



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 81**

3 Kendall Scott Dutchtown High School

4 Kyla Alcorn

5
6 **TITLE:** Legalize recreational Marijuana

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 The penalty for possession and distribution of more than 14 grams of marijuana is a fine of up to \$100
10 without imprisonment. However, it used to be a fine of up to \$500 and imprisonment for up to 6 months,
11 and the time was extended if the offense was repeated. Issues with the justice and legal system are very
12 prominent in the black and brown communities and it is often instigated through apprehension and/or
13 arrest due to drug use/distribution. The decrease in punishment for the legalization and distribution of
14 this substance is progress, but we are calling for an entire eradication of punishment.

15
16 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

17 Starting on June 1st, 2024, the \$100 fine for marijuana will be eliminated and it will be legal to sell in CBD
18 stores without any type of prescription and other places that sell cigarettes and other nicotine products.

19
20 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

21 Funding for this bill will be non-applicable

22
23 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

24 If a civilian is wrongfully arrested or fined for the possession or distribution of marijuana the police
25 officer who was responsible for the arrest will be placed on unpaid leave. If the illegal arrest is
26 continuously happening by said officer, the station they work at will be notified, and/or the officer will
27 possibly be terminated.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 82**

3 Marcus Soileau

Dutchtown High School

4 Benjamin Tilley

5
6 **TITLE:** Protecting students right to defend themselves in schools

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Last year there were around 3,257 fights in East Baton Rouge Parish alone. The year before there were
10 3,340 fights. While a lot of these fights were provoked or planned, a lot of them were also self defense.
11 However, there have been very few reports of self defense in schools because there is such a fine line
12 between self defense and voluntary fights, where both parties willingly engage in a fight. Dutchtown High
13 School Principal Dr. Mathew Monceaux stated that a voluntary fight is a fight in which you do not try to
14 remove yourself from or try to de-escalate the situation. He also defines self-defense as a situation that
15 you actively try to remove yourself from.

16 While school fights are a constant thing, schools do not have a policy set on self-defense, meaning that
17 schools are not required to give disciplinary action for self-defense, even though they commonly do. This
18 bill serves to ensure that the right to defend yourself extends into schools.

19
20 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

21 The goal of this bill is to establish a policy to protect self defense users. School boards will be required to
22 set rules and policies that will establish qualifications for what constitutes self defense. The rules and
23 policies will be there to help protect students that utilize self defense from unjust punishments like
24 suspension. The Deputy Director of Baton Rouge capital conflict office, Criminal Defense Attorney Bruce
25 Unangst defines self defense as, " If you didn't start anything and do not do anything excessive in return
26 that isn't necessary and are truly just defending yourself, then it is justifiable as self defense.". This
27 definition would be used as the backbone for these policies set by schools. Schools will be required to
28 make a policy stating that students that use reasonable force to defend themselves against a clear and
29 obvious aggressor will not be punished for their actions.

30 If passed this bill will go into effect August 1st of 2024. Parishes will be given 1 calendar year from the
31 date this bill goes into effect to establish said policy before they will be fined.

32
33 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

34 This bill does not require any funding.

35
36 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

37 The penalties for a parish not implementing these policies will be a fine of \$15,000 per school year that
38 the policies are not in place. Which will be given to the St. Jude cancer research center.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 83**

3 Hayden Welk Jesuit Highschool

4 Ethan Schaeffer

5
6 **TITLE:** Saving Cash and Souls

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 In the year 2022 the State of Louisiana spent 7.7 million dollars on the legal defense for death row
10 inmates; however, no one has been executed since 2010. Before this 17 yearlong stalemate of legal
11 battles, when the state of Louisiana did execute someone through the regular means of lethal injection, it
12 proved just as costly. The combined cost of paying the executioners, maintenance, buying chemicals, and
13 paying all sorts of bills puts a strangle on the state's budget. All these costs would be justified if the
14 death penalty deterred crime; however, the state has seen nothing but an increase, especially in urban
15 parishes where the death penalty has been most historically used. The death penalty raises serious
16 budgeting, moral, and statistical doubts and it is time for a long overdue change in the state of Louisiana.

17
18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 Within the moment this bill is implemented, all funding to any projects assisting in legal state execution
20 shall be frozen. The act of state execution and the ability to make it a sentence in any and all court cases
21 shall be made illegal. All extraordinary spending on the defense and court fees for death row inmates shall
22 be removed, and they will operate within the normal budget of the state's public defense. All those
23 awaiting execution will hereby be removed from death row and return to the normal prison population to
24 carry out life sentences (Unless appealed). All assets and money seized shall be transferred back to the
25 Louisiana Legislature and a special budgeting session will be called to immediately place the newfound
26 millions of dollars where they are desperately needed around the state.

27
28 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

29 All costs shall be covered by the surplus money returned

30
31 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

32 Any person(s) or body who executes an inmate shall be tried for 1st degree murder. Prisons that do not
33 return the money given to them for executions will be tried for theft of state property.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 84**

3 Nathan Henderson Dutchtown High School

4 **TITLE:** Harder Targets, Safer Kids: Assessments of Infrastructural Weaknesses to Intruders at Public
5 Schools

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Each school year, there has been a 65% chance of a multi-fatality shooting occurring in one of the
8 97,500 public schools in the country, and the rates may even be increasing. With about 1300 public
9 schools in Louisiana, it may not seem like an urgent endeavor to protect our schools, but that line of
10 thinking only survives as long as there are no attacks. Hardening targets describes placing or reinforcing
11 safeguards to make it more difficult for someone to attack that place or to dissuade them from it. If
12 schools house our children and our future, then they should of course be more protected. Unfortunately,
13 there is no perfect solution, but any effort to direct these attacks away from schools is still a worthy
14 cause. While it might be nice to offer a blanket solution, each school has different infrastructure and is
15 placed in a different situation. The best option seems to be to assess each school individually.

16 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

17 Starting in the 2024-2025 School Year, on a staggered schedule, there will be an assessment of entry
18 points and infrastructural weaknesses for each public school every third year. Also, if the school has any
19 infrastructure changes that would potentially open up new weaknesses, there must be an audit in that
20 school year. For each school district, the superintendent will appoint a School District Safety Auditor who
21 must then be confirmed by the school board. This Auditor will be responsible for these school
22 assessments. Their pay will be determined by the school district, as will any other team members chosen.

23 Schools will be notified of the month of the audit, but not the day. The holistic criteria that must be
24 assessed are, but are not limited to, the following: -Perimeter safety: Vulnerabilities in fences, gates, and
25 non-designated entry points -Entrance security: Points of entry and their strengths and weaknesses
26 Surveillance

27 -Schedule: Weaknesses during class changes, entrance, and dismissal

28 All concerns will be shared with law enforcement and administrators at the end of the audit, including
29 plans to request funding to address the major weaknesses of the school. After the request is submitted,
30 the records of concerns will be destroyed.

31 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

32 These requests will be sent as applications to the Stronger Connections Grant, a program implemented in
33 multiple states. In Louisiana, this grant gives \$21 million in funding for school safety efforts, provided on
34 a competitive basis.

35 If after 7 years, the provisions of this bill are deemed to put too much strain on the grants program or do
36 not yield significant improvements to school safety, the funding for this bill will cease to be drawn.

37 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

38 These results and requests would be treated as Secret information and violations would garner similar
39 fines and penalties. Any active negligence or intentional misreporting on the part of the auditors may
40 result in them being removed from their role. The results of the assessment or refusal to consent to the
41 assessment will be factored into the school's existing safety performance rating.



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023

SENATE BILL 85

Edward Hasson Woodlawn High School

TITLE: Big Trouble for Big Wheels

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

In Louisiana, trucks and SUVs make up a majority of vehicles on the road. Data from the Federal Highway Administration shows that in 2020, there were 83% more trucks and SUVs on the road than standard cars in Louisiana. However, these vehicles are also some of the most dangerous on the road.

Due to the nature of their design, larger vehicles have worse blind spots with many drivers having a far more difficult time discerning the distance between the hood of their car and anything that may be in front. This especially affects smaller vehicles and pedestrians such as children. In a study conducted by the University of Illinois in 2022, children were eight times more likely to be killed by a truck or SUV compared to a regular car. The unsafety of SUVs and trucks is not only a design issue, but a psychological one as well. In 2017, the University of Vienna conducted a study finding that drivers of SUVs were more likely to engage in 'risk behaviors' such as using a cell phone, having an unbuckled seat belt, or running a red light. The concern for these behaviors is elevated with the prevalence of these behaviors already on Louisiana's roads. However, despite all of this, Louisiana still needs trucks and SUVs. Larger families need them to seat more than five people. Companies, both big and small, need them to transport goods, materials, and equipment. Municipalities need them to manage their infrastructure. Louisiana needs to enact greater accountability and responsibility for drivers of these larger vehicles.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

The State Legislature will see that all penalties given for traffic crimes including but not limited to speeding, texting while driving, lack of seat belt, driving under the influence, open container, reckless driving, distracted driving, and others will have special considerations added for 'trucks' (SUVs are classified as small trucks) that doubles the maximum monetary fine and increases the maximum jail time by 50%. This will go into effect on January 1st, 2025.

City police officers, state police officers, sheriff's departments, and other policing officers within the state are expected to decide the fine/jail time for an offender by regular means, then adjust if the crime occurred with a truck or SUV.

The Louisiana Highway Safety Commission (LHSC) will also be instructed to devise a new advertising campaign to properly inform the public about the new policy, ensuring widespread awareness. This advertising push will be in effect for two years, starting within a month after the law goes into effect.

SECTION III: FUNDING

The LHSC will receive funding for the new advertising from the existing Section 402 portion of the commission's budget from the Nation Highway Safety Administration. This section covers any expenses related to 'General Traffic Safety' and has previously been used to purchase advertising. Based on previous advertising campaigns, the estimated costs would likely sit in the \$500,000 to \$700,000 range.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Due to the nature of this bill, there would be no penalties to apply in the case of non-compliance or violation.



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023

SENATE BILL 86

Micheline Benoit

Lafayette High School

TITLE: A Life Saving Dose of Hope

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Every day, opioids kill more than 136 Americans, only 7% of those deaths being deemed intentional. Drug addiction is a rising issue in the state of Louisiana, being ranked 4th in overdose deaths per capita in the United States. Every Louisianian deserves a fair chance to fight opioid addiction in their local community and feasible access to Narcan. Narcan is an over-the-counter opioid overdose treatment in the form of nasal spray that can be administered to someone experiencing an opioid overdose in order to reverse the effects in 2-3 minutes, giving all parties time to get the person who overdosed to a hospital. This act would require all government-funded public facilities (national parks, libraries, post offices, courthouses, fire departments, etc. see implementation for more specification) to have at least two doses of Narcan on hand at all times and educate all staff deemed state employees on how to identify an opioid overdose. By granting access to a life saving dose of hope, Louisiana can fight the ongoing opioid epidemic and stop the linear growth of death by opioids.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Beginning June 1st, 2024, all public facilities funded/owned by the state and/or local government will be required to have at least two doses of Narcan on hand at all times. Supervisors/managers will be required to show all government employees "WA State Overdose Prevention and Response Training," an 8 minute educational video on how to identify an opioid overdose and how to care for a victim of opioid overdose and administer Narcan from stopoverdose.org. At the same time as typical routine government checks of these facilities by the local Department of Public Works, it will be verified that at least two bottles of Narcan are on site and that government employees know how to identify an opioid overdose.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Funding will be received from the same institution that funds that facility's general expenditures. Louisiana currently has an immense surplus in terms of budget, having spent \$10.8 billion out of the \$43.7 billion budget in 2022. 0.005% of the surplus budget will be reallocated towards the pre-existing fund for these government run public facilities.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

All facilities applicable must have two doses of Narcan on hand, unless a dose was administered in the past two weeks. This implements a grace period for facilities to renew their supply of Narcan.

For every missing dose of Narcan that does not apply to the previously stated grace period, the facility will be fined \$250 per bottle.

If it's discovered that an included facility had never shown a government employee how to identify and care for an opioid overdose, that facility will be fined 100 dollars per employee proven to have not been shown the educational opioid overdose video. Government employees may not work without having received this proper training.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 87**

3 Laura Midgett

Archbishop Hannan High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Shift school hours

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Our current schedule starts at 8 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m. This schedule is outdated and based on a society
9 that has changed immensely since this was enacted. The 8-3 schedule was created from a culture based
10 on agricultural needs and working conditions. This schedule is not designed for the biological clocks and
11 natural sleep patterns of teens. This causes teens to not get the full 8 hours of sleep their bodies are
12 designed for and this in turn is detrimental to their education. Studies have shown that without a proper
13 8-10 hours of sleep, students suffer from symptoms of depression, perform poorly in school, have
14 outbursts of emotion, and do not engage in daily physical activity. If younger can come in earlier in the
15 morning their day is more successful. Science has indicated for teens that learning is most effective
16 between 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

17
18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 This bill requires any school that receives funding from the Louisiana government to change the hours of
20 start times of high schools to at least 9 a.m. If a high school shares a bus system with a lower school
21 system such as an elementary/middle school and they start at different hours then the start times should
22 flip, this means that the younger students would be starting earlier and the older students would take the
23 later start time. This would still give buses adequate time to get to all of their stops.

24
25 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

26 All unseen costs will be dealt with at a later date.

27
28 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

29 If a school fails to follow through with this bill then a certain percentage of government funding will be
30 removed, on a case-by-case basis.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 88**

3 Savanna Baker

Episcopal High School of Baton Rouge

4
5 **TITLE:** Adapting with Aggie Bonds

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Opportunities in agriculture are becoming more difficult to obtain due to the cost efficiency, financing,
9 and many other factors. With the need for innovative methodologies in agriculture, it is necessary that
10 more resources are given to those aspiring to change agriculture.

11 These issues can be solved with the Aggie Bond: a financial proposal to encourage private risk-taking in
12 agricultural development.

13 The Aggie bond should be authorized and explored by the state legislature so that Louisiana agriculture is
14 able to develop and thrive in the future.

15 Among the 16 states that offer Aggie Bonds, Louisiana is not one. Aggie bonds, by definition, are
16 "established through a federal-state partnership that allows private lenders to receive federal and/or
17 state tax-exempt interest on loans made to beginning farmers (Farmland Information Center).

18
19 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

20 If this bill is to be passed, Aggie Bonds will become a loan option. The Department of Agriculture will
21 establish lending criteria for the Aggie Bonds. The loan will receive a sign-off approval/review from the
22 Louisiana Agricultural Finance Authority.

23
24 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

25 Aggie Bonds gain funds from private lenders, but are to be paid back and capped at what the Louisiana
26 Department of Agriculture determines.

27
28 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

29 The state has no liabilities for these loans, the liability lies with the private lender. Aggie bonds will not
30 tap into funds or impact debt limits.

31



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 89**

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 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

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

20
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
26 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

27 There are no consequences for breaking this law.



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023

SENATE BILL 90

Cooper G. Finney

Mandeville High School

TITLE: Reform Liquor based legislation in the State of Louisiana.

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

In Louisiana, due to its culture of debauchery, it is an unwritten law that people under the age of 21 can drink with a parent's or guardian's permission. The real law that had turned into this was that in a private residence, with parent permission or among one's spouse, one can drink underaged. Due to the way that this state is, that law has been corrupted to make underaged drinking essentially legal. If the real law was enforced to a higher degree, DUI based accidents, alcohol poisoning among youth, and other teen-alcohol tragedies would be avoided entirely. However, underaged drinking is not the only intoxicating substance based issue that plagues this state. Overindulgence of alcohol is yet another issue that has stricken this state and its citizens to its knees, leaving this state known as a state of drunkards, criminals and French People. Two of these problems could be solved by placing higher taxes on liquor. If the citizens of the State of Louisiana were a little less drunk, and a little less high, many of the issues giving Louisiana a bad name would be rid of. Note that this Bill is not to be taken as an act of Prohibition revival, rather a recognition of the flaws of this state, and an attempt to come up with a solution of one of the main roots of these flaws.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Underaged drinking outside of a private residence or with one's spouse will be enforced via. the scenario. At minimum the offender will receive, at minimum, a fine of 250 dollars, unless said offender had committed during Mardi Gras season, in which the maximum fine would be 75 dollars, varying depending on the amount of intoxication the offender had succumbed to. 2.5 times more than the currently imposed maximum fine, as well as more enforcement would lead to a definitive drop in outdoor underaged drinking, and all the issues that come with it. Higher taxes placed upon liquor (from 2.5% to 3.5%) would reduce the amount of purchased products significantly, as I'm sure few people are willing to spend more for the same amount.

SECTION III: FUNDING

The money gained from the increased tax amount (3.5%) will be used primarily for funding the enforcement of these laws, and excess funding will be reallocated into welfare and public infrastructure programs.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Failure to comply with legal age limits will result in a minimum of a 250 dollar fine, and for maximum: 2 days jail time, depending on the level of intoxication publicity. The maximum possible fine for public intoxication under this bill is 850 dollars as a base line. This amount can be changed in small increments under Parish, City or Local governments if said governing bodies find it necessary.



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023

SENATE BILL 91

Keller Roberson Central High School

Blaise Gregoire

TITLE: The Louisiana Freedom and Jobs Act

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Gambling is the greatest path to wealth for individuals, governments, and the economy as a whole. Currently, across the United States, millions of adults nationwide are prohibited by law from participating in a fun, profitable, and harmless activity. In every state that allows gambling, those under 21 years of age are not allowed to gamble. These are adults who are allowed to vote, fight in war, and adopt a child yet are not allowed to simply hedge their bets to build wealth. Whether you approve of the activity or not, it is simply insane that all adults are not allowed to engage in a fun pastime. Restricting the financial freedom of Americans who are just trying to invest their money into future wealth is constitutionally dubious. Louisiana has the opportunity to lead the nation in lowering its gambling age to those 18 years and older, allowing for newfound personal liberties.

This bill would not only allow those 18 years old and older the ability to express their lifestyle choices but also provide crucial support to the gaming industry. Currently, there are suffocating regulations on the Louisiana Gaming Control Board, providing a hard limit to the number of casinos and race tracks in the state. By removing this hard limit, job opportunities and revenue will skyrocket for the entire state. Empowering the gaming industry will inevitably help Louisiana's economy thrive. Many states have invested in commercial casino gambling and have immediately experienced economic prosperity from local to national governments. Commercial casino gaming accomplishes this feat in unique ways other governmental incomes can not. These casinos begin by increasing local employment and this change in employment influences a natural business cycle that then leads to a statewide employment wave. Secondly, casino tax revenue is collected on a local and state level, and in states such as Michigan, these taxes are invested into public programs, most popularly, education. Finally, government subsidizing of casinos and a drop in the minimum gambling age will inevitably increase tourism and in turn, local business in all tourist destinations.

This bill maximizes freedom for adults to engage in their pastimes without government interference, increases the cultural significance and tourism of Louisiana, and will directly benefit all Louisiana residents through new government incomes that could be invested in public programs.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill would lower the age to participate in gaming activities in casinos (such as card games or slot machines), sports betting, and the lottery to 18. The age for working in gaming areas would also be lowered to 18.

This bill would also help subsidize the construction and establishment of casinos. \$50 million will be reserved to help construct and maintain new casinos and gaming areas built over the next five years. In addition, new casinos built in the next ten years will have a ten-year property tax rebate

1 The limited number of allowed casino and race track licenses will be abolished as the State of Louisiana
2 is currently limited by statute to a certain number. Casinos and race tracks will still be required to be
3 licensed by the Louisiana Gaming Control Board(LGCB) before construction, but the LGCB will no longer
4 have a maximum allowed amount of licenses.

5
6 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

7 This bill will eventually pay for itself over time as tourism and tax revenue will increase due to the
8 expansion of the gaming industry. Short-term expenses will be paid by the Louisiana Lottery and raising
9 the gambling earning tax from six percent to ten percent for the next ten years.

10
11 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

12 No additional penalties are levied, and the current penalties for underage gambling remain.



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023

SENATE BILL 92

Mikey Wilson Alexandria Senior High School

TITLE: To Legalize Gender Affirming Care for Minors in the Form of Puberty Blockers.

Legalizing puberty blockers for minors would decrease intense distress.

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

The legalization of puberty blockers would provide care to the individuals who undergo precocious puberty and those who experience severe, medically recognized gender dysphoria. The effects of puberty blockers typically do not bring about any irreversible effects (although this depends on medical conditions, age of beginning puberty blockers, and whether they take them alongside hormone replacement therapy. The availability of puberty blockers for minors going through these issues would significantly decrease the self-harm and suicide rate in these individuals. In a study conducted by Jack L. Turban, Stephanie S. Loo, Anthony N. Almanzan, and Alex S. Keuroghlian (Factors Leading to “Detransition” Among Transgender and Gender Diverse People in the United States: A Mixed-Methods Analysis), 27,715 transgender and gender-diverse people were interviewed regarding their medical history with their gender identities. Of these 27,715 people, 17,151(61.9%) had pursued medical care to alleviate their dysphoria at some point. Of those who had pursued medical care, 2,242 (13.1%) reported a history of detransitioning.

When asked to fill out a form explaining why they chose to detransition, the most popular responses were “pressure from a parent” (798 people), “it was just too hard for me” (753 people), and “pressure from community or societal stigma” (729 people).

One in every 5,000 to one in every 10,000 children are subject to Central Precocious Puberty (CPP).

Despite the seemingly small number of children that are affected by this condition in the state of Louisiana (as the child population is around 1,100,000), this condition may cause short height in adulthood, social and emotional issues due to the disconnect between peers, breast growth and onset of menstrual cycles in females far before the typical age of menstruation or breast growth, deepening voices and body hair growth in males far before the typical age of testosterone release.

Elystan Roberts, Carol Joinson, David Gunnell, Abigail Fraser, and Becky Mars conducted a study Early puberty has been proven to increase the risk/rate of self harm in children. There were 5,369 individuals with eligibility for inclusion in the study. Of those, 1,781 provided complete data on all exposures, outcomes, and confounders regarding precocious puberty and its relation to self-harm, suicidal ideation/attempts, and suicide. The conclusion of the study was that one in every ten males and a quarter of quarter of females with an early recorded aPHV reported higher percentages of self harm by the age of 21.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

As puberty blockers still circulate in the medical industry (used for treatment of endometriosis, breast and prostate cancer, and polycystic ovarian syndrome), implementation is not expected to be an issue.

1 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

2 Funding is not necessary as the cost of the treatment through hospital bills covers the base production
3 cost.

4
5 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

6 According to the Louisiana State Legislature (I1285, (13)) a doctor's medical license may be suspended if
7 they display unprofessional conduct (which includes failing to maintain independent medical judgment).

8 This would cover a situation where a child displays signs of suicidality due to the effects of puberty on
9 their body, and the doctor refuses to provide treatment further than therapy if the reactions are
10 persevering.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 93**

3 Noah Robert LSU Laboratory School

4 Sophia Ray

5
6 **TITLE:** The Mardi Gras Exception

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Louisiana prides itself on being the party capital of the country, and indeed, of the world as well. Yet
10 many other countries and even fellow states have outpaced Louisiana in their ever improving attitudes
11 towards drinking other related activities. In Germany, the drinking age is set at 16, that's five years below
12 that of Louisiana. Furthermore, the legalization of cannabis has spread rapidly throughout both the world
13 and United States, with 23 states allowing for its recreational use. Not only does this threaten our
14 identity and culture as Louisianians but it poses a real danger to the estimated one billion dollars made
15 every year from Mardi Gras. Although the people of this state may not yet be ready for their laws to
16 match those of other areas in this topic, another solution exists: The Mardi Gras Exception. This bill would
17 lower the drinking age to 16 as well as legalize the recreational use of marijuana for the week of Mardi
18 Gras. Tourism in that period would go up dramatically as millions flock to all corners of the state.

19
20 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

21 From 12:00 am on the wednesday before Mardi Gras to 5:00 am on the wednesday after Mardi Gras the
22 following shall take effect:

- 23 1. The age required for purchasing, possessing and consuming alcoholic beverages will be 16 years of age.
- 24 2. The age required for entering bars and clubs will be 16 years of age.

25 At all other times of year this bill will have no effect.

26
27
28 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

29 No funding is necessary as the drastic increase in tax revenue will more than account for any unforeseen
30 costs incurred.

31
32 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

33 All penalties for crimes relating to alcohol use will go unaffected with this bill.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 94**

3 Margo Esquivel

Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies

4
5 **TITLE:** Enacting a Minimum Wage For Prison Laborers and Overturning the Maximum

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Across state penitentiaries, prisoners work for \$1.00 an hour, if they're lucky. If not, they could be paid
9 as little as \$0.04 an hour. RS 15:873 states "The rates... shall be no more than twenty cents per hour,
10 except that inmates who are assigned to Prison Enterprises' industrial, agricultural, service, or other
11 programs may be compensated at a rate up to forty cents per hour and inmates who are Certified
12 Academic Tutors and Certified Vocational Tutors may be compensated at a rate of up to one dollar per
13 hour..." This bill would overturn this law, and replace the quoted section with "The rates... shall be no less
14 than three dollars per hour for all inmates working.

15
16 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

17 RS 15:873 Section A will be amended to read as follows: "The secretary of the Department of Public
18 Safety and Corrections may establish various rates of compensation as an incentive to inmates
19 incarcerated in state correctional facilities. The rates shall be according to the skill, industry, and nature
20 of the work performed by the inmate and shall be no less than three dollars per hour, except that inmates
21 who are assigned to Prison Enterprises' industrial, agricultural, service, or other programs must be
22 compensated at a rate above three dollars and fifty cents per hour and inmates who are Certified
23 Academic Tutors and Certified Vocational Tutors must be compensated at a rate of above four dollars per
24 hour, in accordance with rules established by the secretary of the department and adopted pursuant to
25 the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act." The raised pay will begin in Fiscal Year 2025, and will
26 not be retroactively implemented. All measures extend to Prison Enterprises.

27
28 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

29 All necessary funding will come from the profit made off of prison labor, especially Prison Enterprises'
30 profit (which has been 1.9 million in years past). Any additional funding necessary will be diverted from
31 the \$77 million outlined in the FY 24 budget for "other compensation."

32
33 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

34 If a prison is found to be underpaying inmates, an investigation will be conducted, and the guilty parties
35 will be dismissed from the state's employ. Additionally, if the guilty party is determined to have used the
36 inmate's wages for personal use, they will be charged for theft of state property and/or embezzlement.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 95**

3 Caroline Sample

C.E. Byrd High School

4 Riley Quinlan

5
6 **TITLE:** Eliminate curfew regulation

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 The state of Louisiana has established a curfew for minors that lasts from 11:00 PM to 5:00 AM. If a
10 minor is in a public place between these hours it is automatically considered a public offense and they can
11 be taken into custody. Not only does this affect the adolescents committing this act, but the parents can
12 also be taken into offense through association, whether they knew their child was out or not. The
13 Louisiana State curfew regulation should be completely removed. Some children have to work after school
14 to provide for their families, which often means they are working the night shift. Sometimes these shifts
15 do not get off until well after 11:00 PM, so it is unreasonable to punish adolescents trying to provide for
16 their families. Additionally, some school sports teams are required to ride the bus with their team to and
17 from sporting events, which can mean that they will not get back to the school until very late, depending
18 on how far they must travel. This means that they then have to drive themselves home from school,
19 sometimes occurring during curfew hours. People are already breaking this curfew, so by removing this it
20 would alleviate the jobs of police officers so that they could spend these valuable hours attending to more
21 pressing matters of Louisiana Law. This way, minors will be free to continue their activities as long as they
22 are not breaking other laws in the process.

23
24 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

25 This bill will be implemented on January 1, 2024

26
27 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

28 This bill requires no funding seeing as it is only an abolishment of a law.

29
30 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

31 If a city or parish is found attempting to enforce any sort of curfew law, their local police department will
32 lose state funding.



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023

SENATE BILL 96

Michael Burford

C.E. Byrd High School

Tyler Wooldridge

TITLE: Lower the Louisiana drinking age to 18 years old, while establishing a fit medical test for anyone wishing to buy alcohol.

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

The Federal Uniform Drinking Act of 1984 set the minimum legal drinking age to 21, and every state typically abides by this law, but are free to set their own standards. The minimum drinking age in Louisiana needs to be lowered to 18. As we all know, drinking in Louisiana is a rite of passage and something many people enjoy. This leads to plentiful drinking, even in those that are underage. According to the Indiana University Alcohol Department, among all drinkers, those underage are more likely to be "binge" drinkers, with underage heavy drinkers having a 8% larger population than heavy drinkers in the legal class. Lowering the drinking age would also reduce alcoholism, which is incredibly prevalent in this state. According to the Chicago Tribune, Louisiana is home to the 12th highest excessive drinking rate among adults. A lowered drinking age would also reduce alcohol related fatalities. When someone under 21 drinks too much and needs medical attention, it is often found that they do not seek this attention, as they fear the legal consequences. If the drinking age was 18, more drinkers would feel comfortable seeking medical attention if necessary. At the same time, according to the CDC, excessive alcohol use can lead to chronic diseases such as high blood pressure and heart disease. Excessive drinking can also cause various cancers such as breast cancer and mouth cancer. To combat this, a medical fitness test will be required for anyone wishing to buy alcohol. This test will be given by the customer's doctors and entails medical history, current health status, and a physical assessment. By ensuring all drinkers stay healthy, the long-term health risks associated with alcohol will be greatly reduced and result in a healthier Louisiana. Lowering the drinking age, while establishing a fit medical test for all those wishing to buy alcohol, would reduce alcoholism, reduce drinking in general, and reduce medical incidents with alcohol. Many people under 21 already drink. Might as well provide a safer space for them and all to do so.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Regarding implementation, this bill would be implemented on the New Year: January 1, 2024. The Louisiana Legislature would simply have to pass through and the law would be simply changed. To show that someone has passed the medical fitness test, it will be added to their LA Wallet.

SECTION III: FUNDING

No money will initially be needed to fund this bill. If anything, Louisiana will make money off this bill due to more taxed purchases and hospital bills.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If an establishment is found to break this law, their alcohol license will be taken.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 97**

3 Tripp Lowry C.E. Byrd High School

4 Kinsley Forsythe

5
6 **TITLE:** Establishment of Civil and Essential Knowledge Tests for Louisiana Government Official Candidates

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 In the Louisiana Legislature, there are 144 elected representatives and senators. These officials, as well
10 as others from the executive and judicial branches, are the means by which the Louisianan's vote is
11 conveyed. They are a medium for the opinion of their constituency and advocate for change at the highest
12 levels of state government. For this reason, they should be properly knowledgeable about the workings of
13 the government and have basic knowledge of subject matters including the humanities, math, and
14 sciences. Many Americans have demonstrated this necessity at the national level as 74% of respondents
15 were in favor of Morning Consult's question on whether presidential candidates should have to pass these
16 exams. As the duties and responsibilities of government officials can be highly related with each other, it
17 seems necessary that a Civil and Essential Knowledge Test would be beneficial for Louisiana state
18 government election candidacy.

19
20 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

21 These aforementioned requirements can be ensured by the use of a Civil and Essential Knowledge Test for
22 all elected officials in the Louisiana state government including the Executive, Judicial, and Legislative
23 branches. The test would have set dates prior to elections and would include specific tests that would
24 have specific questions for each office/branch of government depending on the complexity, level, or area
25 of expertise required for their prospective government position. Pending approval of this bill, it will take
26 effect starting January 2025 as state elections are at a point of stagnancy during 2025. A range of +/- 5
27 points would then be released before the election as to not give the specific score, but still educate voters
28 on what the candidates score.

29
30 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

31 Each candidate who chooses to run will have the requirement and responsibility to pay for their own test.

32
33
34 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

35 There will be a punishment for those who do not abide by this law. These candidates will simply have their
36 candidacy eligibility revoked for the election they are taking the test for. However, there is no penalty for
37 getting a low score as scores do not determine candidacy, but are released to the constituency for them
38 to take into account when casting their vote.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 98**

3 Adam Long Lafayette High School

4 Nathan Crouch

5
6 **TITLE: Concealed Carry Affordability Act (CCAA)**

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Very simply, this bill aims to reduce the cost of obtaining a Concealed Carry (CC) license in Louisiana. By
10 reducing the cost of obtaining a CC license, we open up room for more good-willed, responsible, and
11 trained citizens to carry a firearm to protect the public from either regular street criminals or potential
12 mass shooters. By having an armed and knowledgeable public, the people of Louisiana will not be as
13 reliant on police officers (who can take as many as 8 to 10 minutes to respond to a crime), and will be
14 more capable of defending themselves, creating a safer environment overall, and discouraging future
15 crime.

16 This bill also does not change the requirements of obtaining a Concealed Carry license, which include
17 being at least 21 years of age, not being convicted of a violent crime, not having a history of substance or
18 alcohol abuse, and passing a firearms training and safety course.

19
20 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

21 The current cost of a CC license in Louisiana is twenty five dollars (\$25) per year requested, up to 5 years,
22 or twenty years of equivalent payment at once (\$500) for a lifetime license contingent with renewal every
23 five years. This bill would reduce that to ten dollars (\$10) per year, with the same proportional cost of a
24 lifetime license, that being twenty years of payment at once (now \$200). To this effect, the following
25 changes will go into effect on January 1st, 2024:

26 The text of R.S. 40:1379.3(H)(2) will be changed to replace "at a cost of twenty-five dollars per year" with
27 "at a cost of ten dollars per year".

28 The text of R.S. 40:1379.3.3(B)(4) will be changed to replace "Pay the twenty-five dollar fee authorized in
29 R.S. 40:1379.3(H)(2)." with "Pay the ten dollar fee authorized in R.S. 40:1379.3(H)(2)."

30 The text of R.S. 40:1379.3.3(C)(2) will be changed to replace "the twenty-five dollar fee paid shall be
31 applied to the cost of a concealed handgun permit as provided for in R.S. 40:1379.3(H)(2)" with "the ten
32 dollar fee paid shall be applied to the cost of a concealed handgun permit as provided for in R.S.
33 40:1379.3(H)(2)".

34
35 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

36 This bill would require no funding.

37
38 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

39 This bill would require no punishments.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 99**

3 Krista Miller Mandeville High School

4 Jamari Roethe

5
6 **TITLE:** Protecting Our Minors: Restricting Access to Firearms

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 As of 2023, guns are the leading cause of death in minors. These gun-related deaths are primarily a result
10 of mass shootings in schools or in other public spaces. As a matter of fact, in 2022 over 43,000 students
11 were exposed to gunfire in a school setting. These shootings are often primarily orchestrated by students
12 themselves, as no one has better access and knowledge about a school system than a student. But where
13 do they get the accessibility to the weapons responsible, if they aren't of age to purchase a firearm? The
14 answer: their home. According to the Sandy Hook Promise Foundation, an estimated 4.6 million children in
15 the United States live in a home where at least one gun is held and unlocked. In Louisiana, an individual
16 cannot purchase a gun until they are 18 years of age, so why should they have access to one before that?
17 This bill aims to lessen the vast majority of the threats facing our school systems and our society that
18 stem from a minor having access to a firearm, by eliminating that access.

19
20 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

21 This law requires that any person who stores a firearm in a home where a minor (18 and under) resides
22 and/or could gain access to the weapon, must either secure the firearm with a trigger lock or place it in a
23 securely locked storage unit, to ensure that it is not easily accessible to a minor. This legislation will limit
24 minor's access to guns in their own home, while also making the parent or guardian responsible for
25 limiting their access. If a minor obtains access to the firearm and uses it in any threatening way by
26 bringing it into a public place or posting it on a social media platform, the licensed guardian will be held
27 liable. To enforce this legislation, an agreement will be included in the gun-permit application process
28 which states that if a minor resides in the home, or will knowingly by the licensed individual have access
29 to the home, then the individual will agree to keep the firearm secured in the manner listed above.

30
31 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

32 This bill does not require any financing.

33
34 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

35 If a minor gains access to a firearm from the home and reveals it in any manner on social media or in a
36 public place, the parental figure or guardian that is licensed to have the gun in their home will be at risk
37 to face a fine of up to \$500, or face no more than 6 months in jail as compliant with the Louisiana
38 Legislative laws regarding illegal carrying of firearms.



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023

SENATE BILL 100

Sophia Montalbano St. Joseph's Academy

TITLE: Lessen the Tax Burden of Louisiana Parents

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

The federal government as well as fourteen states have a child tax credit. These credits are directly associated with lower levels of child poverty. The federal credit increased from \$1,000 to \$2,000 under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2018 (TCJA). It further increased to \$3,000 in 2021 under the American Rescue Plan, lifting 2.9 million children out of poverty. However, the federal credit has since decreased to \$2,000, and unless Congress acts, by 2025 it will decrease further to \$1,000. Thus, this bill will help to supplement the now lower credit.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill seeks to institute a refundable credit of \$200 per qualifying dependent against state taxable income of households with a taxable income of less than \$100,000 and expand the definition of dependent to include unborn children with a detectable heartbeat.

Qualifying dependents include those unborn and under the age of 17 by the end of the fiscal year.

Detectable heartbeat is defined as embryonic or fetal cardiac activity or the steady and repetitive rhythmic contraction of the heart within the gestational sac. An unborn child is defined as a member of the human species at any stage of development while inside the womb.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Funding for this bill will come from structurally changing the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) by requiring that TOPS recipients prove Louisiana employment and residence for a minimum of 3 years post-graduation, otherwise recipients must pay back the award received with the same interest as a federal direct subsidized student loan (currently 5.5%).

In addition, the minimum GPA requirement will be increased to 3.0. Lastly, household income limits will be established. Students coming from households with a taxable income between \$100,000 and \$125,000 will only be eligible to receive 70% of the award. Students from households with a taxable income between \$125,000 and \$150,000 will only be eligible to receive 50% of the award. Students from households with a taxable income between \$150,000 and \$175,000 will only be eligible to receive 30% of the award. Students from households with a taxable income between \$175,000 and \$200,000 will only be eligible to receive 10% of the award. Students from households with a taxable income of greater than \$200,000 will not be eligible to receive TOPS. For the 2021-2022 school year, Louisiana spent \$310 million on TOPS. For fiscal year 2024, we estimate the cost of the TOPS program will grow to \$325 million. We further estimate these structural changes will reduce this cost by at least 40%, thus fully funding this bill.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

There are no penalties associated with this bill.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 101**

3 Anna Skerrett

Lafayette High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Let Students Soar

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 In order to expand Louisiana student's horizons, teach safety skills and help Louisianians stand out
9 against their American peers, "Let Students Soar" will give Louisiana Public High Schools (and their
10 equivalent secondary schools) the unique opportunity to teach safety precautions and give students
11 training for extreme sports in place of the 0.5 credit of Physical Education required by the Taylor
12 Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS).

13
14 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

15 1. Beginning July 2024, High schools in Louisiana may choose to offer semester or full year classes (also
16 referred to as courses) that focus on safety precautions for extreme sports including but not limited to
17 Skydiving, Bicycle Motocross, Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus Diving, Kayaking, and
18 Rafting.

19 Local school systems will outsource or develop the curricula needed for the classes offered in their
20 district. The Louisiana Department of Education will assist school systems in finding or creating sufficient
21 curriculums.

22 Curricula should be relevant to the sport(s) in question.

23 If a state, national, or global certification is pre-existing for the sport(s) taught, then the course shall
24 allow students to start, continue, or complete such certification.

25 School systems/districts must receive a Louisiana Course Code from the Department of Education through
26 the pre-existing form in order for their course to apply to point 2 of Implementation of Let Students Soar.

27 2. The TOPS high school graduation requirements for Opportunity, Performance, Honors, and Tech should
28 be adjusted to include extreme sports training and safety courses as options to fulfill the 0.5 credit of
29 Physical Education.

30
31 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

32 The Louisiana Department of Education and local school districts have pre-existing budgets for course
33 materials and other needed resources. Thus, this bill does not require any new or adjusted funding.

34
35 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

36 If employees of the Department of Education refuse to accept approved Extreme Sports course credits as
37 TOPS Graduation or scholarship requirements, appropriate disciplinary action can be taken against them
38 by the employee's superior.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 102**

3 Chloe Brackett

Mandeville High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Eliminate the Insanity Plea in Serial Crime Trials

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Over the past few decades, serial crime offenders in the United States have become increasingly popular,
9 and have become infamous in pop-culture and the legal world. In many of these cases (often supported by
10 damning evidence proving the offender guilty), the only logical plea that any defense team is able to use is
11 the insanity defense, a criminal defense strategy where the defendant may plead innocent by reason of
12 insanity. Using this strategy to avoid sentencing is often looked down upon in the law field, and is
13 historically abused by defense teams that are unable to prove their defendants innocent by any other
14 reasoning. Mental health issues plague today's world, so rather than removing the insanity plea entirely,
15 this act will only eliminate the option for the plea in serial crime trials (serial killings, sexual assaults,
16 etc.). The repetition of these brutal crimes deserves sentencing, even if mental stability is brought into
17 question.

18
19 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

20 In the event of a serial crime trial occurring, the use of the insanity plea will be prohibited and no longer a
21 valid option for defense teams. If any other plea bargains are made, no action will be taken. This act
22 would simply eliminate the ability for the insanity defense to be used in serial crime cases following its
23 passage. No prior trials in which the insanity defense was used successfully will be overturned. Those
24 found guilty of serial crimes will still have access to mental health facilities and appointed psychiatrists
25 following their sentencing.

26
27 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

28 No financing is required for the implementation of this act.

29
30 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

31 No penalties are required.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 103**

3 Andrew Sarhan Catholic High School

4 Will Busenlener

5 **TITLE:** Create another bridge across the Mississippi River

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Another Bridge across the Mississippi River. Known as I-810 (due to the fact it is a bypass, it must use a
8 even number as its starting number). Similar to the Crescent City Connection in New Orleans. Starting in
9 Lobdell in West Baton Rouge Parish, it extends all the way to Terrace Ave. which would be upgraded to an
10 Interstate (with a service road, similar to Beaumont, TX) Level road and eventually will meet back up with
11 an (expanded) Interstate 10. The following some of the Exits that will be on I-810 (this is not a
12 comprehensive list, and as Interstate is developed further, more may be added)

- 13 - I-10
- 14 - Lobdell
- 15 - Brusly/Plaquemines
- 16 - Nicholson Dr.
- 17 - Frontage Rd. (1)
- 18 - Frontage Rd. (2)
- 19 - Thomas H. Delpit Rd.
- 20 - I-10

21 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

22 The purchasing of land on Terrace Ave. and then upgrading the road to an Interstate level road, building
23 the bridge, and continuing the road to the town of Lobdell in West Baton Rouge Parish. This project would
24 start in Fall of 2024 and is projected to end around late 2028.

25 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

26 The cost of the bridge is split up into different subsections.

- 27 1. The cost of the bridge itself is an estimated \$200 million dollars.
- 28 2. The cost of expanding I-10 at Terrace Ave. is estimated to be \$50 million dollars.
- 29 3. The cost of the interstate on both sides along with buying the necessary property along Terrace
30 Ave. would cost nearly \$1 billion dollars.

31 Therefore, the total cost of the I-810 plan would be \$1.25 billion dollars. This can be achieved in three
32 different ways.

- 33 I. Using a portion of President Biden's recently passed \$1 trillion dollar infrastructure bill. This would
34 get a significant portion of the total cost at around \$750 million.
- 35 II. Toll that would only be necessary until the bridge paid for himself (Either \$1.00 or \$0.50) which
36 would bring in around \$50 million dollars a year
- 37 III. A 1% tax increase on certain products such as Alcohol, Tobacco, Gambling, Scratch-Off Tickets,
38 and Lottery Tickets. This would only apply to West Baton Rouge Parish, East Baton Rouge Parish, and
39 Iberville Parish.

40 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

41 N/A



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 104**

3 Kate Lee Baton Rouge Magnet High School

4 Travis Denson

5
6 **TITLE:** Connecting Louisiana Act

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 The people of Louisiana have always relied on each other for help, assistance, and guidance. This concept
10 has applied to our cities in terms of economic interdependence. The economic link between Baton Rouge
11 and Lafayette is one example, with rich industry sectors supporting one another. However, while there is a
12 strong nonphysical connection between these two cities, the physical connection falls short. Freeways
13 such as Interstate 10 and U.S. Highway 61 frequently have congestion and are poorly maintained, causing
14 car wrecks and increasing air pollution that harms our environment. Consequently, commuters must
15 endure long travel times that increase maintenance costs for their car and the risk of fatally crashing. This
16 act aims to rectify this issue and open up new opportunities for the people of Baton Rouge and Lafayette.
17 This bill will open up the Baton Rouge job market for the people of Lafayette and the people of Baton
18 Rouge. The construction of a passenger train line from the two cities will reduce the congestion on main
19 highways and thus air pollution and car crashes, improving the environment and commuters' lives.

20
21 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

22 The Louisiana Department of Transportation will be tasked with constructing a passenger rail line from
23 downtown Baton Rouge to downtown Lafayette. This new rail line shall have stops in Port Allen,
24 Plaquemine, and St. Martinville. Tickets shall be fixed at \$5.00 per ride, and a \$50 unlimited monthly pass
25 will be sold. 25% of ticket sales shall be given to the parishes the line goes through, and the remaining
26 75% shall be used for railway maintenance costs. The construction will begin when this bill is enacted and
27 take five years to complete.

28
29 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

30 This bill will require funding from the Federal Railroad Association and the Louisiana Transportation Trust
31 Fund. Under the Federal Railroad Association, the Restoration and Enhancement Grant Program will fund
32 staffing costs for train engineers, conductors, and on-board service crew, as well as diesel fuel or
33 electricity costs associated with train propulsion power. The cost of building the railway tracks will be \$40
34 million every year for the next five years, which will be allocated from the Louisiana state budget,
35 specifically under the Louisiana Transportation Trust Fund over the course of five years from the
36 beginning of the project.

37
38 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

39 There are no penalties for this bill.



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023

SENATE BILL 105

Ramsey Greene

Episcopal

Hayden Singh

TITLE: Obsolete Dam Identification and Decommission Act

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Many obsolete dams and weirs in Louisiana pose environmental and safety threats at no benefit. The Obsolete Dam Identification and Decommission Act will require formal dam inspections to classify dams as either “operating” or “obsolete.” A dam must be decommissioned or repaired within twenty years of being classified as “obsolete.” The purpose of this Act is to improve air and water quality and repair wetlands by allowing rivers to return to their natural sediment distribution patterns; restore biodiversity by rebuilding habitats necessary to survival of local plants, animals, and bacteria; and reduce the likelihood of flash floods. “Dam decommission” refers to the process of demolishing a dam, returning water flow to the river. An “obsolete dam” is a dam that is no longer able to serve its intended purpose.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

The Obsolete Dam Identification and Decommission Act entails that:

- A. Formal dam inspectors must classify dams as either “functioning” or “obsolete”.
- B. A privately-owned dam classified as obsolete must either be demolished or repaired by its builder before it reaches twenty years of obsolescence.
- C. A publicly-owned dam classified as obsolete will be removed by the state or repaired if absolutely necessary.

Of Louisiana’s 557 dams, 494 are monitored by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD). The DOTD will be responsible for the heightened monitoring of dams in Louisiana.

SECTION III: FUNDING

The cost of dam removal ranges from about \$150,000 to about \$6 million. Note that the latter cost pertains to major dams of great size, of which Louisiana has few. As a result of the Inflation Reduction Act (2022) and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (2021), Louisiana has received:

- \$946,000,000 for Resilience
- \$92,000,000 for Environmental Remediation
- \$3,820,000,000 for Roads, Bridges, and Safety

This bill plans to allocate money from these three funds to counter the expenses of dam decommission and inspection, with the exact allocation of the funds being determined by the DOTD on a case-by-case basis.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

There are no penalties.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 106**

3 Noor Akram Woodlawn High School

4 Nsreen Saleh

5
6 **TITLE:** Decrease the Obese

7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 The State of Louisiana has been ranked 5th out of all 50 states in the country with the highest adult
9 obesity rates for many years, steadily increasing to 37.6% in 2022. Obesity by the numbers is defined by
10 a person with a BMI (body mass index) of 30 or higher according to the Centers for Disease Control.
11 47.9% of Louisianians, almost half of our population, have a BMI of 30 or higher. Food, activity, and sleep
12 are the top 3 causes of obesity by the CDC, not taking genetics and ethnic BMI into account.

13 Considering poverty rates, Louisiana ranks 2nd poorest state in the US, with 18.6% of people in
14 poverty. Poverty can lead to less nutritious food and less time to engage in exercise according to MNT.
15 Stores such as Dollar General have implemented the fresh food and grocery addition and will expand to
16 10,000 stores across the nation, helping the nutrition with limited resources problem.

17 BMI varies based off of race, due to different levels of fat and body structure. Louisiana has a
18 population distribution of around 58% White, 31.2% Black, 5.5% Hispanic or Latino, 1.7% Asian, 0.5%
19 American Indian, and 0.1% Native Hawaiian and other.

20 Within the years 2020-2022, the prevalence of obesity in Louisiana includes 19.9% White, 46.5%
21 Black, 35.4% Hispanic, and 43.7% Native Americans.

22 Obesity also in effect leads to higher medical costs with an average of 1.8 thousand dollars higher
23 than those of healthy weight, as well as leading to poorer mental health, and quality of life. Obesity can
24 later be connected to chronic illnesses and leading causes of death like diabetes, heart disease, stroke,
25 and types of cancer. As nearly 50% of Louisianians have a BMI over 30, this means around 2.3 million
26 Louisianians need help with getting to a healthy level.

27
28 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

29 The bill if passed, will go into effect at the beginning of February 2024, and is an optional program for
30 adults to join for independent help. An activity tracking device will be sent to the person to wear every
31 day, with certain goals put in by an advisor per month – which may become more strict as time
32 progresses, in terms of food and/or physical activity. Different BMI cut-offs will account for different
33 levels of obesity-based severity in Louisianians off of ethnicity and other factors by the participant's
34 advisor. The device would send monthly summaries to the advisor and be monitored in completion of the
35 goals. A nutrition counselor can be added to the program for most plans or if needed for a mandatory
36 class upon failure to keep up. Devices will be returned at the end of the programs.

37 If a participant fails to be consistent with their personal plan, their advisor may require them to
38 attend a mandatory counseling class on their specific shortcoming(s) (nutrition, physical activity, etc)
39 which will be explained before the program contract begins.

1 Completion of the program would offer a reward system with a partnership with a grocery store -
2 within the choices to help with better food choices. The rewards system will consist of monthly discounts
3 on produce, leading to healthier purchases.
4

5 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

6 The State of Louisiana's Department of Health has a budget of 17.6 billion dollars. The fitness device
7 itself costs an average of \$100 or less. It would not need to be replaced unless damaged (which the
8 person would then pay for out of pocket). Licensed dietitian counseling is usually covered for/ reimbursed
9 by Medicaid and many health insurance companies.

10 Louisiana's Medicaid budget includes around \$15.8 billion dollars. This program would receive
11 0.24% of the state's Medicaid funding.

12 The program could support up to 150,000 people yearly with a device, and the remaining money
13 would be used for the monthly loyalty/rewards system noted in the implementation section, as well as
14 other finances. These can include equipment, advertisements, and resources to support counseling.
15

16 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

17 No penalties are needed for this bill.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 107**

3 Michael Wilhelm Catholic High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Nutritional Information in Louisiana Schools

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Food in Louisiana school cafeterias are often displayed to students in unlabeled packages. Schools are
9 required to know the allergy risks of such foods, but are not required to make the entire nutrition facts
10 known to the students. This is incredibly important. Some students have issues that require them to count
11 the amount of certain nutrients they intake for instance type 1 diabetics need to count carbohydrates to
12 determine the proper amount of insulin to take and those with high blood pressure need to keep sodium
13 ingestion within certain limits. This also affects certain athletes, who need to carefully monitor what they
14 eat for "bulking" or "cutting" (strategic weight gain or loss) as well as assure they are intaking enough
15 vitamins. Many schools in Louisiana either do not have nutritional information available, have it only by
16 special request from nurses/lunch staff, or have it on a website (which is difficult to find or even know
17 about). This means the average student likely has no idea what they are eating.

18
19 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

20 This bill requires all public, charter, and private schools in the state of Louisiana to have a physical list of
21 the nutritional facts of all food items being served, either on the items themselves or listed in a place
22 accessible to students within the building or area where the food is being served. Government inspectors
23 will be sent biannually for random inspections to make sure each school is following the law.

24
25 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

26 The FDA already requires biannual inspections of the food safety in Louisiana schools, adding the simple
27 task of checking for a nutritional list will not require any additional workers or salary increases, meaning
28 no funding is required.

29
30 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

31 A violation of this bill discovered in a random inspection will result in a \$2,000 fine for the first offense.
32 The second offense will result in a \$5,000 fine and any offense after the second will result in a \$10,000
33 fine. Continued sequential offenses may result in a suspension of funding or revocation of charter, to be
34 determined by the Louisiana Department of Education.



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023

SENATE BILL 108

Tyriq Cooper Woodlawn High School

Marya Algamal

TITLE: Ready, Aim, Fire

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Currently, there are 76 people on death row in the state of Louisiana. The current and only method of execution in the state of Louisiana is death by lethal injection. The process of lethal injection takes place over a period of five minutes, to up to two hours in extreme cases. The process is that first the inmate is given a drug to cause unconsciousness, then they are given a drug to paralyze the breathing system, effectively suffocating the inmate, and then finally, the third drug is given to stop the heart of the inmate.

The statistics regarding the lethal injection in the United States are that in 2022, the year of the 40th anniversary of the lethal injection, 7 out of the 20 executions using lethal injection were botched, meaning 35%. These were the result of executioner incompetence, failures to follow protocols, or defects in the protocols themselves according to "The Death Penalty Information Center." Furthermore, according to Professor Austin Sarat, from 1890 to 2010, 1,054 people have been executed. During this time frame, 3.15% of all executions were botched in some way, and lethal injection executions had a 7.12% botch rate. So, the data concludes that lethal injection has the highest rate of botched executions in all of the United States' history. According to that same study, 0% of firing squad executions were botched in that same 120-year time frame.

In 1993, a study was conducted to assess the pain experienced in different execution methods. Its findings concluded that the firing squad was among the least painful approaches. Dr. Jonathan I. Groner, a surgery professor at Ohio State University, asserts that "drawing from his surgical experience and research on lethal injection, he holds the view that the firing squad is not only quicker but also inflicts less suffering than alternative execution methods." According to Deborah Denno, a professor of law at Fordham University, "The firing squad also has the advantage of being carried out by trained professionals."

Currently, 5 other states have the firing squad as an execution method: Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Utah, and Idaho.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill would allow victims on death row to be given another option on how they would like to be executed by allowing them to choose between lethal injection or the firing squad. The firing squad process would be as follows (as modeled by the firing squad method of the State of Utah); the condemned would be bound to a chair surrounded by sandbags and be tied down with leather straps across their waist and head in front of wall, then a black hood will be pulled over the prisoner's head, then a doctor will locate the prisoner's heart with a stethoscope and will pin a white cloth over it, and finally at least five trained shooters armed with .30 caliber rifles will fire their weapons at the target placed on the prisoner

1 simultaneously. After the conclusion of the shooting, the doctor will immediately check the prisoner for a
2 pulse to confirm the successful execution.

3 The shooters will be chosen at random from a pool of volunteer officers. This pool will be
4 composed of officers from across the entire state who voluntarily would like to potentially be a gunman
5 for a firing squad execution. Also, to provide each shooter with a measure of plausible deniability that
6 they weren't the ones responsible for the death of the executed, a blank round will be used in one of the
7 guns at random.

8 This bill, if passed, will be implemented on January 1, 2024.

9 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

11 The average price of a 30-caliber Winchester rifle can be at most a little less than \$1,000, and a 20-pack
12 of the ammunition costs around \$30. So, for a single execution with five shooters, the cost will be around
13 \$5,000. After this initial purchase of the firearms, the cost of execution will be of no cost until more
14 ammunition is needed, a firearm is to be replaced, or an additional firearm is to be bought. This money
15 would come from Louisiana's State Corrections Department which currently has a budget of
16 \$694,583,497.

17 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

19 The penalty for any existing crime that constitutes the death penalty could result in the option of
20 execution by firing squad.
21



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 109**

3 Teagan Pethe

Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies

4
5 **TITLE:** Require Public Schools to meet the ASCA Recommendation for School Counselors

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 With a growing mental health crisis in America, it is becoming increasingly important for children to have
9 access to mental health professionals. Currently, the American School Counselor Association (ASCA)
10 recommends a 250:1 student to counselor ratio. This means that, for every 250 students at a school,
11 there should be one counselor. However, according to Bulletin 741— the Louisiana Handbook for School
12 Administrators, each public secondary school is only required to have a 450:1 student to counselor ratio,
13 and elementary/middle schools are only required to provide counselors if they're given funding by the
14 state. Not only does this limit the access the youth has to mental health resources, but it also increases
15 stress on counselors that have too many students on their caseload.
16

17 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

18 By the 2028-2029 school year, all Louisiana public schools will be required to meet the ASCA
19 recommended 250:1 student to counselor ratio. This includes all elementary and middle schools, as well
20 as high schools. The schools will have 5 years to accomplish this new student to counselor ratio, so they
21 have time to find counselors to hire. Lowering the student to counselor ratio will also incentivize school
22 counselors to want to work at those schools. If, and only if, a school district cannot hire enough
23 counselors, they are permitted to open their applicant pool to social workers and other mental health
24 professionals as well and include them in their student to counselor ratios.
25

26 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

27 Funding through the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) will be increased by dedicating a sales tax
28 increase of 0.10 of a penny to MFP funding, which would bring in approximately \$90 million.
29

30 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

31 If a school district is not meeting these new requirements by the 2028-2029 school year, a corrective
32 action plan would be issued to them, and they would be monitored to make sure they meet the
33 requirements in the future.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 110**

3 Ava Doucet St. Joseph's Academy

4
5 **TITLE:** Mandate a Modified Immigration Test for Elected Officials

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Many voters in the modern day do not believe that government leaders know or understand the
9 Constitution to the level they should. A poll run in 2018 found that most Americans could not recall who
10 their representatives were or who their governor was. The people who run the government should be put
11 to a higher standard than the average American due to these people being the ones to have the most
12 control over the United States government. These elected officials should be able to prove they are
13 proficient in the Constitution and the workings of the government. We are to hold people who are
14 becoming citizens of our country to a high standard of knowledge of the workings of our government and
15 history of our country and our elected officials should be held to that level or higher and be able to
16 demonstrate this by passing the same test these new citizens are taking.

17
18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 All elected officials would be required to take a modified form of the naturalization test based on the seat
20 of office they would be taking. When a candidate goes to the Secretary of State's office to apply to enter
21 a race, they would be administered a modified version of the US naturalization test. The modified test will
22 not include English speaking or writing components, but will be replaced with questions specific to the
23 state of Louisiana and to the office one wishes to seek candidacy for. Civics based questions will be taken
24 from the list of 100 questions used for the naturalization test all new citizens take. On civics based
25 questions, the candidate must get 6 of the 10 randomly taken questions on the test from the 100
26 possible questions correct. Once graded and approved by the Secretary of State's office, the candidate
27 may continue application for candidacy. All tests will have identifying markers to lead graders to the
28 correct answer key for every test.

29
30 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

31 There is no funding needed for this bill.

32
33 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

34 If candidates are to not participate in required testing, they will be prohibited from applying for current
35 elections until proper paperwork is submitted.



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023

SENATE BILL 111

Lola Avery St. Joseph's Academy

Margaret Johnson

TITLE: WOMP (Wholistic, Objective, Meticulous, & Pertinent Consideration of Curriculum Complaints via Select Committee)

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

In recent months, several states have taken to banning classes and Advanced Placement Curriculums in order to inhibit the teaching of a "curriculum based on unproven, theoretical, or exploratory content." In practice, this has meant prohibiting learners' access to unfiltered discussion and debate. This country is suffering from an epidemic of fear of broadening learner's horizons and of acknowledging the connection between uninhibited education and global citizenry. In response to class-banning legislation introduced in Florida, Jeremy Young, a researcher at a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting free expression and education through literature and writing, called PEN America, explains that "college is one of the last bastions of free inquiry and open conversation in this country. And if you restrict that in the way that [these] laws do, you're going to have a citizenry that is unprepared to engage in the democratic process." Louisiana is a state of remarkable learners but has failed to offer them an education system worthy of their talents and dedication. To prevent future attacks on the ability for Louisianans to access an uninhibited, factual, and honest education, this bill seeks to establish an independent, non-partisan, exploratory committee. Modeled after independent redistricting commissions employed by states, a curriculum's subject will be impartially considered by a select committee should a class be brought into question.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

In the instance in which a curriculum's subject matter is questioned by a legislation, an Independent Curriculum Assessment Select Committee (ICASC) shall be established in order to wholistically and impartially review the substance of a class. The ICASC will be composed of citizen volunteers of varying party affiliations, all volunteers surpassing the age of 18. The Louisiana Standards Review Committee, which is concerned with reviewing the content of general subject curriculums to ensure they maintain the objectives of college and workplace demands, will review applications from the public. The committee will then nominate 15 candidates from those citizen applications – 6 from the largest party in the state, 6 from the second largest party in the state, and 3 individuals not represented with either major party. Following the selection of the 15 nominees, four legislative leaders (the majority and minority leader in each chamber) will each choose one commissioner from the nominees of their same party affiliation. The four chosen committee members then select a fifth member who is not registered with the same political party as the other committee members. The fifth member also serves as chairperson. In regions of the United States where academic curriculum has been modified or called into question, citizen interest has peaked. Lively debate has ensued, proving the public interest in the educational

1 curriculum of public schools. This bill anticipates heavy citizen involvement and volunteerism, given the
2 increase in public discussion of classroom education policies.

3 Should the ICASC suffer from a lack of civilian volunteers (meaning not enough to compose a committee of
4 2 majority party members, 2 minority members, and 1 independent chairperson-member) the process will
5 be indefinitely paused until enough civilian volunteers are available. Legislators are elected in order to
6 accurately reflect the will of the people, thus, if the ICASC suffers from a lack of volunteerism, this bill will
7 presume that Louisiana citizens are not heavily concerned with the curriculum complaint brought forth. If
8 there continues to be a lack of volunteerism for an extended period of time (6 months), the complaint
9 shall be dismissed at the present time.

10 This committee shall review the causes of complaint being brought forth about curriculum material and
11 shall assess the situation from there. The committee must consider the complaint for a minimum of 90
12 days, including but not limited to one virtual two-hour meeting per 30 days. Four of the five committee
13 members must concur in order to effectively modify an academic curriculum. If the committee makes a
14 determination that would result in the modification of the course's curriculum, it will not be implemented
15 until after the next school year is completed, ensuring that students' tentative schedules are not
16 interrupted by a modified curriculum. For example, should a course be modified during the 2023 academic
17 year, the course shall remain unchanged for the entirety of the 2023 and 2024 academic years, and will
18 be effectively changed prior to the start of the 2025 academic year.

19 20 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

21 Committee members are selected on a voluntary basis; thus no financial means are necessary for the
22 implementation of this bill.

23 24 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

25 There are no penalties associated with this legislation.



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023

SENATE BILL 112

Nick Pecquet Catholic High School

Elliott Eagleton

TITLE: Run Cars Out Of Gas

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Louisiana is losing about about a football field(100 yards, not including endzones) of land per hour on it's coast. Its no secret that global warming is causing this loss of land. We are seeing rising sea levels due to global warming. In the United States, one fifth of all emissions are from cars. Per gallon of gas, 24 pounds of carbon dioxide (CO2) is made. What is one way we can limit Louisiana's role in helping to rise sea levels? By banning gasoline powered transportation vehicles. This will help us do our part to try to conserve precious land on our coasts. There are many benefits to buying alternative fuel cars. For example, there are tax credits like those available in Alternative Fuel Excise Tax Credit and Electric Vehicle (EV) and Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV) Tax Credit. Not only can this save Louisiana coasts, but save everyone some money on taxes. Let's save our coastlines, and ban gas vehicles!

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

By June 1st, 2030, all Louisiana residents will be required to turn in their cars to dealership locations predetermined by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LaDOTD). From there, designated drivers will transport the cars to neighboring states where the cars will be sold to those states' dealers for an average of \$10,000. The car dealerships will receive that money. For each car, the owner will receive alternative fuel car compensation, a bicycle, and 3 years of free bus transportation. The alternative fuel car compensation amount will be determined as a vehicle of a similar car classification (SUV, sedan, van, truck) worth roughly 90% of the trade-in value appraisal of the original gasoline car by the Kelley Blue Book. These cars that will be available for purchase will come from a collaboration with Alternative Fuel Car companies, which will provide alternative fuel cars kept in the car dealerships that were chosen by the LaDOTD. These dealerships will be required to keep their lot stocked with at least 50 alternative fuel vehicles from each standard car classification at all times beginning October 1st, 2029, and ending July 15th, 2030. The rest of the money will be used to buy new buses and upgrade existing roads. To start off the project of building new bus stops, shuttle stops, and buying new buses, the Federal Government gives out grants according to 49 U.S. Code 5312 and 5339 and Public Law 117-58. According to Public Law 117-58 and 42 U.S. Code 16091, some or all school buses can be replaced with alternative fuel buses for free, alongside charging stations and fueling infrastructure. After we get started, the selling of old gasoline powered vehicles to other governments will begin. All sales of gasoline powered cars after June 1st, 2024, are limited to non-residents of Louisiana. In 2030, we will ban the sale of gasoline powered vehicles to everyone. The continuation of these sales in Louisiana is to clear out inventory, instead of throwing the cars away. At every car dealership in the state, a person who is buying a vehicle is required to show proof of residence. This residence can be to another state, in which a gasoline powered car may be bought. If they live in the state, however, they must buy an alternative fuel car.

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SECTION III: FUNDING

This bill will cost a total of \$3.532 billion allotted towards bus transit. Funding for this bill will come from federal grants for public transport, specifically funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The rest of the funding will come from the trade in between alternative fuel cars and gasoline cars. For each car trade, the car dealership will be taxed 7% of the value of each car for transportation to dealerships outside of Louisiana.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

All citizens refusing to cooperate in turning in their cars will be met by a warning after June 1st, 2030, a fine of \$1,000 after June 15th, 2030, and a \$2,000 fine with forceful removal of the car after June 21st, 2030.



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023

SENATE BILL 113

Brinkley Bennett St. Joseph's Academy

TITLE: "POOKIE" (Promoting Openness in Organizational Knowledge of Income and Equity)

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Pay transparency is imperative. Pay transparency refers to the practice of employers openly sharing salary information with employees and potential candidates. It has several benefits, such as reducing wage gaps and promoting fairness in the workplace. Understanding how much an individual earns is crucial due to the substantial disparity in earnings between gender and various racial backgrounds. The need for pay transparency can be supported using statistics from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

According to the BLS, as of 2020, women earned \$0.82 for every \$1.00 earned by men. Pay transparency can help address this gender pay gap by providing employees with information about salary ranges and benefits for specific positions. This allows individuals to negotiate fair compensation and ensures that equal work receives equal pay. Additionally, pay transparency can help combat racial disparities in wages. The BLS reports that in 2020, Black workers earned 75.6% and Hispanic workers earned 85.1% of the median weekly earnings of White workers. By disclosing salary ranges in job postings, employers can ensure that candidates from all backgrounds have access to fair compensation opportunities.

While it is acknowledged that pay transparency alone may not entirely close the pay gap, it is evident that it has effectively contributed to the process. By shedding light on salary information, it enables employees to make more informed decisions about their compensation, promotes fairness, and represents a tangible step towards narrowing the wage disparities that have persisted for decades.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill introduces crucial measures to ensure pay transparency in employment, emphasizing specific guidelines for implementation and providing businesses a grace period for adjustment. The grace period to allow adjustment shall last from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024 (enforceable on January 1, 2025). The legislation mandates employers to include salary ranges in job postings for positions in Louisiana, providing clear information for potential candidates. During this grace period, businesses are expected to adapt their practices to comply with the new requirements. Recognizing the necessity of a smooth transition, the bill allows employers the flexibility to make necessary adjustments to their recruitment processes and systems. Additionally, within the timeframe, job postings must outline the total compensation package, including benefits. This provision ensures that applicants receive comprehensive information about the overall compensation offering, contributing to informed decision-making during the grace period. This legislation extends to remote jobs if they can be performed in Louisiana. Throughout the grace period, businesses are encouraged to align their remote work policies with the transparency requirements outlined in the bill. Universally applicable to any person, firm, or corporation employing an individual. The bill emphasizes consistent implementation across various types of employers. The grace period offers the flexibility to modify their procedures gradually, acknowledging the need for a phased approach to compliance. During the timeframe given to conform, employers must disclose the wage scale or salary range, along with a general description of benefits and other compensation, in each job posting. The grace period recognizes the need for businesses to incorporate these new disclosure practices

1 seamlessly into their recruitment efforts. "Posting" is to be considered any solicitation aimed at recruiting
2 job applicants, whether conducted directly, indirectly, or electronically. This definition remains applicable
3 throughout the grace period, allowing businesses the necessary time to adjust their recruitment strategies
4 accordingly. Furthermore, the legislation addresses internal employee transfers. Upon request, an
5 employer must provide the wage scale or salary range for an employee's new position during the grace
6 period. This provision allows existing employees seeking internal mobility to benefit from the enhanced
7 transparency measures. This bill not only establishes clear guidelines for pay transparency but also
8 incorporates a grace period from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024. This intentional approach
9 ensures a balanced transition, promoting fairness and informed decision-making in employment processes.

10 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

11 No funding necessary.

12 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

13 This bill establishes penalties for violations, with a tiered approach based on the severity and frequency
14 of the offense. Penalties apply per violation instance of failure to comply. The penalties are as follows:

- 15 a) First Violation: Up to \$1,000 on the first violation.
- 16 b) Second Violation within 5 Years of the Same Complaint: Up to \$2,500 for a violation after the first
17 violation within 5 years of the same complaint.
- 18 c) Multiple (2 or more) Violations within 7 Years: Up to \$5,000 for 2 or more violations within 7 years.
- 19 d) The court is instructed to consider several factors in determining the penalties, including the business's
20 size, the good faith of the employer, the gravity of the violation, the violation history, and whether the
21 violation was an innocent mistake or willful.

22 a) Additionally, the bill introduces an affirmative defense for employers who conduct a good faith
23 "self-evaluation" of their pay practices within the previous two years and before the commencement of an
24 action. This self-evaluation, designed by the employer or following a standard template, should
25 demonstrate due diligence in identifying, preventing, and mitigating violations. The details of the self-
26 evaluation should align with the size of the employer.

27 b) The court, in assessing the self-evaluation, considers factors such as inclusivity, consistency in
28 analysis, unbiased testing of explanatory factors, incorporation of all relevant information, and
29 sophistication in analyzing comparable work and permissible reasons for wage differentials.

30 c) The employer is required to retain records demonstrating the way the evaluation was conducted,
31 and failure to do so may imply a lack of due diligence.

32 d) If the employer successfully demonstrates a good faith self-evaluation and eliminates unlawful
33 wage differentials revealed by it, they have an affirmative defense against liability. However, this defense
34 is available only from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025 [one full year after the end of the grace
35 period (January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024)]. After this period, an employer with a self-evaluation
36 demonstrating corrective action shall not be liable for certain damages or penalties but may still face legal
37 action for unpaid wages and equitable relief.

38 e) Evidence of a self-evaluation alone is not sufficient to find a violation that occurred before the
39 self-evaluation's completion. Employers who have not completed a self-evaluation are not subject to
40 negative inferences.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 114**

3 Victoria Dekeyzer

St. Joseph's Academy

4 Claire Ann Chustz

5
6 **TITLE:** Halt the Hogs

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Feral hogs are an invasive species found in all 64 parishes of Louisiana and have an estimated population
10 of 700,000. They are major issues for our environment and cause problems such as: depleting hard mast
11 supplies, increasing coastal erosion, infecting vital water supplies, damaging agriculture, and taking
12 resources from other wildlife. Feral hogs specifically impact agriculture negatively. They consume, uproot,
13 and trample on the crops of Louisiana, causing \$76 million in agricultural damages annually according to
14 the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Feral hogs were also found to have a strong
15 connection to pathogens found in Louisiana's waterways in an investigation done by LSU's agricultural
16 center. Pathogens were found in every site tested and were concluded to potentially cause leptospirosis,
17 yersinosis, Klebsiella pneumonia, and salmonellosis in both humans and wildlife. The Louisiana Department
18 of Wildlife and Fisheries states that 70-75% of the feral hog population must be taken out to keep them
19 under control. Therefore, this bill aims to control the feral hog population of Louisiana to prevent the
20 furtherment of the damages feral hogs cause.

21
22 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

23 This bill would implement a program, similar to the Nutria Control Program, where participants would be
24 paid a \$10 bounty for each feral hog tail turned into the program. The program would be administered by
25 the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the United States Department of Agriculture-
26 Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Interested Participants would fill out an application annually
27 with no fees or dues charged, and the permit would be good for one year. Participants would turn in a
28 swine tail(s) to collection stations around the state. All tails will be tagged, dated, and identified by permit
29 number in order to receive their compensation.

30
31 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

32 This bill will gain funding through the U.S. Department of Agriculture- Natural Resources Conservation
33 Service Division along with Animal & Plant Inspection Service, both of which already have programs in
34 place in Louisiana around Feral swine control. An additional \$2 will be added as a fee to all Louisiana
35 Hunting License purchases for additional funding, and continuation of the program.

36
37 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

38 This Bill requires no penalties.



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023

SENATE BILL 115

Andi Hayes St. Joseph's Academy

Aubrey Harvey

TITLE: Reform Homeschooling and Protect Children from Abuse

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Raylee's law is a proposed bill in West Virginia preventing people being investigated for or convicted of child abuse from homeschooling their children. It is based on the case of Raylee Browning, an eight year old who was removed from her public school in order to be homeschooled after her teacher reported signs of neglect. Before her caretakers could be properly investigated, Raylee died of illness. Raylee showed many visible signs of abuse and illness before being removed from her school, where mandated reporters took note of this abuse and reported it. By pulling Raylee out of school, her caretakers were able to continue their abuse without anyone there to report it. This is one of thousands of examples of state homeschooling laws failing to protect their children from danger.

Currently in Louisiana there are little to no restrictions on who is allowed to pull their child out of school as well as very few regulations on the actions of homeschooling adults while the child is in their care.

While the right of parents to homeschool is monumentally important, the right to abuse your child is not.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill restricts the following from homeschooling and/or withdrawing their children from school in order to homeschool:

Parents, legal guardians, and/or household members that have a:

- pending CPS case
- pending case or convicted of domestic violence
- pending case or convicted of child abuse
- pending case or convicted of child neglect
- pending case or convicted of sexual abuse/assault

Those wishing to homeschool who do not comply with these requirements and believe they should have their eligibility considered, can post appeals to the Louisiana Department of Education. This is the same process already in place if an individual finds an issue with their child's education.

Currently, the Louisiana Department of Education has a digital application process that accepts the individuals after a brief search that the information given is accurate. Under this bill, the application process will stay the same for parents/guardians and the state will review the possible criminal history of the individual before accepting the application.

SECTION III: FUNDING

This bill requires no funding.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

In accordance with Louisiana State Compulsory Attendance Laws, a child must be in school with upstanding attendance from ages 7 to 17 (with exceptions for extenuating circumstances). If a parent/legal guardian withdraws their student without approval, the student will be considered not in compliance with these compulsory attendance laws and will be subject to the relevant consequences.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 116**

3 Riley Berry Mandeville High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Enforce Limited Terms for Louisiana U.S. Senators and Representatives

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 No United States senator or representative embodying the citizens of Louisiana shall be eligible to run for
9 or hold the same office for more than two consecutive or nonconsecutive terms. This regulation includes
10 appointment by the governor in the occurrence of the death of an existent senator, or any further
11 comparable circumstances in which the representative may not be elected. These restrictions also apply to
12 partial terms, in which the complete term was not served for any cause. This constraint is intended to
13 reduce the severity and concentration of corruption that can transpire from the continuous reelection of
14 our United States senators and representatives.

15
16 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

17 All present senators and representatives will be authorized to remain in office for the rest of their
18 respective terms, nevertheless once up for reelection, if they are out of adherence with the prerequisites
19 above, they will not be able to run for office again. Any existing senators or representatives who have
20 only served one term may run for reelection without contingencies. These rules will remain in effect for all
21 subsequent elections for the respective positions.

22
23 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

24 No means of financing are required to execute this.

25
26 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

27 If a senator or representative attempts to run for a 3rd term in the same office, with the understanding
28 that they cannot, the expressed person will not be permitted to present their name for the ballots and will
29 be removed from their current office immediately. Offenders will no longer be allowed to serve in any
30 state-elected or appointed office.

31

1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 117**

3 Ryleigh Shullaw Hope Gutierrez Lafayette High School

4 **TITLE:** Implement the Incident Safety Certification in places selling alcohol

5 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

6 hiskey Row is the name of a bar in Tennessee where Dallas Barrett was found in an altercation at around
7 11 p.m. with six private security guards. Dallas was just 22 years old when he died of deoxygenation after
8 an improperly trained security guard pinned him to the ground. It is estimated that more than 140,000
9 people die from alcohol-related causes annually in the United States, making it the fourth leading cause of
10 death. None of the guards that had gotten into the altercation with Dallas Barrett had received proper
11 first aid and de-escalation training prior to receiving their job to prevent altercations and protect
12 civilians. They ended up turning themselves in and being charged with homicide and aggravated assault.
13 Around 25% of all assault cases are from bars and nightclubs, primarily for bar fights resulting in serious
14 injury or death. In America alone, there is an average of 80 people killed in bar fights each year. In 2022,
15 the job market was flooded with security guards who lacked adequate training and were found forging
16 their certifications. The mere presence of a uniformed security guard can deter numerous types of crime,
17 as long as they aren't causing assaults themselves. By implementing this program, more privately owned
18 guards will be better equipped to handle incidents in bars. This not only increases public safety, but it will
19 increase business by letting customers know that the establishment is better prepared for incidents and
20 possible altercations.

21 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

22 This bill will be implemented on June 1st, 2024. From that date, this program will be presented to each
23 Proprietary Security Organization (PSOs) that is already licensed by the Alcoholic Beverage Commission.
24 This bill will present the Incident Safety Certification to businesses that provide their security guards with
25 proper training. This training would include CPR, first aid, restraint, and de-escalation training, up-to-
26 date certification, and renewal of each certification every two years. These requirements will be
27 maintained by the Louisiana State Board of Private Security Examiners (LSBPSE) and businesses will
28 receive the certification if found to be adequate. The additional training could be completed in person or
29 online, as long as the guard submits proof of the certification. There will be an additional written test
30 after each of the certificates that requires seventy percent (70%) to pass. Current basic training includes
31 legal responsibilities and limitations, emergency response procedures, communication skills, access
32 control and perimeter security, patrolling techniques and surveillance methods, crowd control and event
33 security, ethics and professionalism, cultural diversity and sensitivity training, and security technology. In
34 addition to this training, only CPR/AED, First Aid, and De-escalation and Restraint classes must be
35 included to receive this new certification.

36 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

37 There is no funding required, as the Louisiana State Board of Private Security Examiners already receives
38 funding from the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and fees and fines are paid by PSO's and their
39 workload is not significantly prolonged or added on to. The businesses themselves would be paying for
40 the additional classes if they choose for their employees to receive this extra certification.

41 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

42 There are no penalties required for an opt-in program.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 118**

3 Ivy Anseman Episcopal School of Acadiana

4
5 **TITLE:** Investing in Direct Air Captures to Lower the Amount of Carbon Emissions

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Louisiana has known for years that as carbon emissions rise so does the amount of floods and droughts.
9 This is causing Louisiana to lose rivers and for the coast to be taken under by water as the water rises.
10 One way Louisiana could combat the cause of sea level rise and eroding coastlines is by lowering the
11 amount of carbon emissions. The lowering of carbon emissions, while often costly and controversial, is
12 crucial to the vitality of the state. However, a tactical approach to counteract the rise in emissions is
13 through the implementation of devices called direct air captures (DAC). These machines can be run fully by
14 electricity and pull CO₂ directly from the atmosphere. DAC also roughly costs between 250-600 dollars to
15 install and requires minimal space Due to their relatively small size, these machines can also be placed on
16 the side of highways and in places where other structures can be placed or built.

17
18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 If Louisiana started implementing these DAC machines now it is projected that by 2050 in places like New
20 Orleans, they would reach the goal of net-zero emissions. The physical implementation of these machines
21 would include hiring state-paid builders, engineers, and electricians to install these devices. A single DAC
22 machine only requires a few days to install, thus avoiding minimal funding and time for state employees to
23 invest their workdays in. The workers also would not have to return to these machines unless the machine
24 malfunctions or is broken and needs to be replaced.

25
26 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

27 After its last budget cycle, Louisiana acquired an estimated amount of \$330 million in surplus. Despite
28 funding being needed in several departments and for a plethora of issues, a fraction of this money could
29 be used to invest in DAC machines, pay workers, and fund the electricity cost that these machines will
30 have. Holistically, carbon emissions and climate change are major threats to Louisiana's economy,
31 especially for the seafood industry and residential living. By funding this comparatively low-cost and low-
32 risk solution, Louisiana would only spend an estimated \$10,000 in the first year. However, to ensure and
33 prevent any losses, Louisiana should implement around 20 total devices in the first year to assess
34 whether the DACs are effective and cost-efficient.

35
36 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

37 N/A



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023

SENATE BILL 119

Siyeon Joo Episcopal School of Acadiana

TITLE: Least-Developed Countries Completely Deserve Lessons

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Studying a developing country is critical to being a more well-informed and educated global citizen. When individuals consider developing countries, they often conjure misconceptions of that country's history, people, politics, and culture.

This bill aims to propose a state-structured social studies project in the Louisiana Department of Education middle school curriculum with a specific assignment to educate students on developing countries.

Instead of creating a mandatory and overly demanding project for 8th grade students and the Louisiana curriculum, this bill aims to include an interactive project fulfilling the proponents of the Louisiana social studies curriculum. Beginning with the Second Industrial Revolution, the Grade 8 social studies unit covers "pre-history to present days." Unit 8.17 specifically focuses on expanding students' knowledge of the relationships between the U.S. and foreign administrations.

The contents and guidelines of this assignment include but are not limited to the following:

1. Teachers pull from the United Nations list of "Least Developed Countries" and randomly assign groups of 3-4 students to one of the listed countries. Although students are grouped, each individual will create their own slideshow based on independent research. (<https://unctad.org/topic/least-developed-countries/list>)

2. Students would be given a Louisiana Department of Education outlined rubric to create a detailed "country profile" in the form of a class presentation/slideshow.

3. While the rubric is not confirmed by the department, this bill suggests the inclusion of the following information:

Official flag, languages, food (specialties), current and past politics, environmental issues (drinking water, hurricane damage, earthquakes, etc), and culture (celebrations, beliefs, people, etc.)

4. To introduce students to historical sourcing, the research aspect of this project is enforced by

a. Requiring students to use at least three sources which will need bibliographic documentation (Chicago format).

b. Suggesting students to include looking in the school's media center, public libraries, and the Internet.

c. Discovering more about the topic, whether it is a person, a structure, or a topographical feature.

5. Once the information is collected within the first 2-3 days of the assignment, students researching the same country will group together and discuss their information.

6. Students will combine their information into a single Google Slides presentation.

7. Groups will collectively nominate individuals to represent their country and talk their class through their combined researched slideshow presentation. Volunteer presenters will have the opportunity to present without deduction or reward of grades.

1 8. At this checkpoint stage, teachers will meet with groups to discuss their presentation drafts before
2 presentation day.

3 9. Throughout the activity:

4 a. Each slide is limited to 50 words to emphasize critical speaking and presentation skills

5 b. There is a placed emphasis on honing middle schoolers' presentation and teamwork skills in preparation
6 for high school

7 c. Presenters will educate the class in a short presentation (5-7 minutes)

8 d. Presenters will tell the class basic and interesting information about the country and what they have
9 learned about another culture by doing this project

10 10. Final Drafts and Presentations should be due near the end of the spring semester and the total
11 project should take 1-1½ weeks from start to finish.

12 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

13 The Louisiana Department of Education would briefly train teachers on how to best effectively execute
14 this assignment to reflect its intentional values and purposes during professional development.

15 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

16 There should be no predicted funding for the implementation of an assignment into middle school
17 curricula.

18 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

19 The proposal of this project is entirely opt-in for school districts to send their teachers to professional
20 development for. However, benefits of including this project relieve the burden for teachers to create
21 using time in their personal agenda.

22

23



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023

SENATE BILL 120

Taylor Albert Woodlawn High School

Helena Lijeberg

TITLE: No Child For The Vile

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Louisiana ranks 19th in the country with the highest number of registered sex offenders. For every 100,000 people, 274.23 of those people are registered sex offenders. The state is ranked 26 in reported rapes per 100,000 people as well as being ranked 36 in reported child sex abuse victims per 100,000 children. There are 4,000 children in Foster Care here in Louisiana. About 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 13 boys experience child sexual abuse and nearly 70% of all sexual assaults occur to children under the age of 17. There are three tiers of sex offenders once registered.

Tier one consists of people who are considered to have the lowest risk of a repeat offense. These include; sexual battery(R.S. 43.1), voyeurism(R.S. 14:283.1), indecent behavior with juveniles(R.S. 14:81), conduct between educators and students(R.S. 14:81.4), obscenity through solicitation of a minor(R.S. 14:106), intentional exposure to HIV or other STIs(R.S. 14:43.5), sexual abuse of animals(R.S. 14:89.3), and crimes against nature(R.S. 14:89).

Tier two consists of people viewed as presenting a moderate risk of repeating an offense or committing similar crimes. These crimes consist of; sexual battery of a minor under the age of 18(R.S. 14:43.1), oral sexual battery(R.S. 14:43.3), soliciting a minor with the use of a computer(R.S. 14:81.3), Pornography involving juveniles(R.S. 14:78.1), molestation of a juvenile or a person with a physical or mental disability(R.S. 14:81.2), and prostitution charges involving a minor who is not over the age of 18.

Tier three offenses are viewed as the most serious of all convictions. These acts carry the highest chance of a repeat offense. These offenses are; sexual battery of a child under the age of 13[R.S. 14:43.1(C)(2)], second-degree sexual battery(R.S. 14:43.2), molestation of a juvenile or a person with a physical or mental disability[R.S. 14:81.2(D)(1)], sexual battery of the infirmed(R.S. 14:93.5), all counts of rape, and all counts of human trafficking and kidnapping.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill will revise the custody rights of all sex offenders. This bill will prevent any and all sex offenders from gaining custody of anyone under the age of 18. This will only change the fact that if a sex offender found a way to adopt or foster a child out of the state of Louisiana, the certificate of adoption will no longer be valid, the offender will be charged with kidnapping, and the child will be brought back to foster care. If a sex offender were to gain custody of a child outside of a state, whoever granted custody(court, foster care program, adoption houses, etc.) will have to alert, via email, the sheriff's department of where that sex offender lives. The way this will be put into effect is the standard of background checks will be the same for foster and adoptive situations, sex offenders will have checkups randomly to ensure that there is no chance of a repeat offense, and in the case that a sex offender has previously adopted children before the implementation of this bill, they are not allowed to have legal custody over that kid, but if there is supervision present (legal guardian, police officer, etc.), then they are allowed to have visitation rights. This bill, if passed, will be implemented December 7, 2027.

1 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

2 There is no funding needed.

3 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

4 If there are programs(adoption houses, foster care, etc.) or tolls that blatantly ignore this bill they will
5 have to pay a fine of \$300 for their first offense if it continues it will go up by \$100 each time they go
6 against this bill.

7



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 121**

3 Kaci Cook Haynes Academy

4
5 **TITLE:** Institute an Age Maximum for Louisiana Representatives

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 The older ages of representatives has become a growing problem all over the United States. Louisiana is
9 just one of many states that is significantly affected. The average age of Louisiana residents is 37. This is
10 in stark contrast to the average age of Louisiana representatives. The average age of a Louisiana House
11 member is 57, and the average age of a Louisiana Senate member is 60. The oldest member of the
12 Louisiana House is 80, and the oldest member of the Louisiana Senate is 77. In contrast, the Louisiana life
13 expectancy is 73, and the average age of retirement in Louisiana is 62. The reason for these drastic age
14 differences is not the voters, it is that party officials are backing these older candidates that have already
15 run for office. Over 75% percent of Americans support the enactment of legislation to institute an age
16 maximum for representatives. The most common argument is that these older representatives are from a
17 different time, and are therefore out of touch with what today's generation wants and needs. Cognitive
18 decline is also another reason to institute an age maximum for elected officials. Doctors say that heavy
19 cognitive decline usually begins at around 70 years old.

20
21 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

22 This bill would implement an age maximum for Louisiana House and Senate members. The age would be
23 capped at 70 on the day of the election. This is the same age cap that is currently present for Louisiana
24 state judges.

25
26 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

27 This bill requires no funding.

28
29 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

30 If a person will be over 70 on the day of the election, then their name will be pulled out of the running,
31 and they will not receive ballot access.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 122**

3 Austin Roberson

Catholic High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Make roads car worthy.

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 We've all seen potholes, bumps, cracks, etc. in the roads and its even worse when you have to drive over
9 one. Louisiana has the 3rd worst roads in the United States with 46% of our roads having been reported
10 in "poor condition." According to the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Louisiana's roads have
11 received a D+ on a grading scale for pavement roughness. Louisiana's current way of repairing this
12 damage is through patch repairs which while quick and cheap, ends up needing repairs in around 10 years.
13 Meanwhile, another option is reconstruction which while more costly and more timely, lasts double the
14 time of patching to around 25 years. Even though Louisiana does complete some reconstruction repairs,
15 completing more would mean longer lasting roads and therefore less constant patching.

16 As of recently, Louisiana needs roughly \$786 billion dollars to pay for all road damages in the state. Most
17 of the funding comes from the federal government while local income comes from the Louisiana motor fuel
18 tax. Unfortunately, the motor fuel tax has been seeing less income do to more fuel efficient cars and
19 electric vehicles, and the problem will most likely just get worse. This means that unless the federal
20 government steps in, Louisiana will have a difficult time repairing and building roads. To fix this problem,
21 the tax on the motor fuel will be raised along with the requirement of more reconstruction.
22

23 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

24 This bill would be effective July 2, 2024. This bill will see an increase in the motor fuel tax from 20 cents
25 per gallon of gas to 30 cents per gallon. This bill will also require road reconstruction on roads with
26 multiple potholes, cracks, or bumps in near vicinity of each other instead of patching each one individually.
27

28 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

29 Majority of funding will come from the motor fuel tax and any another necessary funding will come from
30 the already existing Transportation and Development budget.
31

32 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

33 There are no penalties for the implementation of this bill.



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023

SENATE BILL 123

Camille Starkovich St. Joseph's Academy

Mariana Cuadra

TITLE: Combat Homelessness with "Housing First."

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

In 2022, according to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, there were about 582,000 Americans experiencing homelessness. Night shelters have no standard of living and operation varies based on the owner and supporting corporation. Underfunded shelters tend to be crowded and lack necessary resources or have a set of rules that prevent the personal growth and development necessary to free a person from the need to use a shelter. Depending on the shelter, rules can vary from fees upon entry to curfews that prevent people from working a night shift. Night shifts are a common job for the homeless because they are the least likely to be desired by anyone else. In extreme cases, shelters will confiscate half the resident's food stamp allowance or force them to work forty hours a week for board and lodging. These things severely prevent a person from developing a stable income and the means necessary to move onto a hostel. While occasionally effective transitional housing, that is supposed to supply homeowner knowledge paired with other life skills, typically limits a residents stay for a year. This tiered stairstep system is common in most countries and allows many participants to become easily stuck on a "step."

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Louisiana will adopt the Housing Frist program from Finland adapted slightly to fit the state's needs. Once a homeless person applies to the program, they will be admitted to a home. Homes will be constructed into existing shelters using government funds to turn them into small apartments. Apartments will have all basic necessary appliances. Admission will only happen after regulated education about home and self-management is given to the person. Any homeless person can apply for "Housing First," and shelters will encourage this through pamphlets and verbal instruction. Volunteer assistants will help a person move into the housing unit and assist them in creating a stable environment for themselves. Weekly check-ins will occur along with continuation of classes for the first six months of living in their unit. Past six months, tenants will be checked on monthly and tested on their homeowner and self-care knowledge. Once the tenant hits an income threshold, currently \$26,000 based on the average Louisiana average income threshold of \$27,139, rent will gradually begin to be charged to transition the housing unit into a typical apartment unit.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Louisiana was granted \$66,387,990 by HUD and the Biden-Harris Administration to assist in the fight against homelessness through care project grants. All this money along with requested money for the upcoming year would support the cost of resolving around 7,200 homeless in Louisiana as it took Finland about \$280,000,000 to cure most of the homelessness for a similar number of people. Most of the funding will go into the initial construction of the apartments.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

No penalties.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 124**

3 Isaiah Niles Jesuit High School

4 Hayden Welk

5
6 **TITLE:** To Tax the Evil Oil Companies that are sucking Louisiana dry

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Revising taxes around oil companies in order to claim more needed revenue for the State of Louisiana.
10 Taxes are mandatory payments made by people and businesses that help fund government services at the
11 federal, state, and local level. Tax revenue pays for things like Social Security, Medicare, education,
12 national defense, infrastructure, and other goods and services intended to benefit the community. The
13 petroleum industry, also known as the oil industry or the oil patch, includes the global processes of
14 exploration, extraction, refining, transportation, and marketing of petroleum products. The largest volume
15 products of the industry are fuel, oil, and gasoline. These funds will be inspected and used diligently to
16 effectively improve the State infrastructure, school systems, and other things under the control and
17 responsibility of the State.

18
19 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

20 An oil company pumping and selling oil within Louisisana will henceforth be taxed 1% of every 100,000
21 USD made from the drilling, production, and selling of oil. Inspectors appointed by local parish
22 governments shall investigate and audit any local drilling stations and refineries. These auditors will
23 report back to parish officials who will then collect the taxes and deliver them to the State Treasury for
24 use by the State however deemed necessary by the Governor. The use of these funds will be inspected and
25 monitored by Federal officials as to ensure no corruption by the State government.

26
27 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

28 All funds shall be used by the State for its citizens and their health and growth. The afformentioned
29 inspectors/auditors shall be paid by funds acquired from the taxation of the oil companies.

30
31 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

32 Repercussions for non-compliance are as follows. Failure to comply with all sections above will result in
33 the seizure of all assets, by the State, from oil companies that do not comply. These assets will then be
34 sold to other oil companies that are in compliance with all above mentioned sections. The price will be set
35 by the local parish governments. Any oil companies that leave Louisiana due to this bill will also have their
36 assets seized and sold under the same circumstances as non-compliance.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 125**

3 Sarah Thomas Baton Rouge High

4
5 **TITLE:** Incentivize Kudzu Grazing

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Kudzu is a vine native to Japan and Southeast China that was introduced to the United States in 1876 as
9 an ornamental plant and later promoted as a means to combat erosion. Since its introduction, it has
10 spread rapidly throughout the Southeastern US. Today, Kudzu is estimated to cover over 7 million acres
11 of land throughout the Southern States such as Louisiana, killing native vegetation and damaging nearby
12 infrastructure. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality originally attempted to combat its
13 spread through the use of herbicides and succeeded in somewhat containing the plant and reducing its
14 range. However, Kudzu remains a pest in Louisiana. Containing it through the use of herbicides alone is
15 now inadvisable due to herbicide costs and possible detrimental impacts on wildlife. Thus, alternative
16 methods such as grazing should be considered. Livestock, particularly cattle, grazing on Kudzu plants
17 younger than ten years old has been shown to successfully exterminate Kudzu, within fenced locations, in
18 3-4 years. Additionally, replanting vegetation in grazed fields after the 3-4 years pass has been shown to
19 prevent the regrowth of Kudzu in the area.

20
21 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

22 Livestock owners will receive an incentive of \$150 per acre when their animals graze on fields where
23 Kudzu is prevalent. Fields must be fenced in so that the Kudzu does not continue to spread as the
24 livestock graze. After 3-4 years of grazing, most fields should be free of kudzu. At this point, the owners
25 will be eligible for an incentive of \$150 per acre for planting non-invasive vegetation in the fields where
26 kudzu was eliminated. This law, if passed, will go into effect on January 1st, 2025.

27
28 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

29 Funding will come from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, which in the fiscal year 2022-
30 2023 had a budget of \$144,756,085. The DEQ has also had a trend of spending under its annual budget
31 in recent fiscal years. Thus, this incentive program should not prove burdensome to the department.

32
33
34 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

35 No penalties are required.



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023

SENATE BILL 126

Neal Tandon Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies

TITLE: Teacher Empowerment and Academic Collaboration for Higher Retention (TEACHR)

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

In Louisiana's classrooms, the heartfelt commitment of our teachers is undeniable. Yet, the very passion that fuels their dedication often meets the harsh reality of unmet financial needs. In Louisiana, the absence of a mandated minimum salary for teachers has led to significant disparities in educator compensation. Tensas Parish, the least populated in the state, grapples with an average teacher salary of \$35,000, which is approximately \$15,000 below the state average. Meanwhile, Red River Parish, the fourth least populated, has the highest average teacher salary at approximately \$68,000. This contrast shows that the issue clearly isn't tied to the population and size of a parish, but rather to the scarcity of resources and a standardized minimum salary to sustain teacher wages. Louisiana ranks 43rd in average teacher salary, with an average of \$52,660 annually. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) reports an 86% teacher retention rate for the 2021-2022 academic year, but this figure is overshadowed by the approximately 7,000 educators who have left. Due to the lack of incentives and fair salaries that equate to the demanding and necessary nature of education, educators will become more likely to quit. Teacher's salaries are a critical factor in Louisiana's ranking of 46th in education, emphasizing not only a deficiency in academic resources but also a lack of consistent support for teachers. The role of an educator is one of the most important jobs today, giving our future generation the wealth of knowledge and the empowerment to reach a better future. If we expect educators to empower the future generation of Louisiana, we must empower our teachers and ensure they have the resources to support themselves.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill will implement increased salaries for teachers in certain districts by establishing a minimum salary of \$52,660 annually for every district, the state average of teacher salaries across all districts. Funding will be provided to each district so they have the resources to provide this salary to teachers, depending on a district-by-district basis based on affordability. Criteria used by districts in determining specific salaries based on effectiveness of the teacher and hard-to-fill positions will remain the same, the only difference being an established minimum salary. A Teacher Mental Health Advisory Council will be formed for each district school system, consisting of 26 teachers, 2 per grade level from K-12, from different schools within each school district to advocate for teacher resources and provide insight on essential improvements to support teachers. Members of each council will be chosen at the discretion of the Superintendent of each district. A review panel will be created in the event of an unfair decision being reported. Inter-school mentorship programs will be established, improving low-performing public schools by leveraging the experience of educators from successful public schools within each district. Experienced teachers, by serving as mentors and sharing their range of expertise, would play a critical role in

1 reforming struggling public schools by providing guidance on curriculum development, classroom
2 management, and effective teaching strategies. Early warning systems that monitor and flag student
3 performance and/or attendance will be implemented in each district to assist teachers in identifying
4 students who need tutoring and academic support. This bill's components will be implemented starting by
5 the next academic year, August 2024.

6 7 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

8 The state budget plan for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Funding allocates approximately \$8 billion to the
9 Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE). All necessary funding for this bill will come from this annually
10 allocated amount. This funding will be used for the allocation of money to help districts pay a teacher
11 salary minimum of \$52,660 (determined on a district-by-district basis dependent on affordability) and
12 towards any necessary funding for the creation of Teacher Mental Health Advisory Councils, Inner-School
13 Mentorship Programs, flagging systems, and academic support programs.

14 15 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

16 Non-compliant districts will face reduced state funding, with a gradual reduction over a specified period
17 depending on length and severity. Funds withheld will be redirected to districts adhering to the bill,
18 ensuring that resources are allocated to those committed to increasing teacher salaries, mental health
19 support, mentorship programs, and academic interventions. If persistent violation occurs, non-compliant
20 districts will undergo regular performance assessments and eventual state intervention with the
21 appointment of an oversight committee to address systemic issues hindering compliance.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 127**

3 Unmesh Chakravarty

Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies

4
5 **TITLE:** Tax Credit for Disadvantaged Youth

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Disadvantaged youth, due to circumstances out of their control, find themselves lacking the financial
9 support and opportunities necessary for their success in the state of Louisiana. Some criteria that
10 disadvantaged youth fall under include: no longer attending school and not having a high school diploma
11 or equivalent; having served time in jail or prison; being pregnant or a parent; being homeless; being
12 currently or previously in foster care; having a parent who has served time in jail or prison; being raised
13 by a single parent; etc.

14
15 Tax credits reduce the amount of income tax owed to the federal government and the state of Louisiana.
16 This bill intends to create a tax credit program for disadvantaged youth in the state of Louisiana.
17 Awarding tax credits to disadvantaged youth who are working full-time or part-time serves as both a
18 funnel for success and an incentive to drive that success in Louisiana. Potential foster parents,
19 educational programs and institutions, hiring businesses, and investors will be incentivized to support
20 disadvantaged youth through tax credits. The tax credit program provisioned by this bill will give rise to
21 increased social mobility and is a step forward in combating inequality in the state of Louisiana.

22
23 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

24 The tax credit program will be administered by the Louisiana Department of Revenue. Any taxpaying entity
25 may seek tax credit provisioned by this bill via application to the Louisiana Department of Revenue. The
26 eligibility of taxpaying entities and the amount of tax credit awarded to such eligible taxpaying entities
27 will be made accordingly through the discretion of the Louisiana Department of Revenue.

28
29 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

30 No funding is required.

31
32 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

33 No penalties are necessary.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 128**

3 Devon Piret Mandeville High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Save the Marsh

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 From Missouri down through Louisiana flows the Mississippi River. The river gradually deposits sediment
9 into a receding sea, slowly building thousands of miles of land. Levee's built around the river begin
10 stopping sediment from feeding the deltas causing the land to sink and disappear. Every 38 minutes
11 Louisiana loses an entire football field of marshland. This equates to around 4,440 yards or 13,320 feet
12 of marshland every single day.

13 To stop the erosion of land and restore Louisiana's coastline, we must preserve these wetlands. We can
14 prevent further erosion and strengthen diversion efforts by implementing a diversion to move sediment
15 and freshwater into the Brenton Basin located on the east bank of the Mississippi River at Wills Point in
16 Plaquemines Parish. This will build back wetlands by routing water and necessary nutrients and allowing
17 the sediment to build up and restore the land and natural environment.

18
19 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

20 This bill will go into effect January 1, 2024, headed by Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration
21 Authority (CPRA), building a diversion into the Brenton Basin.

22
23 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

24 Funding for this project will be allocated by the Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group (LA TIG) from
25 agreements resolving criminal cases against BP and Transocean which arose from the 2010 Deepwater
26 Horizon explosion and oil spill, directing a total of 2.54 billion to the National Fish and Wildlife foundation
27 to fund projects benefitting the natural resources of the Gulf Coast.

28
29 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

30 There are no necessary Penalties



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 129**

3 Charlie Pullen Jesuit High School New Orleans

4 Hayden Welk

5
6 **TITLE:** Giving Light, Life and Parking

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 On October 23rd and November 7th, two multivehicle crashes occurred on two of Louisiana's interstates,
10 I-55 and I-10 New Orleans East, respectively. These crashes caused mass traffic jams with over 160
11 crashed vehicles in total and prevented people from going to school, work, or even home. The main cause
12 of these crashes is Louisiana's 'super fog,' a combination of dense fog and smoke that makes visibility
13 lowered to less than 10 feet while driving. The fog occurs from the climate of Louisiana, and the smoke
14 derives from the marsh fires that have been burning since August and, at the time this bill is being
15 written, has not stopped burning. It is not possible to remove the fog, but it is possible to remove the
16 smoke from the marsh fires.

17
18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 When this bill is carried out, the state will form an agreement with Walmart Inc. to immediately give the
20 company part of the Louisiana marshes to build a Walmart Supercenter and a ginormous parking lot,
21 located near I-55 with an exit towards this supercenter. The production of this Walmart Supercenter and
22 parking lot will remove the marshes, therefore removing the possibility of marsh fires occurring.

23
24 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

25 The sales tax produced from this Walmart Supercenter will fund the building of the Walmart Supercenter
26 and the parking lot adjacent to it.

27
28 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

29 No penalties required for the bill.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023

SENATE BILL 130

Sophie Yeon Haynes Academy

TITLE: Opt-Out Organ Procurement and Transportation (OOPT) Act

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

When people go to the doctor they expect to be diagnosed with an illness, be prescribed a medicine or told they need surgery, and have a timeline of when they'll get better. Those who face organ failure are instead left with an infinite and endless future they have no control over. The only options are to deal with the stress of begging relatives for a donation, or wait and never know exactly when you can be saved. In Louisiana, there are over 2,000 individuals waiting for organ transplants, 58% of whom are minorities. Sadly, 8,000 people die each year (22 people each day — almost one person each hour) because the organs they need weren't donated in time. Organ transportation is widely used to combat the 104,000 people in the U.S who wait for a transplant, with 17 people dying each day. In turn, organs are treated as any other cargo and delayed, along with a shortage of accountable transportation methods. Amidst this, another person is added to the nation's organ transplant waiting list every 10 minutes. There remains a shortage of organ transplants with only 60% of people signed up as donors. Yet all major religions approve of organ, tissue, and eye donation, seeing it as an unselfish act of charity. But despite the 170 million people in the U.S registered, only 3 in 1,000 die in a way that allows for deceased organ donation. Therefore, this act proposes to switch Louisiana to have opt-out instead of opt-in organ donation, where all residents are assumed to donate organs, but can request to opt-out. This act will result in further resources being put towards organ transportation in Louisiana as well, to create a more efficient process and delivery. These provisions will allow more residents to help those who wait on an infinite timeline, and support the logistical transportation of organs.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

When residents obtain a driving permit or license, they will be given a brief description of the organ donation process, and told they are automatically signed up. If residents do not wish to, they can fill out paperwork of their information and confirmation. This will be done at their Department of Motor Vehicles to be submitted to Donate Life Louisiana, which creates the databases for organ donation. Currently, residents with the LA Wallet App can register to donate online, which will now be replaced with registering to opt-out. Organs that are transported as cargo will be specifically marked as so, to have priority in distribution and shipping centers. The Organ Tracking Service (OTS), first made available nationally in 2021, is a tracker that will oversee almost every organ, accompanied or not, with an OTS GPS device throughout Louisiana. If the organ doesn't take off with its scheduled flight, is misplaced in a cargo office, or if a courier is stuck in rush-hour traffic, the Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency can see where it is and respond as needed.

SECTION III: FUNDING

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services was approved to have a \$36 million increase over Fiscal Year 2023 in organ procurement and transplantation for a total of \$67 million in the 2024 Fiscal Year. This is a part of their Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network Modernization Initiative, which updates the almost 40-year-old National Organ Transplant Act.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

There are no penalties required for this bill.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 131**

3 Ian Trahan Catholic High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Pro-Life All the Way

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 On June 24, 2022, the state of Louisiana took a huge step forward by completely banning abortions. This
9 was great news to all pro-life advocates and unborn babies across the state of Louisiana. However, there
10 are many people who claim to be pro-lifers, but then also support the death penalty. The Supreme Court
11 reinstated the death penalty in 1976, since then Louisiana has carried out 28 executions with the last
12 one being in 2010. Although an execution has not been carried out in 13 years the death penalty is still
13 legal here in Louisiana and as of October 14, 2023, The Guardian reports there are currently 57 people
14 on Louisianas death row, many of them have been denied clemency as of recently. My reasoning for this
15 bill is not to debate abortion but for the state of Louisiana to take another huge step forward in becoming
16 a pro-life state. This bill will put a total ban on all death penalty executions in the state of Louisiana. You
17 cannot claim to be a pro-lifer by supporting the ban of abortion but then supporting the death penalty,
18 you must support then end of killing all the way around. As is always said, two wrongs do not make a
19 right.

20
21 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

22 Total Ban on all death penalty executions.

23
24 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

25 Not much is needed however, we would raise prison funding by .15% or about 1.05 million dollars of the
26 almost 700-million-dollar budget to accommodate the 57 prisoners currently on death row. The current
27 cost per prisoner in the state of Louisiana is 16,251 dollars a year, times that by 57 you get 926,307
28 dollars. That is why we would need the extra million. No raise on tax is needed.

29
30 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

31 Any person who would carry out an execution would face charges of 1st degree murder.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 132**

3 Ramsey Greene

Episcopal High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Obsolete Dam Decommission Act

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 The purpose of this Act is to improve air and water quality by allowing rivers to return to their natural
9 sediment distribution patterns; restore biodiversity by rebuilding habitats necessary to survival of local
10 plants, animals, and bacteria; and reduce the likelihood of flash floods. "Dam decommission" refers to the
11 process of demolishing a dam, returning water flow to the river. An "obsolete dam" is a dam that is no
12 longer able to serve its intended purpose. Note that the government already requires formal inspections
13 of all dams at least once every five years, intermediate inspections annually, and special and intermediate
14 inspections on an as-needed basis. See pages 40-42 of FEMA's Federal Guidelines for Dam Safety for
15 definitions of formal, informal, intermediate, and special inspections.

16
17 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

18 The Obsolete Dam Identification and Decommission Act entails that:

19 Formal dam inspectors must classify dams as either "functioning" or "obsolete".

20 A dam classified as obsolete must either be demolished or repaired by its builder before it reaches twenty
21 years of obsolescence to where it is once again classified as operating.

22 Of Louisiana's 557 dams, 494 are monitored by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and
23 Development (DOTD).

24 This act shall be effective for all dams in Louisiana beginning in the year 2028.

25
26 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

27 The cost of dam removal ranges from about \$150,000 to about \$6 million. Note that the latter cost
28 pertains to major dams of great size, of which Louisiana has few. As a result of the Inflation Reduction
29 Act (2022) and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (2021), Louisiana has received:

30 \$946,000,000 for Resilience

31 \$92,000,000 for Environmental Remediation

32 \$3,820,000,000 for Roads, Bridges, and Safety

33 This bill plans to allocate money from these three funds to counter the expenses of dam decommission,
34 with the exact source of the funds being determined by the DOTD on a case-by-case basis.

35
36 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

37 The penalties for failure to comply with this bill will be a fine of \$10,000 for every year following the
38 deadline for decommission.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 133**

3 Mark Brown Metairie Park Country Day School

4
5 **TITLE:** Enforcement of Flying Freedom Flags

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 The Enforcement of Flying Freedom Flags bill would require all schools public AND private to fly both the
9 national flag and Louisiana state flag, as well as recite the pledge of allegiance each morning.

10
11 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

12 All schools have flagpoles and intercoms and all that would need to happen is the American flag and
13 Louisiana state flag be flown on campus as well as the Pledge of Allegiance be played on the intercom
14 with all formalities of rising and heart over your heart.

15
16 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

17 Money for the flags if the schools do not already have them will be drawn from the state and local tax
18 revenue already put aside for public education use.

19
20
21 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

22 A minor fine as this law really just serves as a purpose to moderately boost patriotism by exposing
23 children to their respective state and national flags.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 134**

3 Chloe Jones Metairie Park Country Day School

4 Faith Fennidy

5
6 **TITLE:** Prevent Plantation Perversion

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 American plantations have a history of the forced brutality and torture of African Americans. Most
10 Americans are desensitized to this dark time in our nation's past. Over the years, the number of
11 plantation weddings and celebrations has slowly increased. The practice of celebrating and exploiting
12 these historical plantations perverts these locations and directly ignores their past and present purpose.

13
14 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

15 To prohibit the use of historical plantations as a location for public events besides the purpose of
16 education. This would go into effect within the next two years, and would not conflict with any previously
17 planned celebrations.

18
19 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

20 This bill will require no funding.

21
22
23 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

24 Failure to comply with this bill will result in a \$1,500 fine



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 135**

3 Clovis Layrisson

Metairie Park Country Day School

4
5 **TITLE:** The "Louisiana Restaurant Allergen Disclosure Act." (LRAD)

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 This act aims to address the growing concern for public health and safety by requiring restaurants in
9 Louisiana to provide allergen and nutritional information to their customers. The absence of easily
10 accessible allergen and nutritional information can pose significant risks to individuals with food allergies
11 or specific dietary requirements. According to studies, specifically the 'Impact of Menu Labeling on
12 Consumer Behavior: A 2008-2012 Update,' this bill will serve to inform and protect consumers, promoting
13 healthier food choices and reducing the incidence of food-related allergies in the state of Louisiana.

14 **Defined Terms:**

15 "Allergen Information": Information detailing the presence of common allergens in food items, including
16 but not limited to, nuts, dairy, soy, gluten, and shellfish.

17 "Nutritional Information": Information providing details about the nutritional content of food items, such
18 as calories, fats, carbohydrates, and protein.

19
20 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

21 To implement this law in Louisiana, the following actions will be taken:

22 All restaurants in the state of Louisiana shall be required to maintain and regularly update a detailed list
23 of allergen information and nutritional content for each food item on their menu.

24 Restaurants shall prominently display this information on their menus, menu boards, or on separate
25 allergen and nutritional information sheets made available to customers upon request.

26 Restaurants shall be required to update the information to reflect any changes in menu items or
27 ingredients.

28
29 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

30 This law requires no financing because it is something the restaurants do independently. The job of
31 enforcing it will become part of the job of Louisiana food inspectors.

32 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

33 Violation of this law, including failure to provide accurate and up-to-date allergen and nutritional
34 information, shall result in penalties as follows:

35 For the first offense, a warning and a period for correction.

36 For subsequent offenses, fines as determined by the regulatory agency and potential suspension or
37 revocation of the restaurant's operating license.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 136**

3 Lyric LaFrance

Dutchtown High School

4 Madison Bechet

5
6 **TITLE: Implementing Mandatory Sex Education in Schools**

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

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

15
16
17
18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 This bill would be implemented at the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year. This would apply to all
20 public schools in Louisiana.

21
22 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

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

24
25 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

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



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023

SENATE BILL 137

Hayden Singh

Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

TITLE: PIE (Promote Industrial Electrification)

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Despite being dead average in population, Louisiana ranks 7th in the nation for total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and 5th in carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. Of those emissions, 66% come from industry, much greater than the national average of 17%. If Louisiana wants to make a dent in GHG emissions and, by extension, climate change, we must start by electrifying the industrial and petrochemical processes that support our state's economy. Industrial electrification is defined as the process of switching from oil and carbon-based fuels to electricity in order to power industrial machines and processes, most of which are heat generation processes such as boiling, melting, and cracking. PIE proposes a multi-step approach to successfully electrify Louisiana's industry so as to not simply shift GHG emissions from industrial processes to energy production. The final goal of PIE is to significantly reduce Louisiana's carbon footprint by creating avenues and incentives for industry to adopt clean technologies.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Establish Federal Funding Procurement Taskforce (FFPT) with three main goals:

Assist industry in vying for competitive Federal decarbonization grants.

Acquiring these funds will accelerate the rate at which Louisiana's industry can electrify and thus decarbonize.

Assist LSU, UL, and SU systems in applying for clean energy and industrial research grants.

These will allow Louisiana to become a hub for clean technology R&D and give Louisiana a head start on implementing new technologies simply based on proximity.

Assist the state in acquiring Federal clean and renewable energy funding.

This will prepare the state's energy producers to meet the increased energy demand caused by Industrial Electrification.

Provide funding for plants and refineries for the purpose of purchasing and implementing electrification technology (such as electric boilers and hydrogen fueling). These funds will be allocated and their use will be audited by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

This will make industrial electrification as easy as possible for Louisiana's chemical plants

Cut top-end corporate income tax rate from 7.5% to 6% for companies that produce/ begin producing renewable energy.

This will drive down the price of energy and catalyze growth of renewable energy in Louisiana, increasing the feasibility and benefit of industrial electrification.

1 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

2 Funding for the FFPT will come from the \$200,000,000+ of the Louisiana total budget surplus allocated
3 for capital outlay projects (essentially extra money for the state to spend on random projects).

4 Funding given directly to plants for industrial electrification (Section II.2) will come from the
5 \$435,000,000 appropriated for clean energy and power in Louisiana as part of the Bipartisan
6 Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act.

7 Unforeseen DEQ expenditures that exceed their existing budget as a result of the actions in section II.2
8 will be covered by the capital outlay fund.

9
10
11 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

12 Funding for the FFPT will come from the \$200,000,000+ of the Louisiana total budget surplus allocated
13 for capital outlay projects (miscellaneous unallocated funds).

14 Funding given directly to plants for industrial electrification (Section II.2) will come from the
15 \$435,000,000 appropriated for clean energy and power in Louisiana as part of the Bipartisan
16 Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act.

17 Unforeseen DEQ expenditures that exceed their existing budget as a result of the actions in section II.2
18 will be covered by the capital outlay fund.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 138**

3 Adam Gombos Episcopal School of Acadiana

4
5 **TITLE:** Promoting Volunteering Among Students in Louisiana High Schools

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 In the United States of America, roughly 26 percent of high school students spend time volunteering in
9 their communities. Louisiana is the state with the lowest rate of high school participation in volunteerism
10 in the country, as only 14 percent of high schoolers in Louisiana spend time volunteering. In many cases,
11 volunteering can provide an opportunity for students to develop career skills, show responsibility, and
12 gain leadership experience while performing meaningful tasks for their community. Louisiana high school
13 students' lack of participation in volunteer activities can be improved upon with this bill by starting a
14 state-wide program to promote high school volunteering. As a result of the implementation of this bill,
15 more students will have an opportunity to volunteer and, thereby, gain valuable experience and knowledge
16 that can be useful to their future careers. Although, currently, students in Louisiana can earn a diploma
17 endorsement through community service, this bill would allow students to earn an academic credit for
18 their involvement in volunteering.

19
20 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

21 Louisiana's Department of Education will establish the High School Credit Volunteer Program, in which high
22 school students will have the opportunity to earn academic credits for their volunteer work. Twenty-five
23 hours of volunteer work will be required to earn an academic credit, and the hours will be logged by the
24 schools that decide to participate in the program. The program will provide information about volunteer
25 opportunities and levels of student participation. This bill will go into effect starting in the next academic
26 year in 2024-2025.

27
28
29 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

30 This bill will require no funding since the establishment of the volunteer program does not require hiring
31 staff for the schools, nor does it require the Department of Education to spend money to notify students
32 of volunteer opportunities.

33
34 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

35 There are no penalties for this bill, as the participation of a high school in this program is entirely
36 voluntary.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 139**

3 Arun Cacodcar Episcopal School of Acadiana

4
5 **TITLE:** Establishing Governmental Internet for All

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 The internet has become a fundamental part of today's society. Without it, people are at a disadvantage
9 in education and financial stability. It appears that such a vital piece of advancement should be reasonably
10 available for everyone. Yet, so many are left without this basic necessity. Louisiana ranks poorly in
11 internet service and stability. According to a 2022 survey conducted by Louisiana State University, twenty
12 percent of people do not have access to the internet at home, and five percent possess neither home nor
13 cell phone internet availability in Louisiana. Internet is essential to the pursuit of education, and it is very
14 important as Louisiana ranks 46th in education.

15 The primary reason for this lack of internet access is private internet companies. These companies set
16 rates extremely high and dominantly control a region: for example, COX in New Orleans. These broadband
17 companies provide better access to more affluent areas in a region. This disproportionately affects low-
18 income areas and minority regions. It perpetuates a cycle of poverty. The local Louisiana government
19 needs to establish its own internet service to compete with the insane pricing and lack of availability by
20 these companies. It has been shown that government-owned networks provide internet for cheaper and
21 more reliably than these companies.

22
23 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

24 Louisiana will set up municipal broadband networks in low-income and rural areas to provide those with
25 no access or unstable internet connection by utilizing either cable, satellite, fiber optics, or hotspots; as
26 well as, create formal regulations against private internet providers' pricing and control in regions of
27 Louisiana.

28
29 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

30 The federal government allocated more than 1.3 billion dollars for Louisiana's expansion of the internet
31 via its bipartisan infrastructure law. Funding will be distributed throughout regions as needed from this
32 sum.

33
34 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

35 There are no penalties needed.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 140**

3 Josephine LaGraize

Metairie Park Country Day School

4
5 **TITLE:** Teaming Up With Louisiana Teens

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 To help get mental healthcare for people in need of mental healthcare, but can not afford the care they
9 need, between the ages of 13-18. In Louisiana about 18.6% of people live below the poverty line which
10 can make it harder to obtain the mental health resources they need. A study done by the National
11 Institute of Mental Health shows that 49.5% of adolescents. Untreated adolescent mental health affects
12 all aspects of these adolescents' lives such as school and social lives. Untreated adolescent mental health
13 can also lead to poor decision making, substance abuse, and violence.

14
15 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

16 A government website called "Teaming Up With Louisiana Teens" will provide information about
17 adolescent mental health and mental health care to users as well as allow adolescents and their parents
18 that are below the poverty line to set meetings with psychiatrists at a discounted rate. The discount on
19 the service will be 75% that the family would have to pay out of pocket. To make sure that people who are
20 not below the poverty line abuse this resource the child's parent or parents will have to fill out a form
21 with their income and confirmation from their employer. Another feature of this website will allow licensed
22 psychiatrists to volunteer to provide their services free of charge to adolescents ages 13-18 in need of
23 their services. So people who are not licensed do not abuse this service there will be a way for the
24 psychiatrist to confirm that they are licensed on the website.

25
26 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

27 Where funding is needed, Teaming Up With Louisiana Teens will be funded by the Community Mental
28 Health Services Block Grant.

29
30 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

31 Penalties do not apply.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 141**

3 Bailey Stine Alexandria Senior High

4
5 **TITLE:** Increase the security and job protection in an increasingly Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered world.

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 This bill seeks to improve job security in Louisiana in an increasingly AI-powered world. We see AI used in
9 our everyday run of life. From self-checkout machines to banking, from our smart home devices to our
10 refrigerators, we see it everywhere. While this can help improve quality of life, it is also taking away many
11 jobs across our state. Healthcare workers, service industries, and e-commerce jobs are quickly being taken
12 over by robots and AI-powered machines written by code. This is problematic because these jobs are
13 necessary to keep Louisiana residents above the poverty line. Currently, as of 2022, 19% of Louisiana
14 residents are under this line, and that means that they are not meeting income requirements to live. By
15 limiting AI use we can open jobs and hopefully bring more Louisianans above that line.

16
17 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

18 Require businesses possessing self-checkout and self-service machines to have limited use during
19 standard business hours, and have checkout options that include physical checkout locations. Additionally,
20 require healthcare workers to be present in all procedures where AI or robots are used.

21
22 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

23 Possible tax breaks for said companies, however, no state funding is necessary.

24
25
26 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

27 The company will be required to pay 5% of the revenue acquired during the period of non-manned self-
28 checkout for a first offense, later offenses will require further taxation.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 142**

3 Nile Batiste Southern University Laboratory School

4
5 **TITLE:** Create a Bypass in the city of Baton Rouge

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Do you hate being stuck in traffic especially when you are on your way to school or to the biggest football
9 game of the year? Traffic is a big issue in major cities such as New York, Los Angeles, Atlanta and
10 countless others. Baton Rouge is ranked 5th in the nation for having the worst traffic out of 80 major
11 cities in the country. Commuters in our city lose more than 100 hours a year to extra drive times caused
12 by traffic congestion. Traffic is a massacre in our capital city almost every day. The answer to solve this
13 continual problem is to build a bypass in the city. If you don't know what a bypass is, it's an interstate
14 road that has a shorter route that avoids the downtown or central business district of a city. For example,
15 local cities like New Orleans and Shreveport have bypasses called I-610 and I-220. How come all the
16 major cities in the state of Louisiana have a loop, but our own capital city does not have one? Building a
17 bypass in our capital city will not only ease our horrific traffic nightmares but will also give our capital
18 city new infrastructure. Building this bypass away from the bustling areas of Baton Rouge will help
19 transportation flow better and reduce congestion on a daily basis. We must step up to improve our traffic
20 to avoid future traffic incidents and loss of driving hours.

21
22 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

23 This project will be effective immediately if passed. Less congested areas of Baton Rouge will be surveyed
24 and selected to put this project to fruition. The project will take several years to construct and eminent
25 domain will be used in the chosen areas. As time moves on, road closures can be expected in the area
26 where the bypass will be built. Construction will take place every day except on holidays and days of
27 inclement weather.

28
29 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

30 The project will be financed by the Louisiana State Budget and will be supervised by The Louisiana
31 Department of Transportation and Development for a cost of \$ dollars. For every mile of a road that is
32 built, that's worth \$8 millions dollars each.

33
34 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

35 NA



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 143**

3 Khaleb Smith Southern University Laboratory School

4
5 **TITLE:** Legalize pycoplín for medical use

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Magic mushrooms also known as psilocybin have been used all around the United States to help solve
9 mental health issues. But many states such as Oregon and Maryland have already decriminalized
10 psilocybin or “magic mushrooms” for therapeutic usage despite the studies that show otherwise. Studies
11 have shown that psilocybin can work faster than an anxiety medication called escitalopram, that is
12 prescribed to most people. Psilocybin can trigger a nerve in the brain that is responsible for emotions and
13 memory and can restore neurogenesis or the process when new neurons are grown in the brain. As this
14 won’t replace other medicines given to them but can be seen as another treatment. This bill could help
15 people with undergoing mental health issues by developing other treatments.

16
17 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

18 Initially, we should set up a health task force composed of doctors and scientists as done in many other
19 states such as Texas, Utah, and Washington to gain better knowledge of what type of mental health
20 issues are available for this treatment as well as what type of mushrooms to use. The law would be
21 passed and patients with underlying mental illness can consult with their doctors to be given a new
22 treatment plan that would include psilocybin. This could also include patients who have been newly
23 diagnosed with mental illness. After this is done the bill should be implemented by the end of 2024 year.

24
25 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

26 No Funding Needed

27
28 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

29 NA



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 144**

3 Harmoni Proctor

Southern University Laboratory School

4 Dynastee Jacobs

5
6 **TITLE: Mandatory Bullying Prevention Programs for High School Students**

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Suicide has always been an issue for many years. Many times, suicide is a final consequence, as a result of
10 "bullying." Bullying may take many forms, whether it is race, socioeconomic status, or obesity. This led to
11 severe depression and other mental issues. In Louisiana the most common death from people ages 10-24
12 is suicide. Approximately 700 people committed in 2021, of that 700, at least 30 of them were teens.
13 When the discussion is brought about during school hours they always suggest seeing the guidance
14 counselor or an outside friend, family, or personal therapist. But are these methods not always efficient?
15 Most students are afraid or just do not like the idea of speaking up knowing themselves or others are
16 depressed and are trying to attempt suicide. If schools had better programs to catch and treat depression
17 and mental illness and help students see that they have support to talk to someone.

18
19 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

20 Students in public schools should have access to an actual character development course that focuses on
21 the effects of bullying and the intended and unintended consequences. Programs should be given to
22 teachers and any other students who want to help defeat this issue. The programs should consist of
23 seeing the signs of mental issues which can be found and picked up on from background evaluation, or the
24 actions and responses found by students and peers. There should also be a program for preventing
25 bullying and having the information of someone being bullied acted upon immediately instead of two or
26 three actions later.

27
28 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

29 Funding will come from the local school district

30
31 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

32 NA



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 145**

3 Kalen Williams

Southern University Laboratory School

4
5
6 **TITLE:** Establish an appeal board within the Louisiana State Department of Education to allow students the
7 ability to appeal graduation requirements.

8
9 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

10 The state-wide graduation rate in Louisiana is 85% but for students who learn English it is 41%. This rate
11 is mainly because of leap state testing. Many high school students do not pass LEAP 2025 graduation
12 requirements, but are very good students with good grades in the classroom. Many of these students
13 (40-60%) in the US struggle with test taking anxiety. With this bill students in Louisiana who are unable
14 to graduate from high school due to a failing LEAP exam will be entitled to appeal the decision. If their
15 appeal is successful, students will be able to demonstrate mastery of course material, among other things,
16 through a portfolio, but they will still be required to complete other graduation criteria. Other students
17 who are at a disadvantage on standardized tests, such as those who have dyslexia would benefit from the
18 appeals process as well.

19
20 In order to be granted an appeal, a student must additionally provide "evidence of employability," such as
21 passing the TOPS Tech professional Diploma or TOPS University course requirements and completing the
22 ACT WorkKeys assessment, which measures professional readiness. In addition, they have to finish a
23 portfolio of work that satisfies the requirements for the LEAP courses. No earlier than their senior year,
24 students may file an appeal of the LEAP requirement.

25
26
27 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

28 The bill will be passed on January 1st, 2024. The seniors will be allowed to appeal the leap test only
29 during their senior year

30
31 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

32 No funding needed

33
34 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

35 NA



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2023**

2 **SENATE BILL 146**

3 Mekelle Parker

Southern University Laboratory School

4 Angel Willis

5
6 **TITLE:** Remove standardized testing after 8th grade

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 This bill is to provide recognition that Standardized testing does not accurately measure students'
10 learning growth, and it is a complete misuse of the school's educational learning time. Many students get
11 tired and rush through the test, often to take a nap. Research proven by The National Institutes of Health
12 has found that teenagers scientifically need more sleep than the average adult because they are at the
13 peak of their physical, intellectual, and emotional growth stage. By administering standardized tests, we
14 are not accurately understanding the specific skills and needs of their abilities to perform at their best.
15 Therefore, it is important to reevaluate the use of standardized testing and explore more effective ways
16 to assess students' knowledge. According to Elect-a-blog, Over \$1.7 billion is spent on standardized
17 testing in the US per year. Another \$699 million is spent on elementary assessments. Between \$34-65
18 per student a year is spent by the states for the same cause. With this intent, the nation would be able to
19 use these federal funds currently used for testing to pay back debts and for other financial needs.

20
21 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

22 If passed, this bill will take place in April 2025. Instead of having students frantic trying to study for
23 multiple tests, teachers should try finding alternative assignments that'll still show the student's
24 understanding of the course. Assignments such as projects, teacher evaluations, Socratic Seminars, etc.
25 With this teachers will have to prepare their students to pass the class so they should be provided with
26 professional development opportunities so they can become familiar with the new assessment systems
27 and have the skills they need to successfully apply alternative methods in the future.

28
29 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

30 This bill will not require any funding because of its purpose to reduce the amount of unnecessary federal
31 funding currently.

32
33 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

34 NA

35