



# Louisiana Youth Legislature 2014 Passed Bills

*Signed into law by Governor Patrick Flanigan February 2014*

Sponsor: Raegan Gallegos  
Co-Sponsor: Jessica Varner  
Club: Saint Joseph's Academy  
Bill # HB 133

AN ACT

TO: Save Louisiana, Swap the Trays

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA

#### SECTION I

All schools in Louisiana will be required to stop purchasing disposable lunch trays. Rather, they will purchase sturdy hard plastic lunch trays which will be washed after each usage and reused for each year. Using hard plastic trays will cut environmental damage because the plates can be washed and reused for several years instead of throwing away thousands of Styrofoam lunch trays each day. In Baton Rouge, over 20,000 lunch trays are thrown away or sent off to be incinerated daily! Styrofoam is polystyrene, which is a petroleum-based plastic that is one of the top creators of hazardous waste today. Throughout the process of creating polystyrene releases air pollutants and created solid and liquid wastes. This is a hazard to our ozone layer and landfills, as well as ourselves and all living creatures.

#### SECTION II

This bill will go into effect the semester following its passage. Schools will order their hard plastic trays in advance to ensure their having the correct amount.

#### SECTION III

Purchasing a 500 pack of styrofoam trays costs about 5 to 7 cents per tray. This may seem very inexpensive; however, the supply must be replenished on a very frequent basis because the trays are disposable after one use. Packages of hard plastic trays normally cost around \$4 each. This may seem more expensive but it is more economically smart. The school can purchase one load of these trays, and they will last for at least 4 years! The funding for these trays would come from the Federal Lunch Program. This would save them money because they would only have to replenish the supply every 3-6 years rather than every couple of months. Also, the school would have to pay for 1-2 additional employees to wash and dry the trays daily. The employees would only have to clean for a few hours a day; therefore, the school would not have to pay for full time employees.

#### SECTION IV

If the school continues to keep the plastic trays, then the school will have to personally pay for every plastic tray they get, instead of the Federal Lunch program paying for the trays.

*Signed into law by Governor Patrick Flanigan February 2014*

Sponsor: Leah Dean  
Co-Sponsor: Elizabeth Rumfola  
Club: Saint Joseph's Academy  
Bill # HB 153

AN ACT

TO: Requiring sugar cane trucks to be covered to help Louisiana's economy

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA

SECTION I

Ever year, trucks begin hauling one of Louisiana's most profitable crops: sugar cane. While sugar cane brings in a lot of money for the state, the trucks used to haul sugar cane are not the most efficient. For the most part, the tops of the trucks are uncovered, which allows pieces of sugar cane to constantly fly out of the truck, which in turn causes the farmers to lose money.

SECTION II

Truckers hauling sugar cane will be required to use some type of tarp to cover the top of their trailers, which will prevent most of the sugar cane from falling out of the truck.

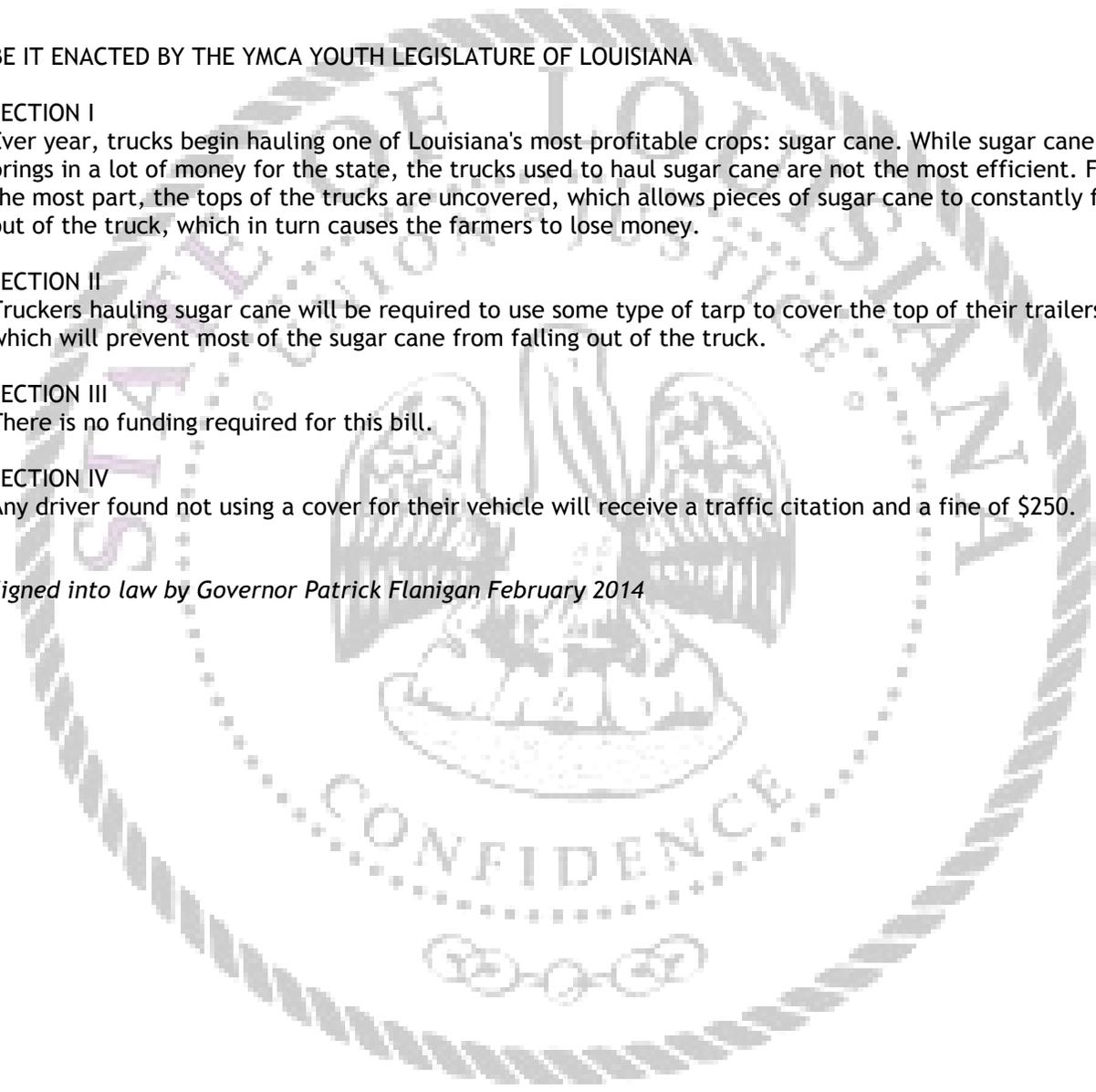
SECTION III

There is no funding required for this bill.

SECTION IV

Any driver found not using a cover for their vehicle will receive a traffic citation and a fine of \$250.

*Signed into law by Governor Patrick Flanigan February 2014*



Sponsor: Jack Mierl  
Co-Sponsor: Julia James  
Club: Mandeville  
Bill # HB 166

AN ACT

TO: No Longer be Down and Out: Self Sustainable Shelters for the Homeless

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA

#### SECTION I

In 2005, Hurricane Katrina and Rita destroyed 51,000 home units in New Orleans, which was 70% of the available housing stock. This led to a 45% increase in housing prices, leaving many individuals cost burdened or homeless. From 2007-2009, the amount of homeless persons in the state of Louisiana doubled to a total of 12,334. Specifically in New Orleans, where 69% of homeless persons in Louisiana reside, the growth rate of increase of homeless person has quadrupled to a startling 8,480 persons. Currently, many public and private organizations offer temporary shelters for homeless persons; however these exist only to serve the homeless on a day to day basis rather than long term. This causes many able bodied homeless persons to tramp from shelter to shelter, providing no real security. The state should provide for the general welfare of these individuals.

#### SECTION II

The state will finance the construction of 5 facilities with the capabilities of serving 70 people. (If the system works, more facilities shall be created) Victory Gardens will exist at these shelters to help compensate the food supply necessary. Homeless persons will be responsible for the upkeep of the victory gardens. In addition, the state will buy rice from large rice producing parishes to cover the remaining food supply necessary.

Homeless persons are allowed to stay 7 days a week, provided 5 of those days are spent working on state projects. This includes manual labor (the constructions of roads, bridges, and government facilities), city maintenance, and others. Personals will earn an hourly minimum wage, but a portion of their wages will be taken out to cover the costs of appliances, maintenance, and quality of the shelters.

Homeless persons will be kept a regimented schedule from Monday to Friday, but will be allowed to seek other work on Saturday and Sunday. Homeless persons will work with staff to create a schedule on the weekend to accommodate any other work schedules.

#### SECTION III

The state will reallocate a portion, to be determined at a later date, of the \$207 million budget that is currently devoted to its park system. This will cover for the initial construction of the shelters.

Homeless persons and staff at the shelter will be considered state employees. A portion of the homeless person's wages will be taken out of their paycheck to provide for the sustainability of the shelter. If the program proves successful enough and requires more facilities to be built, the homeless person's will work on the construction of the site. If the program requires more funds, the location of funds will be reconsidered.

#### SECTION IV

There shall be no penalties for non-compliance as this is a voluntary program.

Amendments: continual drug testing mandatory for shelter service  
*Signed into law by Governor Patrick Flannigan February 2014*

Sponsor: Elisabeth McLaughlin  
Co-Sponsor: Lindsay Reardon  
Club: Mandeville  
Bill # HB 174

AN ACT

TO: Enact the Florida Point- System for Driving in Louisiana

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA

#### SECTION I

The purpose of this bill is to enact a redrafted version of Florida's Point System for driving in Louisiana. According to the data collected from several sources, including the Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the National Motorists Association, Louisiana has been ranked number one as the worst drivers in America for the past two years. In 2012, there were 241 drunk driving fatalities, 5,614 alcohol related crash injuries, and there were 16,385 DUI arrests; the worst in the country. After this point system was enacted in Florida in 2006, the underage drunk driving fatalities reached its all time low in 2010 dropping 0.9%. This point system has the power to help Louisiana's future and current population become great and better drivers.

The point system is a system which allows the police force, the driver licensing authorities or other organizations to issue cumulative points against drivers on conviction for road traffic offenses. The purpose of the point system is to penalize repeat offenders of traffic laws and create a better generation of drivers.

#### SECTION II

If this bill is passed it will be added to previous driving laws except laws regarding the same topics. The bill will be enacted on August 1, 2015, and the general public will be aware through press such as newspapers and TV broadcasts. The police force will be educated on the point system regulations, and this information will be added to DMV tests. Driving schools will adopt a new traffic violator course that will be offered to driving offenders, and teachers will be hired to teach the offenders willing to relinquish their points.

#### SECTION III

The money to support this bill will be taken from the fines collected from the driving offenders. This money will be used to hire teachers to re-educate the driving offenders, create a new driving course, educate the police force of this system, and create pamphlets and other signs to make the public aware of this new point system.

#### SECTION IV

Violating traffic laws results in high penalties. The violator's license will be revoked for 30 days if they incur 12 points within a 12 month period, 90 days if they incur 18 points within an 18 month period, and a one year suspension if they incur 24 points within a 36 month period. When a person is charged with a traffic violation, their three options are to (1) plead guilty and pay a fine (and receive the points), (2) plead not guilty and go to traffic court where it will be decided if the offender receives the points, or (3) sign up for a traffic course which would avoid the points. If one chooses the third option, they must sign up for a Driving Violator Course within thirty days and must complete the course within 90 days. If one's license is suspended because of points, they will be required to take an advanced driver improvement course before the suspension period is over. Any driver under the age of 18 who accumulates six or more points within a 12 month period will automatically be restricted for one year to driving for business purposes only. If additional points are accumulated the restriction is extended for 30 days for every additional point. Fines already enacted will stay in place. Some examples in the point system are: 12 points and immediate suspension if one commits a hit & run and drives

intoxicated, 6 points if one drives at an unlawful speed resulting in an accident, 3 points for violation of curfew, 2 points for littering, and one point for not wearing one's seat belt. Points issued against a person's driver's license will be wiped off one's permanent record after seven years. The State of Louisiana issues its citizens points against their driver's license for infractions occurring anywhere in the United States.

*Signed into law by Governor Patrick Flannigan February 2014*



Sponsor: Kendra Hills  
Co-Sponsor:  
Club: Alexandria Senior High School  
Bill # HB 178

AN ACT

TO: Require all Louisiana residents between the ages of 18-40 to own and raise a chicken

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA

#### SECTION I

According to the National Chicken Council, the U.S. in 2013 had 37,387,000,000 ready-to-eat chickens produced. Each year we must produce more and more chickens due to scarcity and need for more chickens with an increasing population. Currently in the world there are more chickens the human beings, and the state of Louisiana must ensure that it stays that way because it is essential to keep such a great source of protein available to human beings for a very long time. Thus, Louisiana residents between the ages of 18 and 40 must experience domesticating at least one chicken within that span of time for the reason of promoting chicken production in the state of Louisiana and in order to teach these residents very valuable chicken raising life lessons.

#### SECTION II

Each citizen must buy a chicken and raise it based on the rules and guidelines outlined in several different texts and in full detail on the website [realtruthaboutchicken.com](http://realtruthaboutchicken.com). Some well known chicken-raising books include: "Raising Chickens for Dummies," "Keeping Chickens," "Backyard Revival," "How to Raise Poultry," and "Chickens in Five Minutes a Day." If a citizen does not want to comply with these standards, they must pay a \$1500 fee towards the USDA ERS (U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service) whom are so greatly appreciated for providing the statistics for the National Chicken Council

#### SECTION III

Only the money of the Louisiana residents that is needed to purchase their chicken and supplies is needed to implement this bill. However all of this is going to be beneficial in the end because of the learning process involved with raising a chicken.

#### SECTION IV

Failure to comply with this law whether with not raising a chicken, not following the guidelines, or with not paying the \$1500 fee, will result in arrest.

Amendment: Chicken ID required

*Signed into law by Governor Patrick Flanigan February 2014*

Sponsor: Trey Menville  
Co-Sponsor: Pierce Hill  
Club: Catholic High School  
Bill # HB 185

AN ACT

TO: The Reformed Restraint Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA

#### SECTION I

A direct quote from the Louisiana Supreme Court Website

“According to the research, while most abusers do violate protective orders in some way, these orders generally deter repeated incidents of physical abuse. In 40% of the cases surveyed in one study, there were no reported violations in the year after the order was issued. However, in 60% of these cases, violations were reported in that same period. In 29% of the cases in which a violation occurred, the victim indicated that the violation involved one or more acts of severe violence.”

It is clear from such data that the current system of protective orders needs revision as it does not adequately protect those involved.

#### SECTION II

A new program that puts local police in closer, more familiar contact with those who have been granted Protective Orders will be established. Local police will acquire a registry of those with Protective Orders in their respective areas of jurisdiction. The program will begin with the police contacting each individual via the mode of communication used when their Protective Order was established. The individual will be asked if he or she wishes to be included under the scope of the new program and will be able to opt out.

The next step will be establishing relationships with the local police. What this means is that each individual will have a brief interview in whatever way they may be contacted that will allow the local police to get a better grasp on the situation and the concerns of the individual in regards to safety. After successful completion of this process and establishment of an up-to-date registry of individuals in the program, a phone hotline will be created that puts one of these individuals immediately into direct contact with one of the officers in the program who is currently on patrol. This will allow for much more rapid and accurate threat assessment and negotiation, thus saving lives.

After successful initial implementation, the program will be available to individuals when they are granted a Protective Order.

After a period of one year, local police officials will submit reviews of the program and related statistics so that it can be seen if the program is successful.

#### SECTION III

Costs will be the establishment of the database, various hotlines, and compensation to the police officers taking part to be determined later.

A .1% income tax will be levied for 1 year, then, after the program and its needs are assessed, it will be either raised to .15% or lowered to .5%. After the first year, if the program is successful, another review will take place two years later to assess how the program will grow and its needs.

After the first year, it will cost \$15 dollars for the individual granted the protective order to enter the program. This will be a one-time payment.

#### SECTION IV

All suspects apprehended by the program will be dealt with in due process of law.

*Signed into law by Governor Patrick Flanigan February 2014*

Sponsor: Paulina Gonzalez-Quiroga  
Co-Sponsor: Mary Grace Sherlock  
Club: Mandeville High School  
Bill # HB 194

AN ACT

TO: Create learning centers for teenage families and their children

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA

#### SECTION I

Louisiana was ranked 6 out of 51 (50 states + the District of Columbia) on 2011 final teen births rates among females aged 15-19. Teen parents are more likely to drop out of high school and not receive a high school diploma or GED. Female students are especially prone to dropping out, 60% of pregnant girls drop out of high school. Teen girls that have babies are more likely to have children who have poorer educational, behavioral and health outcomes. The average annual cost of daycares/childcares for an infant in Louisiana is \$5,900, and for a 4 year old is \$4,350. This bill would instate a public learning center of a high school level for teenage parents adapted with a childcare center for their children to attend while the parents are attending classes.

#### SECTION II

The learning centers will be allocated based on district. There will be one school per two districts near the border of the adjacent districts (66 total districts, 33 schools). The school will be constructed to fit 200 students + their children. It will be a college- like situation where students can opt in for classes and create their own schedules so they can maintain a job if they have one. Teenage parents will have an incentive to take classes and obtain a high school diploma. They can also attend classes while knowing their children are safe in the same building without having to pay unnecessary amounts of money to a childcare. This will in turn benefit the community because with an acusable and completed education, teenage parents can obtain a better job. This will ultimately benefit the economy and their children can have a better time.

#### SECTION III

There will be several means of funding. First, there is already the pregnancy assistance fund initiative of the office of adolescent health. This initiative was set up to help pregnant and parenting teens to receive an education. Also, every semester, each parent will be required to pay a \$20 fee and \$10 fee per child. If any family has insufficient funds they can apply for financial aids. Funds can come from local, state, federal, and private sources.

#### SECTION IV

No penalties necessary, this is an opt in program.

*Signed into law by Governor Patrick Flanigan February 2014*

Sponsor: Curran Greene  
Co-Sponsor: Taylor Elkins  
Club: Mandeville High School  
Bill # SB 59

AN ACT

TO: Reform Common Core Implementation

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA

#### SECTION I

Recently, Governor Bobby Jindal has adopted a new educational reform into Louisiana known as "Common Core Curriculum". The new curriculum, applied in regular and honors classes as well, works with students on a different, higher, and much more in-depth level, implementing more critical thinking and less pure memorization. The one flaw in Common Core is this: most teachers don't know how to teach it correctly (or even at all). Test scores are projected to see drops over the course of a few years due to inefficiency of the time period originally granted to teachers to learn on their own about Common Core, and also the lack of student adjustment. This bill, if passed, helps teachers learn how to teach the new and improved curriculum, and helps students by giving them too a longer adjustment period.

#### SECTION II

This bill, if passed, will postpone the implementation of Common Core by a number of years, and will increase teacher payment (both amounts are to be decided by the Board of Education). Before the new implementation, teachers will go through training courses on how to teach Common Core, taught by nationally recognized Common Core professionals and co-creators. Once the teaching has been finished, Common Core will be re-implemented into public schools, starting for math in grades K-3, and K-6 in reading. This way, we can gradually increase the test scores of Louisiana's youth, creating brighter futures for our great state, instead of rushing into things and confusing our youth.

#### SECTION III

To fund this project, money will be taken out of the pre-existing education fund that Louisiana has always had. The funding currently exists, so there is no issue with gathering money. The money will go towards hiring Common Core professionals, and renting areas for teaching.

#### SECTION IV

If a teacher does not comply and attend classes for Common Core, they will not receive the financial benefits stated in section II.

*Signed into law by Governor Patrick Flanigan February 2014*

Sponsor: Samhita Rao  
Co-Sponsor  
Club: Baton Rouge Magnet High School  
Bill # SB 61

AN ACT

TO: Reduce Combined Tax and Royalty Rate in Louisiana to Revive the Onshore Drilling and Production Industry

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA

#### SECTION I

Louisiana currently has 12.5 billion barrels of remaining oil (after the implementation of primary and secondary recovery techniques) trapped in onshore reservoirs. Essentially, the primary recovery technique is the effect of initial reservoir pressure, as it naturally forces the oil to the surface. However at some point there will not be enough underground pressure to force the oil to the wells. Therefore, secondary recovery methods (including water and gas, injection) are applied. The oil remaining after the use of these techniques can only be recovered using advanced technologies, termed Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) techniques. However, these advanced technologies are far more expensive than the technology used for primary and secondary recovery of oil. Combined with the current tax and royalty rates, these new technologies become formidably expensive making the EOR projects less attractive to the oil producing companies.

Royalty rate is a percentage of the total oil revenue that a company must pay to the government. Louisiana's CTRR is ranked the highest in the nation among the nine oil-producing states in the country. The overall cost of production can be reduced if the CTRR is reduced. Currently, Louisiana has a 17.65% tax rate and a 23.75% royalty rate making the CTRR 38.70%. This high percentage is repelling oil companies from Louisiana. Since we are recovering no onshore oil, there is no royalty revenue to the state (38.70% of zero is zero). However, if the CTRR is reduced, Louisiana will not have the highest CTRR out of these nine states, and this will attract oil companies to come to Louisiana since they already know where the oil reservoirs are and what the reservoir characteristics are. Because of the proposed lower tax and royalty rate, the oil companies will end up producing more oil because they will get to keep more of the oil revenue to themselves. The state of Louisiana will also benefit through royalty revenues since a percent of any amount of oil revenue would be greater than 38.70% of zero production. In order to lower the CTRR, changes must be made to both the royalty rate and the tax rate. This bill proposes that the tax rate will decrease from 17.65% to 15%. Additionally, there will be no royalty levied until the company recovers all the expenses of the EOR project implementation in Louisiana oil fields. After an oil company receives a license to drill and begins to produce the oil, the Department of Natural Resources will work with that company to negotiate a royalty rate that falls between the range of 5% and 15% depending on the oil price. The higher the oil price, the higher the royalty rate. In fact, calculations show that at \$40 per barrel, the total onshore oil production is between 1.1 to 1.7 billion barrels. Louisiana would make approximately \$5.2 to \$9.0 billion in state royalty revenues if this were the case. However, the current price of one barrel of oil is \$93.96, meaning that the Louisiana would make more than double that amount of money.

#### SECTION II

As oil companies begin to come to Louisiana, the government should ensure that regulatory processes governing oil recovery operations are made easier to enforce so that the oil producers and the people of Louisiana benefit. This will, in turn, entice the oil companies to invest in Louisiana's universities and young students. Currently, nearly 2,200 college graduates leave Louisiana every year looking for work. This bill will enable them to stay right at home and work in Louisiana. It will enhance the State's tax revenue base and contribute tremendously to improve the quality of life in Louisiana. Contrary to widespread public opinion, EOR using carbon dioxide gas injection has not only proved to

be an economically successful process but has also yielded tremendous environmental benefits. The carbon dioxide is injected into the ground, mitigating the carbon emissions in our atmosphere.

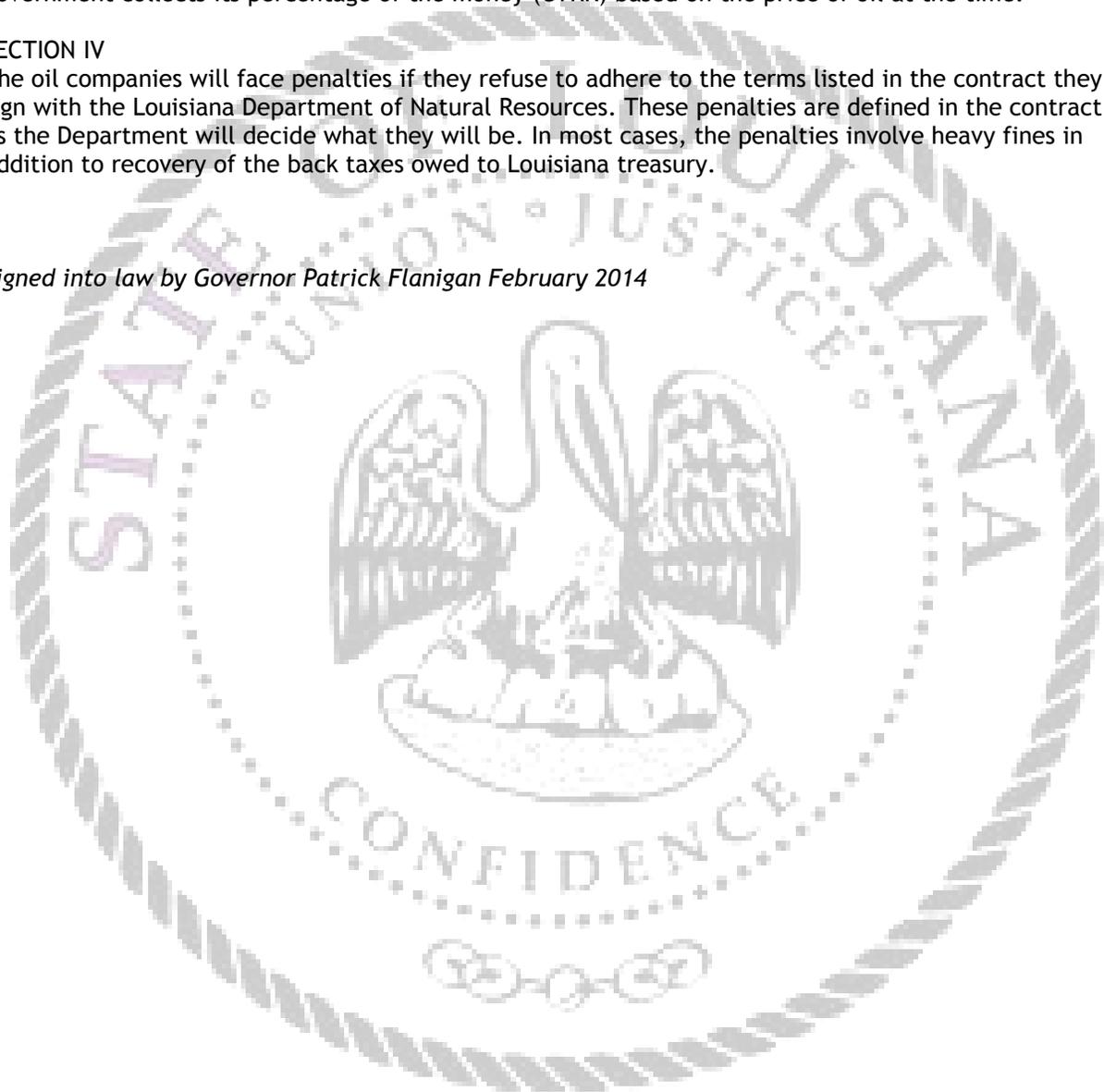
#### SECTION III

Funding is not necessary for this bill, as the government will be receiving money from the oil companies that choose to drill on Louisiana soil. Oil companies fund the entire drilling and production projects themselves and the government collects its percentage of the money (CTRR) based on the price of oil at the time.

#### SECTION IV

The oil companies will face penalties if they refuse to adhere to the terms listed in the contract they sign with the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources. These penalties are defined in the contract as the Department will decide what they will be. In most cases, the penalties involve heavy fines in addition to recovery of the back taxes owed to Louisiana treasury.

*Signed into law by Governor Patrick Flanigan February 2014*



Sponsor: Mary Margaret Strange  
Co-Sponsor  
Club: St. Joseph's Academy  
Bill # SB 64

AN ACT

TO: Mandate train from Baton Rouge to New Orleans

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA

SECTION I

Transportation in Louisiana has become a topic of conversation over the past few years. As our cities grow we must accomodate for the transportation to the growing cities. In order to continue in bettering infastructure in Louisiana, it is important to plan and carry out new projects that will stimulate the economy of our state and provide easily attainable transportation.

SECTION II

As oil companies begin to come to Louisiana, the government should ensure that regulatory processes governing oil recovery operations are made easier to enforce so that the oil producers and the people of Louisiana benefit. This will, in turn, entice the oil companies to invest in Louisiana's universities and young students. Currently, nearly 2,200 college graduates leave Louisiana every year looking for work. This bill will enable them to stay right at home and work in Louisiana. It will enhance the State's tax revenue base and contribute tremendously to improve the quality of life in Louisiana. Contrary to widespread public opinion, EOR using carbon dioxide gas injection has not only proved to be an economically successful process but has also yielded tremendous environmental benefits. The carbon dioxide is injected into the ground, mitigating the carbon emissions in our atmosphere.

SECTION III

Funds will be allotted to the project over the course of 5 years. The funds will be taken from the budget of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development in order to supply funds.

SECTION IV

There are no penalties necessary.

Amendment: privatize the operation of the train

*Signed into law by Governor Patrick Flanigan February 2014.*

Sponsor: Stephanie Lutfallah  
Co-Sponsor:  
Club: Alexandria Senior High School  
Bill # SB 73

AN ACT

TO: Cut Power Consumption per Louisiana Resident

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA

#### SECTION I

In Louisiana, the average monthly power consumption per person is 1,254 kWh. This means that of the nearly 2 million residents of Louisiana, we use on average over 2.5 billion kWh each month. We pay for this on average about \$1300 a year. However, with the passage of this bill, that number will be reduced by 1 million kWh and the cost per year per residence would be reduced to almost \$1200. What this bill does is that it requires electric companies to shut down electricity in households for an hour during four intervals in a month that can be chosen leniently by residency for which hours and which days they so choose. By doing this, and by using the current residential statistics of this state, Louisiana would be conserving more than 1 million kWh of energy each year, and each resident would be gaining an average of \$1000 of their money back for themselves. Exceptions will be made to those with proof of necessity for electricity due to a legitimate reason such as a severe medical condition requiring certain appliances. Arrangements must be made during the time of registration of the household.

#### SECTION II

Electrical companies will consult with each resident using their services and they will decide a schedule for each household that is tentative to change by the choice of the resident. Each resident can choose a minimum of 4 hours a month of their electricity cut. They may choose more if they choose to be more interested in conserving the energy.

#### SECTION III

No money is needed for the implementation of this bill. Budgets of the electrical companies will only need minor adjustments, but their funds will not change enough to call for drastic changes. The effect will not be detrimental to the businesses, and a cost-benefit analysis confirms highly positive results.

#### SECTION IV

If a company refuses to comply by the law:

First offence: They will be fined

Second offence: Authority will come in to regulate for three days; they will be fined

Third offence: Company will be shutdown

If a certain residency refuses to comply by the law:

First three offences: They will be fined respectively higher fines with each offense

Fourth offence: court and arrest

*Signed into law by Governor Patrick Flanigan February 2014*

Sponsor: Maxwell Martin  
Co-Sponsor: Joseph Cretini  
Club: St. Joseph's Academy  
Bill # SB 67

AN ACT

TO: Heroes at Home

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA

#### SECTION I

As a nation we consider our veterans among our most respected heroes. We do not however always treat them as such. It is estimated that 30% of our returning military members have Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Of those, it is thought that half of military members with PTSD do not report it. Whether it is a lack of funds, knowledge, or political pressure these problems are not always solved. That is where the "Heroes at Home" Bill comes in. The program will span over four years. The program will treat Veterans, provide them with therapy, housing if needed, and help them work their way back into the economy and our society.

#### SECTION II

The "Heroes at Home" Bill implements a four year program for veterans returning from combat. Any veteran that receives these benefits must have: 1.) Lived in Louisiana for at least 6 years leading up to their deployment or have graduated from one of our universities with a four year degree. 2.) Served their full term or been honorably discharged. Once they meet these requirements they must opt into the program within one year of returning to Louisiana, if not they cannot opt in later.

The 4 year program is separated into three phases.

(1.) The first year is an entire year of diagnosis and treatment of PTSD. Soldiers without PTSD will skip to phase two, but still be entitled to therapy throughout the program. This year will also serve as a year of readjustment into society without the normal pressures of everyday life.

(2.) In the second phase, the soldier has two years to attend a state technical college, to receive OTJ Training, to partake in internships, or attend trade school. This will allow veterans to learn a skill or trade that he/she can then apply to a career to become a valued member in the economy. During the 2 years any training program must be preapproved by the Louisiana Department of Veteran Affairs (LDVA) "Heroes at Home" committee.

(3.) Finally, phase 3 is the final year under government aid. During this time veterans must look for work. If they are not actively looking for work they are subject to lose their program benefits. This only applies to veterans still able to work.

#### SECTION III

Since the U.S is not always deploying and returning the same amount of active soldiers depending on their war status, the annual price of this program will vary. This program will be run through the LDVA. The LDVA will fund the educational and the housing aspects. Finally, healthcare, including therapy and the diagnosis and treatment of PTSD will be funded through the Department of Health and Hospitals.

#### SECTION IV

Leaving the program early will result in automatic termination of all benefits.

*Signed into law by Governor Patrick Flanigan February 2014*

Sponsor: Carly Warren  
Co-Sponsor: Avery Walton  
Club: C.E. Byrd  
Bill # SB 68

AN ACT

TO: 18 as Legal Drinking Age

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA

SECTION I

Currently in the United States, you must be at least 21 years of age in order to purchase or consume alcohol. Also in America, 18 is the age you can legally become an adult. Along with becoming an adult, you are able to earn certain adult privileges and responsibilities. Presently, we offer privileges and responsibilities to those 18 years of age such as: voting for who leads our country, in the lines of justice, stricter federal consequences, and be granted the choice to risk their lives in fighting for our country. We believe, with having these certain responsibilities and privileges, 18 should be the legal age for purchasing and consuming alcohol.

SECTION II

In the implementation of this bill, taxes on alcoholic products will be increased. We would want this new law to come into action at the beginning of 2015, in order to have ample time to work all contradictions out. All previous rules and consequences for the purchasing and/or consuming of alcohol will remain, except for the legal age of 21 will be changed to 18.

SECTION III

Funding from the federal government is not available, so the taxes on all alcoholic products will be increased.

SECTION IV

All previous consequences and penalties will apply, to minors under the age of 18, for purchasing or consuming alcohol.

*Signed into law by Governor Patrick Flanigan February 2014*

Sponsor: ThJames Payne  
Co-Sponsor: Samantha Hilburn  
Club: Captain Shreve High School  
Bill # SB 70

AN ACT

TO: The legalization act of 2014

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA

SECTION I

The objective of this bill is to legalize all forms of illegal drugs, this includes: heroin, methamphetamine, marijuana and other illicit drugs and narcotics. According to the Los Angeles times, the U.S. spends 60 billion a year to sustain the needs of prisoners. This bill would not only reduce a significant amount of arrests, therefore reducing the amount of prisoners needed to be sustained but would also serve an alternate purpose as well. With all drugs legalized addicts and unintelligent casual users would eventually eliminate themselves from society. The American people would become a stronger, better funded and better educated society. Programs such as D.A.R.E and other anti drug programs would still be offered and possibly reinforced with government funding to educate children about the danger of harmful drugs and narcotics.

SECTION II

This bill, if passed, would take effect January 1 of 2015.

SECTION III

1 million dollars is all the funding this bill requires, this money would be used to strengthen anti drug education programs, this money would be provided by sin tax.

SECTION IV

No penalties required.

*Signed into law by Governor Patrick Flanigan February 2014*

Sponsor: Reagan Escude  
Co-Sponsor: Amelia Fertitta  
Club: Captain Shreve High School  
Bill # SB 71

## AN ACT

TO: Mandate that high school student educational requirements include the successful completion of Basic CPR and First Aid Training in all health classes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA

### SECTION I

According to the American Heart Association website, 88% of cardiac arrests occur at home. Each minute of delayed CPR attempts or defibrillation during cardiac arrest reduce chances of survival by 10%. Four out of five young people say they would feel safer if they had some basic first aid knowledge.

### SECTION II

Although students in school are taught common health practices, they are not educated on the benefits of being trained in CPR and first aid. This will not only benefit their general knowledge for possible emergencies or risks, but also influence their preparation for situations involving family members, friends, or even children of their own. This bill will add another portion of health education curriculum that will cover how to act during unexpected traumatic situations. This bill will also decrease death rates of all individuals who have unexpected or accidental health emergencies which commonly add to the untimely deaths of children and others. The length of time it takes to teach the complete practices of CPR training and First Aid is approximately two hours and thirty minutes. This means that the entire training process will be completed within two days of the entire semester long health class. Skills taught include checking an injured or ill person before giving care, caring for soft tissue injuries, injuries to muscles, bones, and joints, and citizen CPR. According to the Red Cross website, director from each local chapter will train one or more adults at each school as "instructors" who will then deliver the program to students. It is a free school offer that waives student learner fees. to lose their program benefits. This only applies to veterans still able to work.

### SECTION III

There is a cost in training the teachers to be instructors. There is also a cost to rent CPR dummies if necessary for instruction. This bill will be funded from the Minimum Foundation Program through the proceeds from the Louisiana Lottery.

### SECTION IV

N/A

*Signed into law by Governor Patrick Flanigan February 2014*

Sponsor: Stephanie Durr  
Co-Sponsor: ]  
Club: Captain Shreve High School  
Bill # SB 72

AN ACT

TO: To increase punishment for those soliciting for prostitutes

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA

SECTION I

This bill will move to amend a state law already in practice regarding the solicitation of prostitutes. Soliciting for prostitutes is the soliciting, inviting, inducing, directing or transporting a person to any place with the intention of promoting prostitution. The current law for soliciting for prostitutes states that a person caught soliciting for prostitutes shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars, imprisoned for not more than six months, or both. This bill moves to make the current law more strict regarding the solicitation of prostitutes by raising the fine to no less than three thousand dollars and be imprisoned for no less than two years, nor more than twenty-five years, with or without hard labor, and without benefit of parole. In addition, the offender will also have his or her name placed on the registered sex offenders list. The increased punishment for solicitors will cause the demand for prostitution to decrease, therefore decreasing the prostitution industry.

SECTION II

The implementation of this bill would mandate that the police force crack down harder on prostitution and known areas of prostitution. This bill shall be implemented starting in January of 2015.

SECTION III

This bill will pay for itself. The increase of fines will cover the cost of increased jail time for the offenders.

SECTION IV

Failure to comply with fining will result in increased jail time and increased fines, to be decided at the discrepancy of the judge. Failure to comply with imprisonment will also result in increased fines and imprisonment, to be decided at the discrepancy of the judge.

Amendment: equal punishment to that of prostitution

*Signed into law by Governor Patrick Flanigan February 2014*

Sponsor: Lisa Carter  
Co-Sponsor:  
Club: Captain Shreve High School  
Bill # SB 76

AN ACT

To: Raise academic performance in public schools by allowing students a period to nap.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA

SECTION I

As a nation, the United States appears to be becoming more and more sleep deprived. And it may be our busy lifestyle that keeps us from napping. While naps do not necessarily make up for inadequate or poor quality nighttime sleep, a short nap of 20-30 minutes can help to improve mood, alertness and performance. This type of nap provides significant benefit without leaving you feeling groggy or interfering with nighttime sleep. Winston Churchill, John F. Kennedy, Ronald Reagan, Napoleon, Albert Einstein, Thomas Edison and George W. Bush are known to have valued an afternoon nap.

SECTION II

This bill will go into effect in all state-funded schools, excluding state-supported universities at the beginning of the approaching school year. There shall be an allotted thirty minutes dedicated to a short nap or optional study hall in a separate room during the rest period, the time of which is to be determined at the school's discretion. The students shall be allowed to position themselves comfortably. (Mats are optional). No student will be able to talk or in any other way disturb classmates. Lights shall be turned off.

SECTION III

No extra funds are required. Most schools already have an excess amount of time designated various activities, a simple rescheduling is required.

SECTION IV

Failure to adhere to the regulations will result in penalties to be later determined based on situation.

*Signed into law by Governor Patrick Flanigan February 2014*

Sponsor: John Croxton  
Co-Sponsor: Christopher Abadie  
Club: Mandeville High  
Bill # SB 79

AN ACT

To: Saving the Wetlands...With Garbage

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA

SECTION I

Louisiana is losing 300 square miles of wetlands every year. The wetlands help protect us from everything from hurricanes to rogue pirates each year, and their erosion is costing us an estimated 7 trillion dollars each year in lost taxes. This problem must end, but even Louisiana's greatest minds have not found a solution. Until now...

SECTION II

The authors propose a daring solution: to replenish Louisiana's wetlands with trash. Piles of trash along the shoreline will fill in the lost soil each year, and over time Louisiana's coast will grow larger and larger, until it absorbs the Gulf of Mexico in a glorious paradise of pristine garbage beaches. To do this, special amphibious garbage trucks will transport all trash from Louisiana's landfills to its coasts and dump their cargo. For a limited time, citizens will receive tax breaks for extra garbage production in order to expand the coastline as quickly as possible. Without even taking into account the new barrier from hurricanes (and pirates), Louisiana will benefit from tourist revenue on our new beaches.

SECTION III

The entire project will be funded by the 7 trillion dollars Louisiana will gain in tax revenue. Leftover money will go to a "Save the Animals" fund for all of the swamp animals that will be severely harmed by the new influx of trash into the wetlands.

SECTION IV

There are no penalties in this bill, because the only piece involving citizens is the optional 'more trash' tax break.

*Signed into law by Governor Patrick Flanigan February 2014*

Sponsor: Thirumurugan Vinayagam  
Co-Sponsor:  
Club: Baton Rouge High School  
Bill # HB 82

AN ACT

TO: Bettering Education and Children's Health through Technology

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA

#### SECTION I

This bill would make all students of public Louisiana high schools receive electronic tablets for educational use only. The school would have all textbooks as EBooks and this would allow teachers to give notes via email instead of paper. All assignments and tests will be on paper. The program will be implemented on specific schools first then rolled out on others. Schoolchildren are experiencing health problems with carrying bags and this is a way to prevent this. Any non educational activity on the device shall be an infraction and the school or government shall retain no liability. Lets have Louisiana as the state to be for education.

#### SECTION II

The program will be done to specific schools determined by the school board first then rolled on all public schools. This will save cost. Students currently in 12th grade are not required to be entered into this program.

#### SECTION III

There are currently about 30,000 students currently enrolled in public school in Louisiana. The number shown is an high estimate. The funding will come from a raise in tuition and class fees and will also come from the money saved from no textbooks and savings in paper and other resources. The government will have a subsidized price for the tablets because of bulk ordering and commercial use.

#### SECTION IV

Any student with an infraction will be dealt with by the school and if necessary by the police or other federal employees. Any school not in compliance will be fined and must immediately reform to this bill. The fine is T.B.A. by the state board.

Amendment: All previously existing text books can be sold or rented to students

*Signed into law by Governor Patrick Flanigan February 2014.*

Sponsor: Alexandra Cloutet  
Co-Sponsor: Justin Knight  
Club: Mandeville High School  
Bill # HB 158

AN ACT

TO: Create opt-in communal bike sharing programs

BE IT ENACTED BY THE YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF LOUISIANA

#### SECTION I

New Orleans ranks among the top 10 cities in the US for commuting, and the League of American Bicyclists has declared it a Bronze Bicycle Friendly Community. New Orleans, and for that matter any and all cities in Louisiana, could greatly benefit from an increase in bicycle usage. Many studies have suggested bike-sharing programs as a great way to increase the use of bicycles for transportation within cities. In lieu of cars, which require a lot of gas and a lot of space, bikes are great for the community and for the individual. Bike riding is an incredibly convenient form of transportation. Bikes are easy to maneuver through difficult streets, and with a decrease in cars on the road, more bikes on the sidewalks means minimized traffic congestion. Bikes are better for the environment, better for your wallet, and better for your health and well-being.

#### SECTION II

Our plan is to create an avenue available to cities and municipalities for communal bike-sharing programs individualized to that city. Once a city in Louisiana officially opts in to this available state program, the following steps shall occur to make bike-sharing a reality.

1. A task force for individual implementation is assembled and oversees the process. Raise funds (approximately \$40,000 in New Orleans, as an example.)
2. Develop an implementation plan with strategies to: Procure capital and rolling stock funding. Create partnerships with municipal agencies and transit authorities. Acquire sponsorship pledges from both private and public funders. Generate a request for proposals (RFP) to find a suitable private bike-sharing partner, and create a committee to review responses. Issue the RFP and choose a winning candidate.
3. Individual city government, in partnership with the private bike-sharing partner, implements the plan.
4. Coordinate outreach to the community and elected officials about the new bike-sharing program available.
5. Appoint a funding recipient for capital and bicycle costs - a municipal authority, nonprofit or municipality. In New Orleans, these could be the City of New Orleans, the Regional Transit Authority, the Regional Planning Commission, or a nonprofit.
6. Ensure that this new program is self-sustaining within the individual community, and then fully relinquish and entrust the reins of the operation to the city government.

#### SECTION III

Each city is ultimately responsible for raising the funds necessary for start-up costs of implementation. Costs cannot be estimated in a blanket statement but rather on a case-by-case basis. In New Orleans, for example, the start-up costs have been estimated at about \$40,000. However, once up and running, bike-sharing programs are self-sustaining, and can even potentially raise revenue for a city.

#### SECTION IV

Penalties for not opting in to this bill are nonexistent. If a city does not

Amendment: to provide helmets for the bicyclist to rent the bikes at these kiosks.

*Signed into law by Governor Patrick Flanigan February 2014*