 Reducing class sizes is expected to lead to better student-teacher interactions, increased student
13 engagement, and improved academic performance. Smaller class sizes can also facilitate a more
14 personalized approach to education, allowing teachers to better address individual student needs.

15 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

16 To implement this bill, several steps need to be taken. First, a maximum class size limit should be
17 established for each grade level. Additionally, funds should be allocated to hire additional teachers, build
18 new classrooms, or expand existing facilities to accommodate smaller class sizes. A timeline should be
19 developed to gradually reduce class sizes, ensuring a smooth transition. Lastly, a monitoring system
20 should be created to track the progress and effectiveness of class size reduction.

21 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

22 The specific amount of money needed to implement a reduction in class sizes will depend on various
23 factors, including the current average class size, the targeted reduction, and the associated costs. The
24 funding for this law could come from the Class-Size Reduction (CSR) program, which helps school districts
25 hire additional qualified teachers. There may not be a need to create new taxes or readjust budgets, as
26 existing education funding programs can be utilized.

27 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

28 There may not be direct penalties associated with this bill. Instead, it may include mechanisms for
29 accountability and monitoring to ensure schools comply with the mandated class size limits. Non-
30 compliance could result in reduced state funding or other consequences to encourage adherence.

31

32