



2 **SENATE BILL 43**

3 George Scully

Catholic High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Reformation of the Louisiana Driver's Licence System

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Every few years citizens are required to renew their driver's license. This is a fairly standard procedure:
9 go into a DMV, fill out some paperwork, pay a fee, take a picture, and the process is complete.
10 However, for an additional fee and a few hours of online paperwork, said citizens can also get a star on
11 their driver's license allowing them to use it as a passport in the United States. This is where the
12 "Reformation of the Louisiana Driver's Licence System" bill comes in. The bill will cut out the additional
13 few hours of paperwork required for citizens to get the star on their passport and instead will allow
14 them to get the star with the renewal of their license.

15
16 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

17 In the implementation of this bill, some (not all) of the paperwork will be transferred over (such as
18 questions asking about criminal offenses, if their on a no-fly list, etc.) to the driver's license renewal
19 paperwork, and the fee to renew said license would slightly rise (as to make up for the money lost in
20 eliminating the other process).

21
22 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

23 While funding is not required for this bill, any potential funding will come from the revenue generated
24 by the Louisiana Lottery.

25
26 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

27 Citizens who have committed major, not minor, offenses will not be eligible for a special license, and will
28 instead be forced to use their standard passport (which will convey more information about the person
29 who is going to fly on the plane to airport security).



2 **SENATE BILL 44**

3 Brennan Coco

Catholic High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Lionfish Rodeo

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Lionfish are a non-native, invasive species in many different marine ecosystems, including the Gulf of
9 Mexico. Lionfish cause major disturbances to food webs in many ecosystems since they have no natural
10 predators and compete for resources with native species. On top of this, they produce and release tens
11 of thousands of eggs every three days year-round, unlike most reef species that spawn once a year.
12 Ecosystems in the Gulf of Mexico, such as coral reefs, artificial reefs, and wrecks have all been impacted
13 by the lionfish. The lionfish preys on many different species including herbivores, which are responsible
14 for keeping algal growth in check and ensuring a healthy reef ecosystem. Without healthy reef
15 ecosystems around the coastlines, Louisiana and the United States will be unprotected from hurricanes,
16 erosion, powerful waves, and a significant decrease in biodiversity in the oceans. Additionally,
17 thousands of Louisiana residents will be unprepared for a change in livelihoods and the collapse of
18 several major industries. To prevent these devastating events from happening, the LDWF will host a
19 year-round lionfish rodeo. People will spearfish lionfish and keep the tails to win prizes.

20
21 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

22 This would go into effect starting January 2023. There will be checkpoint locations at dive centers,
23 marinas, and other qualifying establishments to turn the tails in. There will be a \$50 entry fee per
24 person to cover the cost of managing the rodeo, prizes for winners, and financial incentives for
25 checkpoint locations. At the end of the year, prizes will be distributed to people who qualified. There
26 will be different tiers based on the number of lionfish caught. Registration opens in December for the
27 next year's rodeo and is open all year.

28
29 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

30 No funding is required for the implementation of this bill since the entry fee will fund the rodeo costs.

31
32 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

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

2 **SENATE BILL 45**

3 Thomas O'Connor Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

4
5 **TITLE:** Expanding Access to School Choice6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**8 An educational voucher program is a program wherein students are given money from the state that
9 would otherwise be used for their education at a public school which they can spend towards the cost
10 of attending a private (or other nonpublic) school. Currently, there are two educational voucher
11 programs in Louisiana: the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program and the School
12 Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities.13 The Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program seeks to aid low-income students in low-
14 performing schools. To be eligible, the student's family income must be below 250% of the national
15 poverty line, and they must (1) attend a public school rated C, D, or F, (2) be enrolled at a public school
16 in a Recovery School District, or (3) be entering kindergarten. Students must also participate in state
17 testing to be a part of the program. This voucher is renewable. The voucher is equal to either the state
18 allocation per student in the student's home school district or the tuition charged by the private school
19 (whichever is less).20 The School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities seeks to provide students with
21 exceptionalities the ability to access educational services explicitly addressing their needs. To be
22 eligible, the students must be diagnosed with one of the following learning exceptionalities: autism, a
23 mental disability, emotional disturbance, developmental delay, specific learning disability, or traumatic
24 brain injury. The private school where these vouchers are used must also have established programs to
25 serve students with special needs for at least two years before application. The student must also (1)
26 have an Individualized Education Plan, (2) reside in a parish with more than 190,000 residents, (3) be
27 eligible to attend public school, and (5) not have been deemed gifted and talented. This voucher is
28 renewable. The voucher is equal to either 50% of the state allocation per student in the student's home
29 school district or the tuition charged by the private school (whichever is less).30 This bill would extend these voucher opportunities to all Louisiana students and administer them
31 through Educational Savings Accounts. The Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program would
32 have its eligibility requirements expanded to include all Louisiana students regardless of family income
33 and all public schools and districts. However, the students eligible must have (1) attended a public
34 school in the school year, (2) be entering kindergarten, or (3) have attended a public school for at least
35 45 full-time instruction days of the school year in which they apply for a voucher. The voucher would
36 then be renewable each year up to the student's high school graduation or when they turn twenty-one.
37 The voucher will equal either the state allocation per student in the student's home school district or
38 the tuition charged by the private school (whichever is less).39 The money would be allocated to the students through an Educational Savings Account program. In
40 this program, parents remove their children from public districts or charter schools and receive a
41 deposit of public funds into a government-authorized account. The funds in this account (which will be
42 accessed via an online platform) can go towards covering private school tuition and fees, online learning
43 programs, and private tutoring. This will allow Louisiana students to choose which educational
44 opportunity is best for them.45 The School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities will remain unchanged, but
46 students applying for that program (which has enrollment caps) will also be able to apply for the newly
47 expanded program. Thereby, they will have the opportunity to be considered for vouchers of higher
48 value.

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SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Effective January 1, 2023, the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program, as established under RS 17:4014, shall be amended to:

- (1) Eliminate the maximum income requirement for program eligibility,
- (2) Eliminate the requirement for students to have been previously enrolled in a class C-, D-, or F-rated public school for program eligibility,
- (3) Eliminate the requirement for students to have been previously enrolled at a public school in a Recovery School District for program eligibility,
- (4) Eliminate the requirement for students to have mandated state testing for program eligibility,
- (5) Require students to either: have attended a public school in the previous school year for program eligibility, be currently enrolled in kindergarten, or have attended a public school in the current school year for at least 45 full-time instructional days,
- (6) Authorize allotted funds for each student to be deposited into an Educational Savings Account upon acceptance into the program,
- (7) Grant parents access and make payments from the Educational Savings Account account through an online platform,
- (8) Authorize payments from the Educational Savings Account for private-school tuition and fees, online learning programs, and private tutoring,
- (9) Allow students currently enrolled in or applying to the School Choice Program for Certain Students with Exceptionalities to apply and receive admission from this program.

SECTION III: FUNDING

The Louisiana Department of Education shall allocate funds annually from funds appropriated or otherwise available for the program an amount per pupil to each participating school equal to the amount allocated per pupil as provided in the minimum foundation program formula, inclusive of the calculations of both the local and state per-pupil allocations, to the local school system in which the scholarship recipient resides, considering all student characteristics. For a participating school that charges tuition, if the maximum amount of tuition plus incidental or supplementary fees that are charged to non-scholarship students enrolled in such school and any costs incurred in administering the required tests is less than the amount allocated per pupil to the local school system in which the student resides, then the amount allocated per pupil to the school shall be equal to the sum of such maximum tuition amount, such incidental or supplementary fees charged to non-scholarship students, and such testing costs.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

No penalties are necessary for this bill.



2 **SENATE BILL 46**

3 Isabella Knighten

University Lab School

4 Guin Falcon

5
6 **TITLE:** Reinstate Home Economics Classes

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Educating students on necessary life skills is important. This bill would benefit students by having them
10 learn skills used in daily life like cooking, sewing, and money management. Students would then have
11 these skills when they go off on their own and become independent after high school.

12
13 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

14 Because students in Louisiana are required to take one semester of health classes, this bill would
15 require that the other semester be used to teach students valuable life skills in a Home Economics class.
16 The curriculum would be decided and standardized by the Louisiana Board of Education following the
17 passage of this bill.

18
19 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

20 This bill would require no funding or addition of teachers to the staff. No special training is required for
21 teachers to teach this class.

22
23 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

24 If a student does not complete the required half credit of Home Economics, they will not be eligible for
25 graduation. Schools will be held accountable for offering this class at the start of the next full school
26 year after the passage of this bill. This bill would not affect the graduation status of any student
27 graduating before the passage of this bill.

2 **SENATE BILL 47**

3 Lucy Nguyen University Laboratory School

4 Ava Creel

5
6 **TITLE: Bring Back the Books**7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Censorship in schools is a pressing issue that faces Louisiana. The Federal Government and many
9 states—Louisiana included—have banned books from the libraries of public high schools. More often than
10 not, the books banned promote the diversity and celebration of non-white ethnicities, LGBT
11 identification, and political ideologies. Banning these books is a way for school board officials to
12 prevent students from reading and learning about topics in a manner that conflicts with their personal
13 narratives and opinions. Banning books is not about protecting a student’s education, it’s about
14 monitoring and modifying how high schoolers think about themselves and others. Groups in favor of the
15 book-banning process cite it as the parent’s responsibility to teach their children about these topics,
16 hindering the exposure to multiple viewpoints that raise questions and prompt thinking from students.
17 Louisiana’s youth deserve the fullest education possible, complete with a diverse background knowledge
18 of points that may be considered controversial by the general public. If we shelter them from the topics
19 they seek out, how can we build a functioning and free-thinking society that will one day be leading our
20 great state? How can we guarantee that one’s opinions and thoughts remain educated and uninfluenced
21 by those in power with ulterior motives? The only solution is to unban the books.

22 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

23 To promote education and unlimited learning, any public high school in Louisiana is eligible to receive a
24 stimulus payment of \$114 per student, two percent of the per pupil expenditure in Louisiana. To receive
25 this stimulus, the high school must not ban any book from its high school library shelves and have at
26 least one of each book from this list of commonly banned books in Louisiana: To Kill A Mockingbird by
27 Harper Lee, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain, Brave New World by Aldous Huxley, A
28 Lesson Before Dying by Ernest J. Gaines, Beloved by Toni Morrison, Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison, The
29 Color Purple by Alice Walker, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou, The Great Gatsby by F.
30 Scott Fitzgerald, Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury, and Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger. The estimated
31 total cost to purchase a single copy of each of these books is \$172.93. To successfully complete the
32 requirements in order to receive the stimulus, the public school must be in accordance with both of
33 these requirements from the first school day until the last school day of the school year. If these
34 requirements are violated at any time during the school year, the public school will not receive a
35 stimulus at the end of the school year but will be considered the next year. Each year that a public
36 school follows these guidelines a stimulus will be received; there is no limit on how many times a public
37 school can follow these guidelines and receive a stimulus. Employees from the Louisiana Board of
38 Education will regulate each school that chooses to enforce these guidelines, visiting semi-annually to
39 ensure that all guidelines are being properly followed.

40 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

41 In the state budget plan for the 2022–2023 Fiscal Year, the Louisiana Department of Education
42 receives over eight billion dollars in both discretionary and non-discretionary spending. With around
43 637,000 students in Louisiana public schools, taking 2% of Louisiana’s per pupil expenditure would sum
44 to just under \$73 million added to the budget. However, Louisiana only spends around 7.2 billion dollars
45 currently according to the statistics provided by the World Population Review. This leaves eight million
46 unspent dollars for extra education projects with the stimulus taking up less than a tenth of that.

47 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

48 All public schools that participate and uphold the integrity of the actions outlined in this bill shall
49 receive a stimulus. No penalties shall be issued to public schools that do not participate.



2 **SENATE BILL 48**

3 Brice Doty dutchtown high School

4
5 **TITLE:** Food for all

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 1 in 4 children in Louisiana faces hunger. In a first world nation things like this shouldn't happen
9 everyone should have the chance to have a meal.

10 This bill provides a meal to every student who needs it.

11 This will boost test scores because students who are hungry score worse on tests .

12 It would decrease under sickness as hungry children get sick more often .

13
14 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

15 This bill seeks to address that by providing free school lunches for every Public School student and any
16 private schools students whose private schools opt-in on the program. Meals will apply to all nutritional
17 standards set by the Department of agriculture's guidelines.

18
19 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

20 The money for the free meals would be provided by the taxes of the local school zone. If a local school
21 is unable to provide free School meals; they will get a subsidy from the state government so that they
22 will be able to provide free meals that will be determined on a case-by-case basis by how much money
23 each individual school needs .

24 Implemented the 2023-2024 school year

25
26 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

27 n/a



2 **SENATE BILL 49**

3 Michael Seidemann Dutchtown Highschool

4
5 **TITLE:** Prevention of New Offshore Construction of Oil Rigs

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 This bill will aim to prevent the growth of the oil industry in Louisiana in order to combat climate
9 change and carbon emissions. All construction of oil rigs in the Louisiana water territory will be
10 prohibited after the bill's implementation. For reference, the Louisiana ocean territory extends three
11 nautical miles out from the coastline. Oil rigs can be offshore by at least a couple hundred meters,
12 eliminating construction of oil rigs like this will prevent a lot of potential damage to our atmosphere.
13 This will not affect the economy or welfare for Louisiana workers, as this is not removing any jobs.
14 When demand from the people for electricity increases, severance taxes (12.5%) already implemented
15 from the oil industry will help fund cleaner energy alternatives, such as wind and solar. The fines from
16 the penalties will also go toward cleaner energy alternatives. Though oil rigs or refineries will not be
17 decommissioned, the demand for gasoline for automobiles will inevitably increase, causing an increase
18 in price for gasoline, as it would need to be transported out of state. Even with these issues, it is
19 absolutely necessary that we begin cutting down on carbon emissions. Saving important parts of
20 Louisiana historically and economically from rising sea level requires these minor sacrifices.

21
22
23 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

24 July 1st, 2023.

25
26
27 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

28 No funding is necessary for this bill.

29
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31 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

32 500 million dollar fine to the company responsible, unauthorized construction of a rig will be halted and
33 then decommissioned if a rig begins construction after the bill's implementation.

34

2 **SENATE BILL 50**

3 Ethan Helton Dutchtown High School

4 **TITLE:** Mandated Passenger Rail Transportation throughout the State of Louisiana5 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

6 The National Railroad Passenger Corporation, more commonly known as Amtrak, is the primary method
7 of interstate and intercity passenger transportation via rail. Amtrak is federally owned but operates as
8 a corporation. Most of Amtrak's routes (In the context of this bill, a route is a passenger train between
9 two urban centers with stops along the line for more rural areas) are operated federally, such as The
10 Acela Express (Washington DC to Boston), or The Sunset Limited (Los Angeles to New Orleans).

11 However, some states have created their own specific routes such as The Pacific Surfliner (San Diego to
12 San Luis Obispo) and The Cascades (Eugene to Vancouver). Currently, there are only seven Amtrak
13 Stations in Louisiana that mostly serve The Sunset Limited, with New Orleans being the terminus station
14 (A terminus is the name of the starting or ending station on a line) for The Sunset Limited, The Crescent
15 (New York to New Orleans), and The City of New Orleans (Chicago to New Orleans). Amtrak is mostly
16 sustained by its own revenue from tickets, food, drink, and other sales of onboard luxuries. However, it
17 routinely requires some federal or state funding to stay solvent, simply due to the nature of the
18 venture. For example, The Cascades made a revenue of \$35.4 million, with an annual 900,000 riders,
19 but required a further \$20 million worth of funding to support the rest of the route. However, if we
20 build an effective passenger rail network, we can take more people off the road, reducing climate
21 change, traffic, and increasing the general well-being throughout our state.

22 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

23 This bill will be enacted on January 1st, 2023. Upon the enactment of this bill, the State will begin
24 negotiations with common freight carriers, including, but not limited to Canadian Pacific, Kansas City
25 Southern, and Union Pacific, for trackage rights. The state will also begin renovating currently operated
26 stations. After trackage rights are secured, the State will buy new Siemens Mobility SC-44 Charger
27 locomotives and Venture trainsets. These will support the new mandated routes of New Orleans to
28 Baton Rouge, Shreveport to Monroe, Lake Charles to New Orleans, Shreveport to Baton Rouge, and
29 Lafayette to New Orleans. These routes will have at least 2 trains a day, running from each terminus
30 and stopping at rural stations if required. A population center of over 1,000 people, that has a
31 connection with the current trackage, will be considered for the construction of a station where these
32 trains will stop. One can only expect economic growth, as we will be creating new jobs, and connecting
33 existing jobs together, creating new opportunities in business. While we may run a short deficit in the
34 routes for some time, that may be the cost of improved transportation infrastructure and further
35 economic growth.

36 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

37 This bill will require \$500 million in funding for purchasing locomotives, rolling stock, renovating old
38 stations, and building new stations. Specifically, \$100 million will go toward locomotives, \$50 million
39 towards rolling stock, and \$200 million towards building new stations and renovating old ones. This will
40 also include a \$50 million budget increase for the Louisiana Department of Transportation and
41 Development (LADOTD) to support the new lines and the maintenance of the locomotives, rolling stock,
42 and stations. As for the track, we will only need to make agreements with existing freight carriers.
43 Amtrak normally leases the track it travels on, not directly owning it. The freight railroad gives them the
44 right to travel upon it, within corporate agreements. Most of the funding of this bill, \$100 Million, will
45 go towards negotiations with the freight carriers. The funding required for this bill will come from
46 federal grants and an increase in the price of Louisiana Lottery tickets or a 1% increase in taxes on
47 hotel or motel rentals.

48 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

49 There will be no penalties for this bill.



2 **SENATE BILL 51**

3 Holden Soileau

Lafayette High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Restoring Work Life Balance

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 As the cost of living, food, and gas continue to increase, people across Louisiana have had a more
9 difficult time making ends meet. People are working grueling amounts of hours just to scrape enough
10 money together just to put gas in the car. 94% of service professionals in the United States spend over
11 50 hours per week. 48% of Americans consider themselves to be "workaholics". There is an unhealthy
12 culture of non-stop work in this state and in this country. Companies across Louisiana have taken
13 advantage of their workers to squeeze every bit of profit that they can from their labor by making them
14 work unreasonable hours for meager wages. I believe that people should be able to work reasonable
15 hours and live off of those hours. The work week should be 4 days with 32 hours in a standard work
16 week with 8 hours in a work day.

17
18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 The work week will be split into 4 days: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. If an employee
20 works more than 32 hours in a work week, or works on more than 4 separate days throughout the
21 week, the employer must pay at a rate not any lower than 150% of their original rate for the time
22 worked more than 32 hours.

23 If an employee works more than 8 hours in a day, the employer must pay at a rate not any lower than
24 150% of their original rate for the time worked more than 8 hours in that day.

25 If an employee works more than 10 hours in a day, the employer must pay at a rate not any lower than
26 200% of their original rate for the time worked more than 10 hours in that day.

27 Employees will be compensated for the amount they would normally make in a 40 hour work week by
28 the government for 2 years.

29
30 This Bill should be implemented on March 5, 2023.

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32
33 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

34 Creates an income tax bracket of \$250,000 and over with a tax rate of 20%

35
36 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

37 Employers that violate this act will be forced to pay employees the amount they are owed and will be
38 fined \$5000 for each violation

2 **SENATE BILL 52**

3 Kathy Hu Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

4 Joey Roth

5
6 **TITLE:** Reduced Tuition for Undocumented Students7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Today, one out of every three students in higher education in the U.S. is a first or second-generation
10 immigrant or international student – a growing figure that underscores the importance of immigrant-
11 origin students in the classroom and workforce. The Presidents’ Alliance on Higher Education and
12 Immigration and the New American Economy estimate that, of this group, 427,000 are undocumented
13 students, who are often brought to the U.S. by family members or friends. Though they grow up and
14 attend school in the state they reside in, they generally do not have the same opportunities as other
15 students would have, such as affordably continuing their education beyond high school.

16
17 A leading factor that inhibits undocumented students (and other students for that matter) from
18 attending postsecondary institutions is the tuition required. To combat this issue, many states offer a
19 reduced in-state rate for students living in the state as a testament to their residence and tax dollars.
20 This division between in and out-of-state tuition can be drastic; in-state tuition can be up to 75%
21 lower than the latter. According to College Board, students without legal citizenship status currently
22 pay out-of-state tuition even if they are longtime residents of the state, which serves as a major
23 financial barrier for undocumented students statewide in attaining higher education. Still, in Louisiana,
24 no state policy has been implemented to protect undocumented students’ access to any level of in-state
25 tuition as tax-paying residents of the state.

26
27 Thirty-four states nationwide, including Texas, Utah, California, and Oklahoma, have introduced
28 policies allowing some level of access to in-state tuition for undocumented students. These states,
29 among others, offer comprehensive access, or statewide access to in-state tuition in all public colleges
30 and universities, for unauthorized students. Other states, such as Arizona, Pennsylvania, and Florida,
31 have provided more limited access: reduced in-state tuition rates at some public institutions.

32
33 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

34 Undocumented students in Louisiana will be allowed to pay 150% of the current public school in-state
35 tuition rates if they meet all requirements listed below. These students will follow all admissions
36 guidelines as presented by their chosen school and will be able to pay the decreased tuition once
37 accepted. This lowered rate will open up more opportunities for these students to obtain higher
38 education. Currently, while applying for in-state tuition at colleges in Louisiana, all students must
39 provide proof of residency in the state for at least one year. One way students can acquire Louisiana
40 residency is by averaging 35+ hours in school per week for one year. With this bill, undocumented
41 students must fall within stricter provisions, including a lengthened residency requirement as detailed
42 below, to receive 150% of the in-state tuition rate.

43
44 Requirements for an eligible undocumented student:

- 45 1. Has attended a Louisiana high school for three or more years
- 46 2. Has either graduated from a Louisiana high school or has earned a GED from Louisiana
- 47 3. Has signed an affidavit with the school stating that the student or the student’s guardians have filed
48 an application to legalize their immigration status, or will file an application as soon as they are eligible
49 to do so

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This bill will be implemented beginning on August 1, 2023.

SECTION III: FUNDING

The Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy estimates that undocumented immigrants in Louisiana paid around \$61,060,000, consisting of total state and local taxes in 2013. Since undocumented immigrants pay taxes to the state, their cumulative contribution to Louisiana’s tax system satisfy the financial means necessary to fund this increase in reduced tuition opportunities. Therefore, no additional funds will be necessary for the implementation of this bill.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If a college or university requires any undocumented student to pay the full out-of-state tuition rate despite proof of residency, they will be fined the difference between the out-of-state and the reduced tuition rates per student. The money collected will be distributed equally to public colleges that comply with this bill’s provisions.



2 **SENATE BILL 53**

3 Emma Grace McInnis

Captain Shreve High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Reduce the School Week to Four Days

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Students and teachers alike are feeling immense pressure and stress from the rigors of a five day
9 school week. In order to be competitive for college and scholarships, students have to participate in a
10 wide variety of extra-curricular activities. Due to a declining economy and high inflation rates, many
11 students must work at least one job to help pay the bills. Larger class sizes, lack of discipline, and more
12 responsibilities have teachers feeling more stress than ever before. A four-day school week for all
13 public high schools would help all of this. This would help with the teacher shortage by giving them an
14 extra day to plan and help with their mental health. Teacher pay will also stay the same per year. State
15 offices will stay open five days a week to allow teachers to get things done during the week. Four
16 Parishes across Louisiana have already implemented this and have seen great changes. Franklin
17 Parish's superintendent said that this has been a great change. North Caddo, a school in Caddo Parish,
18 has implemented this, and they have seen great effects. Acadia Parish implemented this after seeing the
19 successes of Avoyelles Parish, and they have noticed that their students are more motivated in the
20 classroom.

21
22
23 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

24 Once passed, the four-day school week will be implemented the following school year for public high
25 schools only. The school day will span from 8:30-4:30. This will be an eight-hour school day, so thirty
26 minutes to an hour will be added on. To fill this time, classes will be extended by nine minutes. Instead
27 of having a 55-minute class period, there will be a 64-minute class period. Louisiana requires 63,720
28 instructional minutes per year. If this was passed, There would be 36 weeks in the year, and 68,544
29 minutes of instructional learning time. The school year will be from approximately August 15th to May
30 20th. This schedule would still allow for all breaks to take place.

31
32
33 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

34 There is no funding necessary for this bill.

35
36
37 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

38 The penalty will be that the Parish will be charged a \$1,000 fine per school. Each additional year that
39 this is violated, will be another \$1,000 added to the fine.



2 **SENATE BILL 54**

3 Taylor Albert

Woodlawn High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Children for Incarcerated Women

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 32% of women are housed in state facilities and 68% of women are held in parish jails. 5% of these
9 women are in their last trimester while incarcerated. A common thing among women who have just given
10 birth is postpartum depression. Within 6 weeks after childbirth, 6.5% to 20% of women suffer from
11 postpartum depression. Postpartum depression is more common when the mother is stressed, being
12 incarcerated can increase stress. Louisiana allows, at maximum, 3 months for the child to be with their
13 mother. The World Health Organization states that a newborn should be breastfed for the first 6
14 months of their life. This nursery program would allow the mother to keep her baby for the first 6
15 months of their life, and then the baby will be given to the closest and best-fitting relative to the baby.
16 From there the mother will be allowed to have 3 days a week of mandatory visits so that the mother will
17 be able to see her child and form a connection. This program will not be available to any mothers who
18 have a past of child abuse and/or neglect. Once the mother gets out of prison and shows that within 3
19 years after getting out of jail that they have a steady income and can provide the child with a healthy
20 home life they can have full custody of the child.

21
22 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

23 This bill will be implemented immediately in any Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women and any
24 future women penitentiaries. The nursery will be monitored by a camera and a guard at all times. The
25 nursery should have enough capacity for 20 mothers and their children.

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

30 Funding will come from the Louisiana Corrections Department budget. The cost of this program will
31 fluctuate based on the number of children born.

32
33
34
35 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

36 If any Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women or any future women penitentiaries do not comply all
37 funding for this program will be lost until the program is reinstated.



2 **SENATE BILL 55**

3 Unmesh Chakravarty

Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies

4
5 **TITLE:** Stimulating Early Stage Venture Capital to Generate Economic Growth

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Economic growth refers to an increase in the production of goods and services in one period of time
9 relative to a previous period of time. Currently, Louisiana is ranked 47th when it comes to economic
10 growth. Ways to generate economic growth are to increase physical capital goods (buildings, machinery,
11 equipment, vehicles, tools, etc.), improve technology, grow the labor force, and increase human capital
12 (skills, specializations, etc.). The success and growth of startups and early stage companies will do all of
13 the above and aid in the generation of economic growth in Louisiana.

14
15 Early stage companies have newly developed a business model, but they require funding for growth and
16 positive cash flow. This funding comes from early stage investing and is called early stage venture
17 capital. These funds are collected for the purpose of supporting the development of the company's
18 products or services and cover all the investments a startup needs to generate positive and continuous
19 revenue.

20
21 Historically, early stage venture capital in Louisiana has been done by individuals with high net worth
22 and is sporadic and not well-organized. This does not provide the necessary capital and resources
23 needed for early stage companies. Venture funds (either out of state or from Louisiana's CAPCO) are
24 usually pooled to late stage companies which causes a gap in financing between early stage and late
25 stage companies. This can cause early stage companies (especially high technology companies) to not
26 get started, struggle for financing, or move out of Louisiana. This bill intends to create a government-
27 led fund with the purpose of identifying early stage companies and supplying them with early stage
28 venture capital.

29
30
31 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

32 The fund will be regulated by the Louisiana Office of Financial Institutions. Companies that are chosen
33 for investment through this fund must have tested their prototypes (if any), refined their service model,
34 and prepared a business plan. Additionally, companies may be generating revenue but cannot be
35 profitable.

36
37
38
39 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

40 Long-term capital gain tax rates will be increased by 3%. All capital gain generated from this fund will
41 be reimbursed into the fund.

42
43
44
45 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

46 No penalties are necessary.

2 **SENATE BILL 56**

3 Anna Skerrett

Lafayette High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Two Meals a Day (TMaD)6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Louisiana is currently ranked as having the worst child poverty rates statewide in the nation. In addition
9 to Louisiana's high child poverty rate, an estimated 27% of children facing food insecurity likely do not
10 qualify for federal assistance or programs such as SNAP. In order to combat child malnutrition in
11 Louisiana, TMaD proposes offering free school lunch and breakfast to all Louisianian students --not
12 just those attending low-income schools that are already reimbursed by the Community Eligibility
13 Program-- through their schools and school systems.

14
15 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

16 Beginning July 1st, 2024, all public schools in Louisiana will have the option to no longer charge
17 students or students' parents or guardians for student lunches or breakfasts and instead be reimbursed
18 by the Louisiana Department of Education or, if they qualify, the already existing National Community
19 Eligibility Program. If a school or school system reports the month's student lunch and breakfast costs
20 to the Louisiana Department of Education before the fifth day of the following month, the Department
21 of Education will be responsible for the reimbursement of the agreed public schools and school systems
22 for all student lunch and breakfast costs before the 25th day of the following month.

23
24
25 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

26 Meals proposed by the 2022-2023 Child Nutrition Program, of the Community Eligibility Provision, cost
27 2.85 dollars each at full price. Assuming every public school student in Louisiana eats free lunch and
28 breakfast for 180 school days in a year, it will cost a maximum of what is less than 4.33% of current
29 pupil spending and will be paid for by redirecting 4.33% of current pupil spending by the Louisiana
30 Department of Education to the breakfast and lunch reimbursements. Any unused funding for this bill
31 will be returned to the Department of Education for use in general pupil spending at the end of the
32 fiscal year.

33
34
35 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

36 If a school or school board does not comply with "Two Meals a Day" by choosing to continue charging
37 any students for cafeteria-provided lunch and/or breakfast while accepting the state reimbursement,
38 the entity will be fined the sum of the costs asked of the students/students' families as well as
39 reimburse those who did paid for lunch since the implementation of this bill. The fine will be assumed by
40 the Louisiana Department of Education and be used in future reimbursement as required by this bill.

41



2 **SENATE BILL 57**

3 Michael Seidemann Dutchtown High School

4
5
6 **TITLE:** Prevention of New Offshore Construction of Oil Rigs

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 This bill will aim to prevent the growth of the oil industry in Louisiana in order to combat climate
10 change and carbon emissions. All construction of oil rigs in the Louisiana water territory will be
11 prohibited after the bill's implementation. For reference, the Louisiana ocean territory extends three
12 nautical miles out from the coastline. Oil rigs can be offshore by at least a couple hundred meters,
13 eliminating construction of oil rigs like this will prevent a lot of potential damage to our atmosphere.

14
15 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

16 Implementation Date: July 1, 2023

17
18 This bill will not affect the economy or welfare for Louisiana workers, as this is not removing any jobs.
19 When demand from the people for electricity increases, severance taxes (12.5%) already implemented
20 from the oil industry will help fund cleaner energy alternatives, such as wind and solar.

21
22 The fines from the penalties will also go toward cleaner energy alternatives. Though oil rigs or
23 refineries will not be decommissioned, the demand for gasoline for automobiles will inevitably increase,
24 causing an increase in price for gasoline, as it would need to be transported out of state. Even with
25 these issues, it is absolutely necessary that we begin cutting down on carbon emissions. Saving
26 important parts of Louisiana historically and economically from rising sea level requires these minor
27 sacrifices.

28
29 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

30 No funding is necessary for this bill.

31
32 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

33 500 million dollar fine to the company responsible, unauthorized construction of a rig will be halted and
34 then decommissioned if a rig begins construction after the bill's implementation.



2 **SENATE BILL 58**

3 Jackson Whitlow

Catholic High School

4 Mason Ramsey

5
6 **TITLE:** Arcade Game Payout Requirement

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 In every community across Louisiana, there is a need to entertain people, especially young people. One
10 such form of entertainment is arcades. In arcades, there are several different types of games, one of
11 which includes redemption games. Redemption games include family favorites such as the Stop the Light
12 game, the Claw Machine, and of course, the Slot Machine. Slot Machines are a little different in that
13 they are only found in casinos. Unlike actual arcade games though, slot machines are regulated in that
14 they have a set monetary value of prizes that must be returned to players by law. This is done in order
15 to prevent casinos from taking advantage of individuals with low self-control and gambling addictions.
16 However, this principle of preventing entertainment retailers from taking advantage of their
17 unsuspecting customers is largely ignored within arcades, especially in Redemption games. Redemption
18 games are programmable, and almost every one of them is programmable to never give out physical
19 prizes or "jackpots" (large prizes, compared to the normal prizes given out by the machine), taking
20 advantage of the most easily manipulated population in history: children.

21
22 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

23 This bill will go into effect on January 1st, 2023. By January 1st, 2024, all arcades must have set their
24 redemption arcade games to have a 20% payout, or monetary return, to their customers. This can be
25 accomplished by altering the settings of different games to guarantee returns to the point that the
26 arcade pays out 30% of their revenue from those games out in rewards.

27
28 In order to show that they have complied with the above clause, businesses will be required to list their
29 revenue from their redemption games as well as the costs associated with the merchandise they have
30 distributed in their payout. If the payout value listed is not 30% of the total revenue associated with
31 the arcade's redemption games, the business will receive punitive action.

32
33
34 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

35 This bill will not require any funding.

36
37
38 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

39 Any and all violations of this bill will be considered tax fraud, and will punished as such.



2 **SENATE BILL 59**

3 Tyler Wooldridge

C.E. Byrd High School

4 Maxwell McDonald

5
6 **TITLE:** Mandate Attendance of Allergy Education Classes for Restaurant Employees

7
8
9 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

10 One in three people have reported having some form of allergic reaction inside of a restaurant.
11 According to the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), about 15 million people have food
12 allergies. These allergies lead to about 30,000 hospital visits and
13 around 200 deaths a year. Around half of these incidents are caused by allergic reactions in
14 restaurants. The CDC also collected data on allergy education training for restaurant employees, and
15 found that less than half of the surveyed employees received such training.

16 Passing this bill could lead to the saving of many lives, and allow for people with food allergies to live
17 less worried.

18
19 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

20 This bill will be passed and all current restaurants will have to require their employees to take the class
21 within three months. This will allow for the restaurant to give each employee time to
22 complete the class, without the restaurant having to close or be short staffed.

23
24 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

25 This bill will not require any additional funding because free allergy education classes are already
26 available. They would take 2 hours and would need to be completed before the
27 employees first day. This ensures proper education on the effects of allergies and how to safely handle
28 serving food without cross contamination.

29
30 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

31 If a restaurant is found to not be providing or requiring employees to take this class they will be fined
32 5,000 dollars per employee who has not taken it. This fine will establish a punishment so restaurants
33 will abide by this law.



2 **SENATE BILL 60**

3 Trey Deal C.E. Byrd High School

4 Landon Boykin

5
6 **TITLE:** Remove the requirement of passing the LEAP examination for passing students in K-12 schools

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 In the history of Louisiana, there has been a noticeable lack of quality education in public schools. In a
10 ranking of public school education systems, Louisiana is listed as the 48th worst education system in
11 the United States. This evaluation was made by comparing graduation rates and standardized test
12 scores across America. If a child in the Louisiana K-12 school system fails the LEAP examination,
13 regardless of their grades in core classes, they must attend summer school to acquire a passing score.
14 If they still do not have a passing score, they are held back. Students that have been held back are
15 20%-30% more likely to drop out of high school. High school dropouts are more likely to end up
16 impoverished, unemployed, and committing violent crimes. In Louisiana, these are among the key issues
17 holding the state back as a whole. The proposed bill allows children with passing grades in core classes
18 to advance to the next grade level regardless of their LEAP score. In turn, a lesser number of students
19 will be held back in their K-12 years, resulting in a lower dropout rate. This would also make room for
20 the allocation of funds into other education programs as there would be less funding required for
21 summer school and LEAP testing.

22
23 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

24 The implementation of this bill will come into effect at the start of the 2023-2024 school year. Any
25 student who receives a passing grade in a core class involving a LEAP test will be exempt from summer
26 school and receive credit for the class regardless of score on said LEAP test.

27
28 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

29 No additional funding necessary.

30
31
32
33 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

34 If a child is wrongfully held back, their parent/guardian may submit an appeal to their local school
35 board.

36
37

2 **SENATE BILL 61**

3 Laura Lee Parker

4 Captain Shreve High School

5 **TITLE:** Implement a Teen Driver Therapy Program that will Help Teens Drivers Overcome Driving Anxiety
6 After a Car Accident7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**9 Almost 25% of non-driving teens surveyed say they're not licensed because they're scared to drive a
10 car. Overall, 40.2% of teens think driving is scary. And this is all before even getting into a car accident.11
12 Teenagers are 3 times more likely to crash than drivers over the age of 20. Out of over 6 million car
13 crashes in 2018, over 1.3 million crashes involved a young driver (ages 15-20).14
15 Vehophobia, or the fear of driving, is quite common in people who have been involved in car accidents.
16 Many people who suffer from vehophobia choose not to drive altogether because the anxiety and fear
17 are so overwhelming. The National Institutes of Health states that nearly 40% of crash survivors
18 experience persistent phobias related to driving and being in a vehicle. Others also fear people or
19 places related to their crash and experience dystychiphobia, the fear of being in a car accident. Car
20 crash survivors might have panic attacks triggered by sights, sounds, or even smells that remind them
21 of the crash. Victims experiencing high levels of anxiety are also likely to have issues sleeping and with
22 higher-than-normal fatigue. Sleep disorders can result from hyper-vigilance and an inability to relax or
23 frequent nightmares and flashbacks to the accident. Headaches, dizziness, chest pain, nausea, and
24 muscle tension are all physical symptoms that can be caused by prolonged or frequent anxiety. Anxiety
25 can also worsen conditions like asthma, high blood pressure, and heart disease and weaken your
26 immune system.27
28 Psychotherapy is the most commonly used technique for treating anxiety disorders, other than
29 medication. It is over 70% effective in treating anxiety disorders. Two common forms of psychotherapy
30 are behavioral and cognitive therapy, also just known as Cognitive Behavioral therapy (CBT). Behavioral
31 therapy focuses on reducing harmful or problematic behaviors by dealing with how actions are impacted
32 by feelings. Cognitive therapy helps a patient adapt their anxiety-inducing thought patterns into
33 something more manageable. For example, a therapist might help someone with driving anxiety to
34 prevent panic attacks by teaching them how to mentally re-approach the anxiety-inducing experience of
35 operating a motor vehicle. In behavioral therapy, the therapist will help the patient to contest
36 undesirable behaviors related to their fear. For example, the patient will learn to change their behaviors
37 that are contributing to the fear. This may come in the form of controlling their breathing, not avoiding
38 certain roads, or limiting obsessive behaviors.39
40 With the National Institutes of Health claiming nearly 1 in 3 of all adolescents ages 13 to 18 will
41 experience an anxiety disorder, this is a prevalent issue in our world today, and needs to be addressed
42 as soon as possible. Teen driving anxiety is one part of this that can change. Louisiana needs to hire
43 health psychologists and adopt a new program for teens to be able to have access to therapy and the
44 help they need to get over their driving anxiety, and get back onto the roads safely. This will not only
45 ensure the safety of teen drivers, but all Louisiana citizens on the road.46
47 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**48 This bill will go into effect as soon as possible after being passed. To start the program, the state will
49 hire five health psychologists that specialize in CBT for treatment, to focus on treating vehophobia,

1 dystychiphobia, and other side effects of being involved in a car accident as a young driver. Out of the
2 five state hired psychologists, each will have an office at an already in place driving school. There will
3 be one psychologist for each of the 5 Louisiana regions. One in North Louisiana, one in Central
4 Louisiana, one in Acadiana, one in Greater New Orleans, and one in Florida Parishes. They will each be
5 able to travel to varying driving schools in their regions, every two weeks, to help provide their services
6 to teens unable to travel to their central office. This will not only create new jobs for psychologists, but
7 also provide graduate school students with shadowing and clinical opportunities, and with the
8 program's growth, allow this to be a new specialized career path for psychologists. This will hopefully
9 expand the program in the future to have more psychologists, and be more easily accessible as it
10 progresses. This will all be under the state government jurisdiction however. The state does not have to
11 hire more than the five initial psychologists unless they see fit, due to interest and success within the
12 program over its duration. The program will be offered to anyone under the age of 18, after they have
13 gotten into any kind of car accident. If the young driver has to appear in court for a ticket relating to
14 the accident, or for accident liability, the judge is required to recommend this program to the driver,
15 whether they are at fault or not. If the teen choses to attend the program, they can call the
16 psychologists of their area, or go the louisiana department of motor vehicles website and either set up
17 an appointment at their central office, or arrange an appointment at a local driving school where the
18 psychologist will travel to every two weeks, depending on if the driver needs to/can attend further
19 sessions. If the psychologists worry for their patient's ability to continue to operate a motor vehicle
20 safely, they will inform the parent or legal guardian of the driver of their concerns.

21 22 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

23 Revealed by 2022-2023 State Budget, the state has billions of dollars in additional funding to spend in
24 the fiscal year that started July 1 thanks to the confluence of the COVID-19 pandemic recovery,
25 hurricane rehabilitation and a once-in-a-generation investment from the federal government. The salary
26 for the health psychologists is around \$82,639 a year, and the state would add around \$7,800 per
27 psychologist a year (\$300 every two weeks), to pay for traveling expenses to the varying driving
28 schools in their area. The total amount needed for this program each year will be \$452,195. Out of the
29 2022-2023 budget, which totalled \$47 billion, this program would only be 0.00096%. The state will
30 use a very small part of the surplus of the money not allotted to a certain area in the budget for 2022-
31 2023 to pay for the program for its first year. After this first year, the program will be an ongoing
32 nominal portion of the yearly state budget. Because decreasing driving anxiety has the potential to
33 decrease the number of car accidents each year in Louisiana, this should decrease money used for
34 police, firefighters, and EMT response to accidents. The program's impact means that money that would
35 usually go towards these programs in the budget, can be made up for by paying for this new program.
36 Overall, this small percentage of the state budget should be worth the safety and mental health of our
37 teen drivers. Especially since it will go on to keep all Louisiana citizens safe on the road.

38 39 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

40 There are no penalties for this bill. This program is not mandatory for teens to attend if they feel they
41 do not need CBT, or if they feel they do not have driving anxiety.

2 **SENATE BILL 62**

3 Teagan Pethe

Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies

4
5 **TITLE:** Make Louisiana Public School Lunches Vegetarian Friendly6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 With growing environmental concerns, more and more people are cutting meat out of their diet. Many
9 students are also vegetarian due to religious or cultural beliefs. As of 2022, as many as 10% of
10 Americans self-identify as vegetarian. Even further, a poll in 2018 showed that younger people tend to
11 adopt a vegetarian diet more often than older generations, which highlights the importance of having
12 vegetarian options in schools. The problem arises in the observation that Louisiana Public School
13 lunches are not accessible to students with a vegetarian or vegan diet. Students should not be unable
14 to get school lunch simply because they are vegetarian. Many students don't have the time to pack
15 themselves a lunch for school, and they need to get school lunch. Younger students may have parents that
16 work long hours, leaving them unable to pack lunch for their kids. However, if their child is vegetarian,
17 they can't get school lunch all the time. This leaves these children not eating lunch every day. Why
18 should certain students not be able to eat a meal? The aim of this bill is to assure every student
19 attending a Louisiana Public School is provided with a lunch that is accommodating to their dietary
20 needs.

21
22 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

23 This bill proposes a second vegetarian option for Louisiana Public School lunches. The Louisiana
24 Department of Education (LDOE) would implement a nutritional program that would allow for vegetarian
25 meals in schools. This program would keep in mind the federal and state nutritional requirements for
26 public school lunches. It would require school districts to have at least two options for school lunch,
27 with at least one being vegetarian. The program would be mandatory for every public school district in
28 Louisiana to take part in. From there, the individual public school districts would make specific school
29 lunch options that accommodate the program's requirements. When creating these options, each
30 district would be able to seek guidance from the LDOE.

31
32 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

33 Since school lunches are funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, funding for this program would
34 come from them. If additional funding is needed, individual school districts may use funding allotted to
35 them from taxes.

36
37 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

38 If the LDOE finds that a school district is not following this program, a corrective action plan would be
39 issued to them, and they would be monitored to make sure they implement it in the future. If they are
40 still non compliant, they would be fined \$10,000 by the LDOE.



2 **SENATE BILL 63**

3 Julie Russell Woodlawn High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Say Gay

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 In March 2022, LA Representative Dodie Horton recommitted HB837 to a "Committee of the Whole."
9 This bill may be referred to as Louisiana's "Don't Say Gay" legislation. Despite initially failing a
10 bipartisan vote in the House Committee on Education, HB837 has currently been passed by the LA
11 House of Representatives and is waiting on consideration from the LA Senate.

12
13 According to the 2021 GLSEN National School Climate Survey, LGBT students reported enduring a
14 disproportionate amount of discrimination and harassment, whether it be at the hands of peers or
15 teachers/staff members. These experiences have led to a sharp increase in the suicide rate among LGBT
16 youth. In addition, many LGBT students cite homophobic experiences as their reason for dropping out.
17 No child should ever feel unsafe at school; especially not because of their personal identity.

18
19 Maintaining consistent and productive conversation in the classroom surrounding sexual orientation
20 and gender identity is vital to the increased acceptance, retention, and quality of life of LGBT youth.

21
22 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

23 This bill directly counters HB837. Discussions about sexual orientation and gender identity within the
24 public school setting are not prohibited under this bill. Instead, they are encouraged and regulated.

25 Conversations/instruction involving the topics of sexual orientation and gender identity:

- 26 - should never interrupt unrelated instruction
- 27 - should be initiated by students, unless it pertains to curriculum that includes LGBT history (i.e.
28 Obergefell v. Hodges, the Stonewall Riots, same sex marriage policy, etc.)
- 29 - should never include explicit details about a teacher/staff member's sexual encounters or experiences
30 i. teachers/staff members in public schools are mandated reporters; ALL students maintain the
31 right to speak freely about their experiences with sexual assault/misconduct

32
33 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

34 The implementation and enforcement of this bill require no additional funding.

35
36 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

37 Any Louisiana public school that fails to comply with the stipulations of this law will be subject to
38 review/penalty from their District School Board.



2 **SENATE BILL 64**

3 Bailey Stine Alexandria Senior High

4
5 **TITLE:** Improve Education Budgets for Louisiana.

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Louisiana is ranked #48 in the US in terms of education. Only about 15% of the State's budget goes into
9 public education. This is a problem that needs to be addressed because if we aren't getting the money
10 to fund the next generation of Louisianans, we will keep getting stuck in this cycle of undereducated
11 people unable to get into college because their average ACT score is 18.1. These people who cannot
12 attain a college degree can not become the future of Louisiana through businesses, political leaders, or
13 even the future of teachers. 9.6% of people ages 16-24 are high school dropouts, far above the
14 national average of 6%. We need to fix this, by providing more funding to the schools to be used on
15 education, not just sports.

16
17 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

18 This law needs to be implemented beginning January 1, 2023. It needs to increase state funding in
19 education from 15 percent to 18 percent. This will raise the total amount spent on education from 4.7
20 billion to 5.2 billion or more. This added 0.5 billion from the raise will be legally required to go towards
21 improvements in the school and its facilities, such as renovations, school supplies, and teacher wage
22 raise. We also need to make sure we are hiring qualified teachers, ones with actual college degrees, in
23 or around the subject matter they are teaching. This funding can NOT be used for sports, spirit events,
24 or any nonacademic club. It can however go to enriching extracurriculars during the school day, i.e. fine
25 arts, JROTC, digital media, etc.

26
27
28 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

29 I would raise the amount of Louisiana sales tax that goes to the state to 5.25%, rather than the 4.45%
30 we already have. That would generate an extra 2.5 billion that would go to the schools. Louisiana also
31 only has a 0.53% property tax rate. This is highly generous compared to the national average of 1.07%.
32 I would raise Louisiana's property tax to 0.78%, generating an extra 312 million.

33
34 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

35 The school must, if the law is broken, pay a fine of not less than 10,000 dollars to the government, and
36 10% of their funding from this bill will be cut until the end of the current school year.

2 **SENATE BILL 65**

3 Mia Pulliam Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

4
5 **TITLE:** Improving Campus Safety with Emergency Blue Light Boxes6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**8 In recent years, one of the most effective ways that colleges across the country have provided peace of
9 mind and protection for their students is by stationing Emergency Blue Lights Boxes (EBLB) throughout
10 their campuses. This method of security has proven effective in situations of active emergencies, but
11 has also proved to be effective in physical deterrence of crime- just one such example being Rice
12 University reporting a 67% drop in on-campus theft and burglary following their decision to use these
13 devices. Results like these are indicative of why 92% of all public and private universities nationwide
14 have adopted these devices (Bureau of Justice Statistics). So what about our state, which currently
15 ranks higher than all others with cases of violent crime? Less than half of our universities are equipped
16 with measures like this- not even our largest college, LSU, which removed their EBLB system just years
17 ago, despite protests from their students who are now advocating for the reappearance of the boxes.
18 This bill will provide funding for the implementation and upkeep of these systems on any Louisiana
19 college campus.
2021
22 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**23 All of the universities that request these services on their campuses will be allowed an amount of EBLBs
24 relative to their student body size and the size of the campus. Generally, larger universities can have
25 upwards of 100 call boxes, whereas smaller universities opt for just a few dozen. This fund will also
26 apply to universities with current operating systems that may require maintenance.
2728
29 **SECTION III: FUNDING**30 The funding for these blue light boxes will come from a pre-existing allowance of money included in the
31 yearly state executive budget that has been approved for Public Safety Services. This yearly
32 expenditure, categorized simply as "other", has a projected budget of \$60,738,752 for the fiscal year
33 of 2023. This bill's funding would allocate just 2% of this total budget towards these services.
3435
36 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**37 No penalties- although it is expected that most colleges will take advantage of this opportunity, it is
38 not necessary to enforce participation across every college.
39

2 **SENATE BILL 66**

3 Shelby Irwin Haynes Academy

4
5 **TITLE:** Closing the Wage Gap, Saving the Economy6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 In the year 2022, we in the United States consider ourselves to be advanced both technologically and
9 economically. However, for every dollar earned by a man today, a woman will only earn 82 cents. This
10 wage gap can be traced back to the years of prejudice and inequality women have dealt with during the
11 development of the country we live in today. Between the ages of 18-24, about 21.55% of women are
12 in poverty, as compared to the 16.48% of men. A similar percentage can be found for ages over 24 as
13 well. A major contributor to this percentage is of course, the wage gap. Another statistic we can
14 contribute to the wage gap is the overall lower percentage of lifetime earnings enjoyed by women. A
15 woman who has worked her whole life will still receive less money in Social Security when retiring than a
16 man who has worked the same job. The wage gap leads to an endless feedback loop of a woman not
17 making enough money to support herself and then having to rely on tax-payer funded government
18 assistance programs; meaning that the wage gap is costing every tax payer more money. By closing this
19 gap in lifetime earnings, the economy can only be boosted. Women will earn more money that can be
20 used to pay off their debts and other expenses that will contribute to the money in circulation. There
21 will be no need for a majority of women to rely on tax-payer funded government assistance programs
22 and taxes will inherently be lowered. Not only will the economy be boosted, but also the unjust gap in
23 pay between genders will finally be corrected.

24
25 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

26 If passed, this bill will raise taxes on higher income tax-payers in order to fund the amount in which will
27 be needed to close the gap in pay between men and women. The highest tax bracket in Louisiana
28 currently has a 4.75% income tax rate. This rate will be raised to 6% and is applicable to all single,
29 married filing separately, or head of household filing statuses. Married filed jointly and qualified
30 surviving spouse statuses will double all dollar values in each bracket. For example, if an individual's
31 annual income is 1.5 M USD, 1% (1,000 USD) would be taxed from the first 100k dollars of income,
32 2.5% (3,750 USD) would be taxed from the next 150k, 5% (12,500 USD) would be taxed from the next
33 250k, and 8% (40,000 USD) would be taxed from the next 500k, and finally 10% (50,000 USD) would
34 be taxed from the next 0.5M, coming to a grand total of 107.25k USD in state income taxes. A state
35 tax will also be imposed on property owners (depending on bracket) and will be issued within a month of
36 the issuance of each parish's tax bills. This will be due 31 days after the state property tax bill is
37 issued. The money generated from the increased tax rate will not be given directly to corporations, but
38 be used as an incentive. Those who have raised their wages for women to match that of their male
39 employees will receive the amount in which afforded to them in their annual tax returns. After 5-10
40 years, these companies' tax rates will be lowered back to their original rate. All surplus funding of this
41 bill will be distributed by the Louisiana Department of Child and Family Services to create a yearly basic
42 income for individuals below the poverty line.

43 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

44 This legislation funds itself and no additional funds will be necessary.

45 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**46 Companies that are found to pay their workers inequitable and unfair wages would, after a grace period
47 of six months to one year, face daily fines of \$500 for noncompliance. This will be enforced by the
48 Louisiana Workforce Commission.



2 **SENATE BILL 67**

3 Averil Truitt St. Joseph's Academy

4
5 **TITLE:** Save Louisiana's Soils from Harmful Salt Mining

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Louisiana's beautiful bayous are harmed each year due to unregulated salt and oil mining. In 1995, a
9 sinkhole was created by the Texas Brine company, which was hired by Louisiana's Department of
10 Natural Resources, were tasked with getting rid of naturally occurring radioactive material or NORM.
11 This led to an evacuation of 150 nearby homes, who reported stating "mysterious gas bubbles in the
12 swamp and tremors in the area around Bayou Corne." The sink hole in 420 feet deep and 370 feet wide.
13 This man-made sink hole could have been prevented by cautious care, but instead has harmed
14 Louisiana's precious swamps which holds thousands of wildlife as well as Louisiana's citizens. The Texas
15 Brine company was fully trusted in handling this situation, but instead they made a massive mistake
16 that could potentially harm the rest of Louisiana. NORM is everywhere in this country and getting rid of
17 it is no easy job. Unfortunately, this affected more of the state than you think. A New York Times
18 investigation found lethal radioactive material from this sinkhole site, which then the radioactive
19 material seeps into rivers, a large part of Louisiana's water sources. This is no easy task, but to keep
20 our waters safe we must take this action. After what Texas Brine did, even though they had a permit
21 that was given to the state, this situation has yet to be fixed or solved. Finding a way to put Thorium
22 and Uranium somewhere safe will take cautionary tasks. This is irresponsible care and Louisiana is
23 affected by another company's lazy actions.

24
25 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

26 This bill prohibits salt mine drilling to store radioactive material, near a body of water, or in a 200-mile
27 radius of a house.

28
29 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

30 Funding should only be done by the state for helping to find places to put NORM in safe places. The
31 price of government funding will be \$4 million dollars in preliminary research to find safe ways to put
32 NORM. This funding will come from an EPA grant. If the grant is not given, a 0.02% excise tax will be
33 enacted.

34
35 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

36 Penalties include a \$100,000 - \$250,000 fine if companies or citizens do not abide to the law, which
37 states that no radioactive waste should be rid of by salt mine drilling in a 200-mile radius of
38 neighborhoods, water, or any wildlife or persons in danger.



2 **SENATE BILL 68**

3 Andi Hayes St. Joseph's Academy
4 Sela Alwood

5
6 **TITLE:** Legalize the Recreational Use of Marijuana

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 In recent news, Governor John Bel Edwards has made significant strides in the drug world, including
10 allowing access to small amounts of prescribed medical marijuana. The next step is the full legalization
11 of the recreational use of marijuana.

12
13 U.S. public support for marijuana legalization surged to 66%. 86% of supporters say that the medicinal
14 benefits of marijuana are a very important reason for legalization. Freeing up law enforcement to focus
15 on other types of crime is cited as a very important reason by 70% of respondents while 60% say it's a
16 matter of freedom and personal choice.

17
18 Marijuana has been proved to be useful in medical environments. The drug has been known to treat
19 patients with anxiety and depression. It is the clear choice to make such an option more widely
20 available instead of prescription only .

21
22
23 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

24 The purpose of this bill is to permit a person twenty-one years of age or older to consume or possess
25 limited amounts (28.5 grams) of marijuana for recreational use and provide for the licensing of
26 cultivation facilities, product manufacturing facilities, testing facilities, and retail stores.

27
28 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

29 There is no funding needed.

30
31 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

32 There are no penalties associated with this bill.
33
34

2 **SENATE BILL 69**

3 Kaci Cook Haynes Academy

4
5 **TITLE:** Closing the Wage Gap6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Louisiana has one of the highest wage gaps in the United States. According to a study done in 2021,
9 the wage gap is currently 69 cents. This means that women make 69 cents for every dollar that a man
10 makes. According to the same study, men in Louisiana, on average, annually make \$15,500 more than
11 women. There are several reasons for this wage gap. The most common reason is discriminatory
12 practices that somehow still remain in the workplace. In many cases, women are not chosen for high
13 paying positions simply because of their gender. Equal pay for women is especially important for
14 women in Louisiana because we have one of the highest rates of single parent households in the
15 country. About 6.2% of households in Louisiana are single parent households, with that parent being a
16 mother. This means that women, who are being paid significantly less than men, are the sole bearers of
17 that financial weight. The last act made by the Louisiana government to close the wage gap in the state
18 was the Louisiana Equal Pay for Women Act; while this act is a step in the right direction, it only applies
19 to women that work for the state.

20
21 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

22 This bill would extend the Louisiana Equal Pay for Women Act to apply to all women that work in the
23 state, not just for it. This act states that no employer may discriminate against employees on the basis
24 of sex, or pay them less than what an employee of the opposite sex is making doing the same or a
25 similar job with the exact same skill and experience. It also states that an employee may not be
26 terminated on the basis of their sex, or for reporting their employer for discriminatory practices.

27
28 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

29 There is no funding required for this bill.

30
31 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

32 The Louisiana Equal Pay for Women Act states that if someone believes that they are the victim of
33 discriminatory practices on the basis of sex in the workplace, they may submit a written notice to their
34 employer. If that employer does not report the incident within 60 days, the employee must file a
35 complaint directly to the Louisiana Commission on Human Rights. If the commission finds evidence of
36 discriminatory practice, they will attempt to resolve the issue. If they are unable, then the employee
37 should take their employer to court. If the employer is found guilty in court, then they will be required
38 to pay all of the wages that the employee might have lost, as well as all of their legal bills.

39 This bill will allow employees to send their complaint to the employer as before, except the employer
40 will have 30 days to remedy the issue. If they do not, then the employee should file a complaint directly
41 to the commission. If the commission finds evidence of discriminatory practices, then they will require
42 the employer to pay all of the wages that the employee might have lost.

2 **SENATE BILL 70**

3 Kearra Grisby

St. Joseph's Academy

4
5 **TITLE:** Enact healthcare equity in Louisiana healthcare practices6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Health is essential to human survival. Despite this need for proper healthcare, America is the leading
9 nation in healthcare disparities compared to other developed nations. Health equity is when every
10 person can attain their "full health potential", and no one is at a "disadvantage due to social positions
11 and socially determined circumstances". Healthcare disparities in Louisiana include social, economic, and
12 environmental disadvantages. 19.6% of Louisiana citizens live in poverty, far above the national
13 average, largely effecting access to healthcare. The number of people of color, women, and LGBTQ+
14 people with insurance have decreased exponentially in the past decade. Louisiana has one of the
15 highest infant mortality rates of all women of color. People of color in Louisiana also die at higher rates
16 from diabetes, heart disease, cancer, and other terminal illnesses. 20.6% of Louisiana adults have
17 reported fair or poor health and 24% of women in Louisiana do not have a health care professional.
18 Along with these statistics, there are other sociocultural factors that effect the quality of healthcare
19 for minority groups. Due to these innate societal and statewide disparities in healthcare for minority
20 groups, a bill ensuring healthcare equity for all no matter race, ethnicity, gender identity, sex, sexual
21 orientation, or disability is needed.

22
23 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

24 This bill would aim to specify and expand on the current RS: 40:1262 aimed ensuring health equity for
25 women. This bill will ensure health equity for all minority groups. Minority groups including black,
26 indigenous, and people of color, LGBTQ, and people with mental and physical disabilities. This bill will
27 ensure these minority groups and others are treated with the fairest health standards according to the
28 CDC. This includes listening to patients concerns and allowing them to speak for their autonomy. No
29 patients should be turned away from any health procedure, examination, or consultation due to their
30 place in society. This bill would also be a catalyst towards other laws, prohibiting insurance
31 discrimination towards these minority groups. All licensed medical professionals in Louisiana will be
32 required to take training classes to ensure they provide safe health care ensuring health care equity.
33 These training classes would include introductory courses "that grounds learners in common definitions,
34 concepts, and frameworks of health equity, encouraging further investigation, engagement and
35 reflection". "An interactive course that takes learners through the historical social construction of race
36 and the obstacles racism poses for the attainment of health and wellness". As well as "a foundation for
37 recognizing and addressing the structural drivers and social determinants of health during clinical
38 encounter in order to improve out comes and heath equity." This bill will also encourage representation
39 in healthcare, increasing diversity in healthcare majors in public collages. As well as encouraging an
40 increase in jobs with healthcare plans for employees. The actions of this bill will be added to the current
41 health equity plans for women set by the Louisiana Department of Health.

42 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

43 All funding for this bill will come from the current budget towards health equity for women. If
44 applicable, the money from fines that medical professionals must pay will also be added to the funds
45 from the Louisiana Department of Health.

46 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

47 All violations of this bill will be included in medical malpractices, reckless conduct, and or doctor-patient
48 violations. Medical licenses will be revoked or suspended, fines of up to \$5,000, and probation.



2 **SENATE BILL 71**

3 Trey Holliday Woodlawn High School

4 Brendan Parenti

5
6 **TITLE:** Protect Plantations from Petrochemical Plants (PPPP)

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Plantations have been a part of Louisiana's History since its founding, when the South was considered
10 the "cotton kingdom." Slaves lived and died on plantations, spending their entire lives in the fields.

11
12 In recent decades, corporations have consistently attempted to build petrochemical plants and
13 refineries over these precious pieces of African American history. Over 150 chemical plants have been
14 placed along an 85-mile corridor, conveniently named Cancer Alley.

15
16 Residents of this corridor— the majority of which are African American and Indigenous people— have
17 a 95% higher risk of developing cancer due to air pollution. In addition, the amount of COVID-related
18 deaths within Cancer Alley is significantly higher than that of its surrounding areas. Petrochemical
19 plants are not only killing current residents, they are also trampling over the roots of African American
20 history in our state.

21
22 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

23 This bill will be set to take effect on January 20, 2025. Once passed, petrochemical corporations will be
24 prohibited from building plants on or near historical plantations.

25 In addition, Louisiana public schools (K-12) will be required to incorporate information on the history
26 of Cancer Alley into existing physical/environmental science curriculum.

27
28 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

29 This bill does not require any additional funds.

30
31 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

32 Any petrochemical corporations/organizations that bring forth unauthorized plans to build on historical
33 grounds (plantations) after this bill is implemented will be fined \$10,000. If any unauthorized building
34 plans remain set in motion after the fine has been issued, any and all perpetrators will face up to 2
35 years in jail.

2 **SENATE BILL 72**

3 Sophie Yeon Haynes Academy

4
5 **TITLE: A Death Sentence No Longer: Spreading Awareness and Education About HIV**6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Our generation has grown up largely unaware of the true nature of HIV and AIDS. There was once a
9 time when everyone knew or had heard of someone with HIV, someone who likely died. But while the
10 talk of HIV has been reduced to a page in the history books, the disease itself has not. HIV remains an
11 epidemic in the United States. In 2022, there are currently 22,497 people living with HIV in Louisiana.
12 Louisiana also ranks 3rd in AIDS case rates and 4th in HIV case rates. Baton Rouge ranked 4th and New
13 Orleans ranked 6th for HIV case rates for large cities. However, only 68% of Louisianians with
14 diagnosed HIV are virally suppressed, which means they take their medicine regularly and cannot spread
15 HIV. Presently, the nation is stepping up, with programs such as Gilead striving to get rid of HIV by
16 2030. Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) and the Ryan White HIV/AIDS organization also have a multitude
17 of resources for HIV prevention. We already have the solutions, Pre-exposure Prophylaxis(PreP) has a
18 99% efficiency at preventing HIV, and antiretroviral therapy (ART) is a proven treatment to live a
19 healthy life with HIV. But these efforts are largely unknown or rejected. This issue is due to the
20 remaining stigma deeply rooted in the way we perceive HIV and AIDS. The real struggle doctors face is
21 not the technology, but breaking the stigmas and myths patients still believe. Sex education in Louisiana
22 is not mandatory, and the sex education given is not mandated to include information about sexually
23 transmitted diseases. The only mandated topic is abstinence, which, unlike STD information, has not
24 been proven to delay or reduce risky sexual behaviors.

25
26 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

27 This bill will introduce measures to bring awareness and education about the realities of HIV. What will
28 be most important in ending this epidemic isn't the will of the government, but that of the people
29 themselves, which is why it is important to present them with the facts to make that decision. At the
30 beginning of the 2024 fiscal year, the Louisiana HIV Awareness Initiative will produce billboard,
31 television, radio, and social media ads to increase awareness of HIV/AIDS. This will include local HIV
32 testing sites, information about PreP, debunking HIV myths, and access to the HIV/AIDS info lines. In
33 the upcoming 2023-2024 school year, the state will introduce a mandatory course on sexually
34 transmitted diseases between grades 9-12. It will include an overview of STDs, introducing a further
35 explanation of HIV, debunking myths and stigmas, what PreP is, and the long-term options of medicines
36 people can take. This content will be reviewed by the Louisiana Department of Health to determine the
37 medical accuracy. School nurses and counselors will also be required to take a course on HIV/AIDS
38 awareness and prevention to serve as a resource in testing and treatment.

39
40 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

41 The White House issued a budget of \$810 million in the 2023 fiscal year to support the Ending the HIV
42 Epidemic (EHE) in the U.S. Initiative, with \$310 million to go towards the CDC. Funding will come from
43 the CDC under HIV prevention and care activities, which in previous years has been \$12.83 million, as
44 well as \$3.76M from the EHE.

45
46 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

47 Penalties are not required for the HIV awareness initiative. If a school has been found not following the
48 mandated STD education, they will be subject to a warning and subsequent fine of \$10,000 for each
49 quarter of noncompliance.



2 **SENATE BILL 73**

3 Adam Long Lafayette High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Louisiana Ammunition Limitation Act (LALA) of 2022

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 In the US there are 120 firearms per every 100 people. In order for these firearms to function, they
9 need ammunition. Currently, the sale of ammunition is unregulated at both the federal level and at the
10 state level. Due to a rapid demand increase, there have been shortages in supply. This bill is intended to
11 regulate the sale of ammunition in gun shops statewide, so that more gun loving constituents can get
12 the ammo they need.

13
14
15 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

16 By the year 2030, all places where ammunition is sold must have a Type 1 Federal Firearms Licence
17 (FFL) under the Gun Control Act (GCA) of 1968, and must limit customers to 30 rounds of ammunition
18 total per customer, per transaction. Each person is also limited to making one transaction with a certain
19 vendor each day that involves the sale of ammunition.

20
21
22 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

23 No extra funding is required for the execution and enforcement of this bill.

24
25
26 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

27 Any person(s) or vendor(s) found in violation of this, may be subject to the penalties under the GCA of
28 1968.

29



2 **SENATE BILL 74**

3 Tanner Pruitt Southern University Laboratory School

4 Bryson Addison

5
6 **TITLE:** Mandatory minimum sentencing for domestic violence offenders

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 The state of Louisiana is ranked 5th in the nation for females killed by males, according to data
10 available from the violence policy center analyzing death in 2019. Since the coronavirus pandemic
11 began these statistics in Louisiana have increased considerably. Data from media reports shows that
12 there were at least 61 deaths related to domestic violence in 2021. Sentences/punishments for
13 domestic violence in the state of Louisiana can include fines, jail time, probation, court order classes
14 and community service. Domestic abuse can be considered a felony or misdemeanor depending on the
15 circumstances. Mandatory minimum sentencing for first time offenders would be five years.

16
17 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

18 In the state of Louisiana domestic violence offenses should be taken seriously from the first offense
19 instead of offenders being given a slap on the wrist initially. If harsher penalties are put in place, this
20 will discourage the continued crime and/or repeat offenses. In addition to protective orders being
21 issued to domestic violence offenders, jail time should be extended depending upon the severity of the
22 crime. Additional support such as classes, fines, and community service should be attached to the end
23 of the sentences. Similar to a sex offender, domestic violence offenders should also be placed on
24 probation and placed on a registry to notify the public and future/past victims.

25
26 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

27 There will be no funding needed for this bill.

28
29 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

30 The minimum penalty for first time offenders would be five years imprisonment, counseling, fines to the
31 victim, and probation. The maximum sentence could include (depending on the severity of the crime) up
32 to 10 years imprisonment, ankle/location monitoring, community service, counseling and fines to the
33 victim.

2 **SENATE BILL 75**

3 Nile Batiste Southern University Laboratory School

4 Kameron Tillage

5
6 **TITLE:** Build a bypass around the city of Baton Rouge7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 Do you hate being stuck in traffic especially when you are on your way to school or any other important
10 venue? Traffic is a big issue in major cities such as New York, Los Angeles, Atlanta and countless
11 others. Baton Rouge is ranked 4th in the nation for having the worst traffic. In 2021, where congestion
12 levels were 27% which made drivers lose 62 hours during the annual 230 working days. If this statistic
13 isn't enough, almost everyday on the news there is always an accident reported on the Mississippi River
14 Bridge or the I-10/I-12 split. Traffic is a nightmare in the capital city almost every day. The answer to
15 solve this problem is to build a bypass in the city. If you don't know what a bypass is, it's an interstate
16 road that has a shorter route that avoids the downtown or central business district of a city. For
17 example, cities like New Orleans and Shreveport have bypasses called I-610 and I-220. How come all
18 the major cities in the state of Louisiana have a loop, but our own capital city does not have one?
19 Building a bypass in our capital city will not only ease our horrific traffic nightmares, but will also give
20 our capital city new infrastructure. Building this bypass away from the bustling areas of Baton Rouge
21 will help transportation flow better and reducing congestion on a daily basis. We must step up to
22 improve our traffic and infrastructure to avoid future traffic incidents and loss of driving hours.

23
24 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

25 This project will be effective immediately if passed. An area of Baton Rouge will be selected to avert
26 traffic from the busiest areas of the city. The project will take 3 years to construct and eminent domain
27 will be used. As time moves on, road closures can be expected in the area where the bypass will be
28 built. Construction will take place every day except on holidays and days of inclement weather.

29
30 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

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

34
35 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

36 Not Applicable



2 **SENATE BILL 76**

3 Michael Seidemann Dutchtown Highschool

4
5 **TITLE:** Prevention of New Offshore Construction of Oil Rigs

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 This bill will aim to prevent the growth of the oil industry in Louisiana in order to combat climate
9 change and carbon emissions. All construction of oil rigs in the Louisiana water territory will be
10 prohibited after the bill's implementation. For reference, the Louisiana ocean territory extends three
11 nautical miles out from the coastline. Oil rigs can be offshore by at least a couple hundred meters,
12 eliminating construction of oil rigs like this will prevent a lot of potential damage to our atmosphere.
13 This will not affect the economy or welfare for Louisiana workers, as this is not removing any jobs.
14 When demand from the people for electricity increases, severance taxes (12.5%) already implemented
15 from the oil industry will help fund cleaner energy alternatives, such as wind and solar. The fines from
16 the penalties will also go toward cleaner energy alternatives. Though oil rigs or refineries will not be
17 decommissioned, the demand for gasoline for automobiles will inevitably increase, causing an increase
18 in price for gasoline, as it would need to be transported out of state. Even with these issues, it is
19 absolutely necessary that we begin cutting down on carbon emissions. Saving important parts of
20 Louisiana historically and economically from rising sea level requires these minor sacrifices.

21
22
23 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

24 July 1st, 2023.

25
26
27 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

28 No funding is necessary for this bill.

29
30
31 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

32 500 million dollar fine to the company responsible, unauthorized construction of a rig will be halted and
33 then decommissioned if a rig begins construction after the bill's implementation.

34



2 **SENATE BILL 77**

3 Brock Dukes Charge police officers with a felony for excessive force in Louisiana.

4 Joseph Howard

5
6 **TITLE:** Charge police officers with a felony for excessive force in Louisiana.

7
8 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

9 The intention of this bill is to minimize police brutality in the state of Louisiana. This bill is created to
10 help the people in Louisiana feel safe, as well as the police department. Statistics show that
11 accountability in Louisiana's police force is only 14%, the unarmed victims of deadly force per arrest is
12 44%, and the percentage of excessive force complaints are only 8%. Police officers who are found guilty
13 of excessive force will receive a felony charge.

14
15 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

16 This law would be enforced on January 1, 2023. When entering their respective police precinct, they
17 would have to immediately put on body cameras and add dash cameras to document their actions. This
18 law also prohibits turning off the body cameras or covering it in the use of excessive force in containing
19 a possible criminal. The statistics shown above can only pertain to minorities, African-Americans, the
20 most. Although, if this law is passed, we can make sure that people can feel safe around police officers.

21
22 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

23 No additional funding is needed

24
25 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

26 If a police officer turns off his/her body camera or dash camera, their documents would be accessed,
27 and associates would be asked about their actions at that specific moment. If an officer performs
28 excessive force on a person, the first offense would be administrative leave. If performed again, they
29 shall be suspended from their job for 30 days but if performed a third time, the officer will turn in their
30 badge and be fired.



2 **SENATE BILL 78**

3 Quincy Franklin

Alexandria Senior High School

4 Amelie Wilson

5
6 **TITLE:** Giving Felons the Right to Vote

7
8
9 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

10 Of the 4.6 million people in the state of LA, about thirty-three thousand are unable to vote due to a
11 felony conviction. The ability to vote is a natural right of every American citizen, and those that are
12 upstanding or decent citizens should be able to keep this right. This bill aims to continue the purpose of
13 the prison system of rehabilitation by slowly giving felons their rights back, starting with the right to
14 vote.

15
16
17 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

18 Those imprisoned on account of “lesser” felonies should be evaluated for the right to vote. Crimes such
19 as drug possession, purse snatching, simple robbery, offense against intellectual property, institutional
20 vandalism, simple arson, illegal possession of stolen goods, criminal damage to coin-operated devices,
21 etc. should be considered thoroughly for reduced punishment that would include the right to vote.

22
23 For this bill to take effect, any monetary loss-based felonies should be reviewed for what should
24 constitute a felony. A monetary loss of \$500 can cause a person to be charged with a felony, and this
25 limit should be raised to \$1,000.

26 Anyone who was imprisoned as a result of a nonviolent crime with a loss of less than \$1,000 should be
27 considered wrongfully charged as a felon.

28
29 Out of those who have been charged with a felony due to physical assault or a monetary loss of over
30 \$1,000, their crimes should be reviewed by a panel or jury. Some felonies could be reconsidered and
31 made crimes that would only be punishable by a large fine and jail time with restrictions other than
32 revoking the right to vote.

33
34
35 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

36 This bill would ideally make up for the loss of money that goes to overcrowded jails and prisons by
37 removing some things that are considered felonies and requiring a fine from the charged individual. The
38 funding for this bill will be taken from preexisting criminal reform funds.

39
40
41 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

42 There will not be any penalties to this bill as this bill seeks to amend felons' ability to vote and to raise
43 the cost of what a felony is considered to be.



2 **SENATE BILL 79**

3 Margaret Moe

St. Joseph's Academy

4
5 **TITLE:** Eliminate Tipped Wage for Louisiana Workers

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) sets the national requirements for labor and wages, setting
9 standards like minimum wages, working conditions, and age limits for employment. However, it also set
10 the standard for tipped wage, the concept that workers in the service industry can be paid less due to
11 tipping or other forms of gratuity. This means that legally, service workers in Louisiana can be paid as
12 low as \$2.13 per hour if their employer can reasonably assume that they will receive more than \$30 per
13 month in tips. This wage allows thousands of workers in Louisiana to be paid far less than the
14 traditional minimum wage, which sits at \$7.25. Estimates for wages put tipped wage workers as making
15 only \$541.10 per month (Based on a 9 am to 5 pm workday, working every day of the month), while
16 workers making minimum wage would make \$1,740.00 per month. This duplicitous wage system cheats
17 thousands of workers in Louisiana out of fairly earned pay every year and significantly contributes to
18 the number of individuals living below the poverty line.

19
20 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

21 Effective 6 months after the passing of this legislation, any organization, association, corporation, or
22 other establishment employing individuals will pay \$7.25 per hour to all employees as the base wage.
23 This wage will not include tips, bonuses, or any other forms of compensation previously used to
24 supplement wages and classify a worker as a tipped worker, bringing the bottom monthly earnings
25 (calculated as a 9-5 job, worked every day of the month) from \$541.10 to \$1,740.00.

26
27 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

28 There will be no funding required in the increase of wages, as the cost of wages is, and always has
29 been, the responsibility of employers. There will be a small amount of funding, totaling \$250,000 taken
30 from the budget of the Department of Labor and Revenue, to create public databases and mandatory
31 wage reporting systems to track compliance.

32
33 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

34 Any organization, association, corporation, or other establishment employing individuals will face a fine
35 of between \$750,000 and \$5 million, as well as doubling and then paying the affected employee(s) the
36 shorted wages.