



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

SENATE BILL 1

Brendan Parenti Woodlawn High School

TITLE: Standing in Solidarity against Solitary

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Solitary confinement is a glaring problem within our modern prison system. Solitary confinement is a form of imprisonment where the inmate in question is put into a small room, typically only slightly bigger than an elevator. These rooms have nothing more than a bed, sink, and toilet. In these rooms inmates have no stimulation for the outside world or any human contact. Inmates are only allowed one hour a day outside of their containment cell for exercise purposes.

The effects of living in solitary can have disastrous effects on human mental health. These effects can include depression, anxiety and panic attacks. 53.8% of people said that their time in solitary confinement worsened their mental health, while only 4.3% said that they improved. Rates of both self-harm and suicide are much higher for people who have been placed in solitary confinement. The rates of self-harm in solitary confinement are seven times higher than the general population, and the rates of suicide are thirty-three times higher.

The problem of solitary confinement is especially worse in Louisiana. Louisiana boasts the highest incarceration rate of any state in the United States. Louisiana also holds the record for the highest percentage of prisoners in solitary confinement. In 2016 the percent of prisoners in solitary confinement was 17%, 4 times the national average.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

When this bill takes effect, all solitary confinement prisoners in the state must be moved out of solitary cells and into regular prison cells. Should prisoners not be moved out of solitary confinement within three months of the bill taking effect, the prison holding them will be fined \$5,000 per prisoner.

Money that would have been spent holding inmates in solitary confinement will instead go to funding therapists for those who have been affected by solitary confinement.

This bill will take effect 3 months after it is passed into law. This time period will give prisons time to comply with the law.

SECTION III: FUNDING

This bill will not require any funding.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Should a prison or detention center incarcerate an inmate into solitary confinement, the prison will be fined \$100,000 initially, and \$5,000 every month until the prisoner's release from solitary confinement. On the second offense they will be fined \$250,000 and \$12,500 every month until release. On a third offense the prison will be fined \$500,000 and \$25,000 every month until release. Repeat offenses after the third will apply this fine. The increased fine will only occur if the prison has committed a prior offense in the past year



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

SENATE BILL 2

Ava Creel LSU Lab

Lucy Nguyen

TITLE: Lower Louisiana's Litter

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Louisiana is plagued with litter, negatively impacting both the environment and the economy. Litter comes in many forms, such as cigarette butts, plastic bottles and bags, cans, banana peels, and gum. Not only does litter conceal the beauty of Louisiana and drive away tourism, it hurts the environment in the process. Litter harms wildlife by collecting in areas where animals may live, such as the wetlands and clusters of trees near public roads and parks. According to keeplouisianabeautiful.org, \$40 million of Louisiana taxpayer money goes towards the removal of litter and abatement annually. Louisiana already has laws in place to prevent littering, with punishments ranging from a \$150 fine to the loss of a driver's license. With these laws in place, it would be expected that littering would be almost nonexistent throughout the state. However, with so few people actively enforcing these laws in a community that has normalized littering, the issue has become worse and worse. With 70% of intentional litter stemming from motorists and pedestrians, our bill motions to require government officiated trash cans in public places for every 250 people in a city. This bill completely changes the litter game. With not enough accessible trash cans, litter is increasing in the state of Louisiana. This bill would increase the amount of trash cans in proximity to pedestrians in public spaces, effectively eliminating a large percentage of litter.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Using the most recent Louisiana census, one government trash can would be designated to an area per 250 people, placed within proximity of the residents. Their locations would be determined by each parish's president, who oversee civil engineering and implementation. With a total state population of 4.6 million, this means that approximately 18,400 trash cans would be implemented. Averaging with a price of \$520, the appropriate amount of trash cans can be purchased for around \$10 million. By delegating \$15 million from the original litter fund, policies can be implemented to purchase and install the trash cans. The garbage will be frequently collected as part of the Louisiana Garbage Collection program, the state funded program that is responsible for the trash pickup of Louisiana residents biweekly.

SECTION III: FUNDING

As previously stated, almost \$40 million is spent towards litter removal every year. One government issued garbage can be designated for 250 people consistently throughout Louisiana on public property for an estimated cost of \$10 million. Delegating another \$5 million to install the trash cans in their designated locations, the total funding required for this bill from the Louisiana Government, \$15 million, is only a fraction of what is spent annually to pick up litter that would be prevented from passing this bill.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Penalties already in place for littering will remain in place, no new penalties implemented.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **SENATE BILL 3**

3 Grant Thevenot Catholic High School

4 Joey Blanchard

5 **TITLE:** "Two Will Do": A Law To Curb Police Over-Use of Force by Restricting Sidearm Ammunition Capacity
6 to Two Rounds

7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 No man, no matter how horrible his crime, should be shot 20+ times in the back, unarmed, and fleeing a
9 crime scene. Cops need to be held accountable for their actions, and this bill intends to do so. Our bill
10 recognizes that although criminals deserve to be punished, this is not tasked to the police, but rather the
11 criminal justice system. There is no situation where a police officer needs to shoot a man dozens of times.
12 The job of our officers is to keep the community safe, not execute criminals in the street. To restore this
13 order, we propose limiting officers to no more than two bullets in their gun at all times. Two bullets is
14 more than enough to subdue any unruly suspect and to allow police to defend themselves against
15 attackers on short notice. It will also ensure that officers do not injure suspects any more than is
16 necessary to restrain them.

17 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

18 Officers of all law enforcement agencies in the state, including the Louisiana State Police, may only have 2
19 bullets in their sidearm pistols at a time.

20
21 (This effectively means that if officers have 1 round loaded in their pistol's chamber, they can only have 1
22 round in their magazine. Additional magazines carried may only have 2 rounds in them.)

23
24 This does not apply to tactical weapons such as shotguns and rifles. These weapons are not sidearms, and
25 therefore would only be used if the police were engaged in an active shootout or were serving a court-
26 issued warrant on a dangerous suspect

27
28 When passed into law this bill must be renewed every year by the state legislature to remain in effect for
29 the next year, after its effects are reevaluated by the legislature for their effectiveness in curbing police
30 over-use of force.

31
32 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

33 This bill requires no funding if passed into law.

34 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

35 If an officer is found to be guilty of carrying more than 2 rounds in his gun at a time then they will be
36 suspended from the force without pay for two weeks.

37
38 If an officer is found guilty of carrying more than 2 rounds in their pistol and firing more than two rounds
39 in an officer-involved shooting, he will be expelled from the force.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **SENATE BILL 4**

3 Matthew Truehart

Mandeville High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Mandate COVID-19 vaccination or weekly testing for all state employees

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Over a year and a half since the initial COVID-19 lockdowns, the pandemic has caused numerous
8 economic, physical health, and mental health problems for the residents of our state. Even though COVID-
9 19 vaccinations are free and widely available, less than 60% of the eligible population of Louisiana has
10 received one dose. According to the CDC, unvaccinated individuals are six times more likely to test
11 positive and eleven times more likely to die from COVID-19. A simple, legal, and effective way to increase
12 COVID-19 vaccination rates is to impose a vaccine mandate on state employees. State employees include,
13 but are not limited to, higher and secondary education employees, LDH employees, correctional officers,
14 members of the military, executive branch department employees, and elected officials. As of 2020, there
15 are 70,518 state employees. Avoiding mandates to uphold the ideals of personal freedom is not worth the
16 risk of furthering the spread of a virus which has killed over five million people.

17 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

18 All state employees must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Those who object to COVID-19
19 vaccination must undergo weekly COVID-19 testing and must wear a mask in all indoor settings. It is the
20 responsibility of the administrative departments of each employment division to verify the vaccination or
21 testing status of their employees. This bill shall go into effect 10 weeks after its passage and shall be in
22 effect for a duration of 1 year, upon which it may be renewed. This bill does not apply to the small number
23 of individuals who cannot receive the COVID-19 vaccine due to a medical condition. However, these
24 individuals must submit proof, signed by their doctor, of the condition to their administrative department.

25 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

26 No funding is necessary for this bill.

27 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

28 Employees not in compliance with this bill shall be given a warning. After 2 weeks of the warning,
29 employees who have not made a valid effort to comply with the bill shall be terminated. If administrative
30 departments refuse to enforce the bill, a portion of their funding may be revoked by the state.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **SENATE BILL 5**

3 Roma Kolluru Lafayette High School

4 Paresh Kolluru

5 **TITLE:** Sweet Relief: Implementation of a Soda Tax

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Almost 15% of Louisiana’s adult population has diabetes, according to the American Diabetes Association,
8 with over 35% of the total state population being obese. With Louisiana’s growing diabetes rate growing
9 at an alarming rate, legislative action is needed to combat this. We propose that a Soda Tax, a sales tax
10 on high-sugar soft drinks with over 20 grams of sugar, be mandated in grocery and convenience stores
11 within the State of Louisiana. Several other nations such as Hungary and the United Kingdom have already
12 implemented taxes based on the sugar content of the beverage. The goal of this bill is to most efficiently
13 reduce sugar consumption for Louisiana citizens of all ages as well as provide relief to underserved
14 communities suffering economically and medically from a lack of access to healthy foods.

15
16 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

17 A new sales tax will be implemented wherein citizens purchasing high-sugar soft drinks will be taxed an
18 extra 0.5% sales tax for each drink purchased with over 20 grams of sugar. This soda tax will begin
19 implementation on the first day of the next calendar year: January 1st, 2022. This will give establishments
20 across Louisiana approximately 1 month to reprogram item databases.

21
22 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

23 This bill requires no funding. All extra tax funds collected will go towards health programs to provide
24 relief for low-income communities with little to no access to nutritious foods.

25
26 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

27 If an establishment is caught not implementing this tax, then all high-sugar soft drinks will be confiscated
28 from the marketplace by local law enforcement.



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

SENATE BILL 6

Koen Roberson Central High School

TITLE: Democratizing Louisiana Workplaces

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

The predominant hierarchical structure in Louisiana business, nationwide as well, is an increasingly outdated structure. In a state based so heavily on community, there is a mutualistic relationship between businesses and the communities that they operate out of. Local businesses were hit hard by COVID-19 and there is a long road to recovery. Navigating through nationwide shortages and supply chain issues, local businesses have found themselves in a place where they are facing staff shortages and even when they are fully staffed they are unable to pay workers living wages. It is time that we look for a solution outside the box of the usual solutions that we turn to in times of economic downturn. Worker cooperatives have long been used as a viable way for businesses to support the workers that operate it while also serving as pillars of communities. Worker cooperatives can best be described as businesses in which the workers own the means of production and make business decisions through democratic processes. This alternative business model ensures that the workers are supported in times of economic downturn as well as ensuring the community that the business operates out of benefits.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill would open up a fund to subsidize new worker cooperatives for their first 3 years in order to support this new method of business conduct. These subsidies would prove to be vital to local businesses and would almost guarantee the economic stability of all workers involved in the business. The economic stability of a community's workers is vital in the community's economic stability. By supporting worker cooperatives the state government is able to support local businesses, support workers, and pioneer an alternative business model through a state program which would yield groundbreaking results that could lead to a solution to many problems stemming from the widespread economic issues in our state.

SECTION III: FUNDING

A special fund would be requested in the next budget proposal to free up money for this bill to be executed. Money could be freed from subsidies to larger businesses that ignore the workers and community and use their grants for the gain of those at the top of the business. Money could be freed from other programs designed to help small businesses. Money could be freed from different welfare programs. Money could even be gained from a grant from the federal government in the name of funding an experimental program that could maybe be attempted in the future at a federal level. Money could be received from private economic research institutions and universities nationwide in order to research the effectiveness of such an experimental business model. The point is, money could be freed any number of places, but the effectiveness of this bill depends on the commitment of the state government to execute this bill to fruition. This means the proper funding and attention must be given to the program.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

None



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **SENATE BILL 7**

3 Emily Berg Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

4 Ruby Friloux

5 **TITLE:** Add "X" gender markers on Driver Licenses and State IDs

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Currently, in Louisiana, drivers' licenses and state IDs offer the two binary gender markers of Male (M) and
8 Female (F), effectively and systematically excluding individuals who are non-binary or have intersex
9 identities on a state level. For decades, transgender and non-binary individuals have faced harassment
10 and abuse from citizens and state officials. According to the report of the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey,
11 an estimated 46% of transgender Americans have experienced some form of verbal harassment - partially
12 as a result of inaccurate identity-oriented documents. This bill would change the identification marker on
13 drivers' licenses and state IDs from birth sex to gender and also add the option of the gender neutral
14 marker X on the appropriate application and renewal forms. For people 18 or older, the change would not
15 require any medical or psychiatric documentation from a provider, following the precedent set by 22
16 states and Washington D.C.; however, for people under the age of 18, the change would require guardian
17 consent.

18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 This bill will be enacted on December 3, 2022.

20 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

21 There is no necessary funding for this bill.

22 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

23 Not following this bill will qualify as a hate incident/crime, and thus misdemeanor offenses will result in a
24 \$500 fine or a 6 month prison sentence while felonies will result in a \$5000 fine and/or a five year prison
25 sentence.



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

SENATE BILL 8

Brady Keller Catholic High School Baton Rouge

Buster Couhig

TITLE: Don't Stop Believin' (or Drivin', late at night)

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Have you ever been stuck at a red light late at night, waiting ever-so-patiently for that stubborn thing to turn green? You start to wonder why you have to wait if there are no cars around. Reports from the Baton Rouge Traffic Index show that from 11:00 PM - 4 AM on weekdays, traffic is unsubstantial in most areas and on weekends the numbers are quite similar from 1:00 AM - 5:00 AM. The frustration, time wasting, and curfew management for younger drivers seems to not be worth the wait. The implementation of this bill would decrease unnecessary traffic violations, and cause less stress among those driving. Drivers may even feel unsafe stopping late at night while they are by themselves because of frequent car-jackings, rapes, abductions, and murders that typically occur during these times. Making the shift from red light to stop sign will alleviate these fears by lessening the time in this window that such attacks could occur.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

From 11:00 PM - 4 AM on weekdays, and 1:00 AM - 5:00 AM on weekends, on all roads with a speed limit of 45 or less, traffic lights will flash red and act as stop signs. Areas around bars and late night restaurants will be excluded from this bill. At places where there are blind intersections, there will be signs in place to tell the driver they are not allowed to go. If no sign is next to the light, you are allowed to proceed.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Funding for the previously mentioned signs will come from the current budget for the transportation department. No additional funding is needed. The current budget for the transportation department is \$656,310,034 with \$100,407,516 allotted to the engineering and development section. The cost to build these signs would only be around \$25-35 per sign.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

The normal penalty for running a stop sign ranges from \$150-225. This standard penalty would apply in the event that someone runs a light. As long as traffic cameras are still in use, the ability to catch those who abuse this policy (outside of allotted hours) is still available. In addition, there are typically police on night patrol who have the ability to pull over offenders and give them a ticket.



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

SENATE BILL 9

Thomas O'Connor Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

TITLE: Terminating a State of Disaster or Emergency

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Currently, in Louisiana, there is no check on the governor's power during a state of emergency. The current law that imposes a legislative check on the governor's state of emergency power allows either chamber of the legislature (State House of Representatives or State Senate) to vote with a simple majority to terminate a state of emergency. However, this has been marred with allegations of unconstitutionality and petitions by the legislature to end the states of emergency have gotten stuck in state courts because the law only requires the vote of one chamber to terminate the emergency (see Governor John Bel Edwards v. Louisiana State Legislature, Louisiana House of Representatives, & Clay Schexnayder, in His Official Capacity as Speaker of the House of Representatives). The governor, therefore, has the power to extend the emergency powers indefinitely which could lead to executive overreach. Although this has not been an issue so far in Louisiana, executive overreach related to a state of emergency has been seen in other states, like Texas and Florida, where the governors have used their emergency executive power to impose excessive restrictions on local governments (i.e. banning mask mandates, capacity limits, and other COVID-19 safety regulations). With another governor or under a different circumstance, the governor could use an unchecked state of emergency to impose tyrannical or excessive rules on local governments, school boards, small businesses, and even individual Louisianians.

This bill would enforce a check on the executive branch by having both chambers of the state legislature vote on whether or not to terminate a state of emergency after the order has been in place for thirty days. A simple majority vote would be able to terminate the state of emergency. The legislature would have the power to, at any time, vote to terminate the state of emergency. If a state of emergency is terminated, the legislature would then vote on a time period in which no additional emergency could be brought on similar grounds. For instance, if the legislature voted to terminate a state of emergency for COVID-19 and decided another emergency could not be declared for three months, this would not prohibit the governor from declaring a state of emergency for a hurricane a month later.

The current law forces the governor to reissue a new executive order every thirty days to keep the state of emergency in place, but this law would make sure the governor has the permission of the legislature to renew a state of emergency; however, if the legislature is not in session, they can call a special session to extend the emergency. Thus, this would provide an effective check on the governor's power by allowing the legislature to end the emergency.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Effective January 1, 2022, the legislature, by simple majority vote of the surviving members of both chambers, must decide whether or not to terminate a state of disaster or emergency thirty days after the governor's initial executive order establishing the state of emergency was issued.

1 If this vote results in the termination of the state of disaster or emergency, the legislature must, by
2 simple majority vote of the surviving members of each chamber, establish a period during which no other
3 declaration of disaster or emergency may be issued with the justification of the original executive order.
4 Thereupon, the governor shall issue an executive order or proclamation ending the state of disaster or
5 emergency.

6 The legislature, by petition signed by a majority of the surviving members of both chambers, may extend
7 or shorten the period established in which no other declaration can be issued at any time thereafter.

8 If the vote results in the extension of the state of disaster or emergency, the legislature, by petition
9 signed by a majority of the surviving members of both chambers, may terminate the state of disaster or
10 emergency at any time thereafter. This petition to terminate the state of disaster or emergency must
11 establish a period during which no other declaration of disaster or emergency may be issued with the
12 justification of the original executive order. Thereupon, the governor shall issue an executive order or
13 proclamation ending the state of disaster or emergency.

14 The legislature, by petition signed by a majority of the surviving members of both chambers, may extend
15 or shorten the period established in which no other declaration can be issued at any time thereafter.

16 If the legislature declines to vote on whether or not to terminate the state of disaster or emergency thirty
17 days after the original order was issued, the governor may extend the existing order for thirty additional
18 days. If the legislature still has not voted on whether or not to terminate it after the fifteen additional
19 days, the emergency shall be terminated and no other declaration may be issued with the justification of
20 the original executive order for the next thirty days. Thereupon, the governor shall issue an executive
21 order or proclamation ending the state of disaster or emergency.

22 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

23 No funding is necessary for this bill.

24 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

25 No penalties are necessary for this bill.
26
27



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **SENATE BILL 10**

3 Samuel Adjei University Laboratory School

4
5 **TITLE:** Teacher's Education in BLS

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Teachers are constantly working with students of every kind. Some of these students have disabilities as
9 well. If a students becomes incapacitated, the teacher should be able to keep the student alive until
10 officials can arrive. As part of a teacher's screening, the teacher should be trained in or, if the teacher
11 claims to know BLS, tested Basic Life Support in order to successfully sustain or recapacitate their
12 students.

13 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

14 All schools will be given until the beginning of the 2025 year to train all existing teachers and/or faculty
15 members in basic life support when this bill is passed, and the teachers will be allowed to teach without
16 certification until that time period. These schools will also be required to teach any new incoming teachers
17 basic life support if they claim not to know it. If the newly hired teacher claims to know basic life support,
18 he or she must be thoroughly tested in this subject before being hired. If the teacher fails, they will go
19 through training. Teachers will be allowed to teach for 1 school year without certification. As a
20 contingency, teachers will only be allowed to continue to come into contact with a seemingly incapacitated
21 student if the teacher can confirm that the student is in mortal danger. This will prevent teachers from
22 unlawfully coming into contact with a student.

23
24 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

25 All schools, privately funded or funded by State Governments, will be required to provide Basic Life
26 Support training using their own revenue.

27
28 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

29 Teachers who are not trained in Basic Life Support will not be allowed to teach until they have received
30 official training and are screened and tested by the school of their choice. Schools who permit untrained
31 teachers to teach will be instructed to train all untrained teachers who have been employed at the school
32 in 1 school year. If the teachers are still untrained after 1 school year, the teachers must be fired by the
33 school. These penalties will be enforced during the beginning of the 2030 school year after this bill is
34 passed.



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

SENATE BILL 11

Maddy Campbell

Dutchtown High

TITLE: Allowing Students free bottled water in school

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Water is one of the most key components of life. Humans cannot perform to their highest ability if they are faced with dehydration. But for many kids, fresh clean water is not available to them unless they are in school. But ever since the pandemic, water fountains everywhere have been closed. These kids are being told to bring their own water from home or to buy milk during lunch. But this then poses many more obstacles such as kids bringing things other than water to school or having to hurry and finish their resealable milk before lunch ends. And what shall the kids who face lactose intolerance do? By providing kids with free bottled water, we can limit these problems. Kids can continue to stay hydrated throughout the day without having to leave class. This option will also save the school money. While bagged milk is 50 cents, bottled water can be as low as 25 cents. So not only does this benefit the children, but the schools as well. According to www.health.harvard.edu, everyone should stick to the 4 to 6 cup rule a day. This amount is hard to accomplish when students are having to sit for 2-4 hours a day before getting that well-needed water break. But if students were provided with bottled water, they can continue to sip all day.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Next school year after passing

SECTION III: FUNDING

In regards to funding, that is up to the school board's discretion. While larger more funded schools can probably adapt to this change with no problem, the smaller schools will need to decide what they would need to cut. According to the hoards online website, the Food Waste Warrior program reported that as much as 45 million gallons of milk were wasted last year in school lunchrooms valued at \$138 million. Much of this money could have been saved if the school gave the students bottled water instead. These bottled waters can also go directly into the recycling bin while milk containers must be cleaned first.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If it is found that schools were not providing bottled waters for students, The school will be fined and then reevaluated on a later date to ensure water bottles are being passed out.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **SENATE BILL 13**

3 Carolyn Avery

Neville High School

4
5 **TITLE: Ban Conversion Therapy for Minors**

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Tens of thousands of LGBTQ youth will undergo "conversion therapy" from a licensed health care
8 professional, religious adviser, or spiritual leader before they turn 18, according to a report from the
9 Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law. "Conversion therapy" means any practice or treatment by a
10 licensed physician specializing in the practice of psychiatry that attempts or purports to change an
11 individual's sexual orientation or gender identity, including efforts to change behaviors or gender
12 expressions or to eliminate or reduce sexual or romantic attraction or feelings toward individuals of the
13 same sex. "Conversion therapy" does not include practices or treatments that provide: Acceptance,
14 support, and understanding for the facilitation of an individual's coping, social support, and identity
15 exploration and development, including sexual orientation-neutral interventions to prevent or address
16 unlawful conduct or unsafe sexual practices, as long as the counseling does not seek to change sexual
17 orientation or gender identity; or assistance to a person undergoing gender transition. Conversion therapy
18 can appear in a multitude of ways from forcing a child to become more religious to straight-up shock
19 therapy. All of which is proven to cause trauma that will affect the child for decades to come.

20
21
22 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

23 After this bill is signed all those who offer some form of conversion therapy to minors, regardless of
24 parental consent, must immediately stop the practice. Any conversion therapy practiced on minors
25 henceforth will be considered unprofessional conduct and there shall be grounds for disciplinary action.
26 Reporting these violations will be done in the same manner as reporting other unethical treatments; this
27 being a report board and hotline. There will not be any religious exemptions.

28 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

29 There isn't any needed funding.

30 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

31 Penalties will include but are not limited to, suspension or revocation of the professional's license,
32 certification, or registration to practice his or her profession.

33



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **SENATE BILL 14**

3 Melvin Ruffus

Neville High School

4
5 **TITLE:** To repeal corporal punishments in public schools.

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Corporal punishment is not an effective method of managing behavior. It does not teach a child how to act
8 properly. At best, corporal punishment has only a temporary effect on behavior. And it may even make it
9 worse. Not only does it reinforce some problem behavior, but also it teaches a child that physical force is
10 the way to resolve conflict.

11 Parents can refuse to let administrators use corporal punishment. A child who is spanked at school then
12 spanked at home has no safe place. According to the Ministry of Social Development "Physical punishment
13 is associated with increased child aggression, antisocial behaviour, lower intellectual achievement, poorer
14 quality of parent-child relationships, mental health problems (such as depression), and diminished moral
15 internalisation." Also according to the National Institute of Justice. A common belief held by many
16 professionals in the criminal justice field is that the vast majority of incarcerated felons have been victims
17 of physical abuse or neglect as children. Hitting children might discipline them but in the long run the child
18 will never learn respect only fear. Giving principles and teachers the right to hit children gives them more
19 authority than they should have. Just because a parent gives a principle a right to instil corporal
20 punishment there should be other methods tried. A principle can easily overdo the punishment and hurt
21 the child more than needed. Children with disabilities are excluded from punishments. Congress tried to
22 ban corporal punishments in April of 2021 but it was considered constitutional and legal on May 6th of
23 2021. No principle nor teacher should have the authority and power over a child that is not theirs.

24 **IN THE STATE OF LOUISIANA A CHILD IS CONSIDERED THE PARENTS PROPERTY**

25
26 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

27 This bill should be in effect on January 1, 2022.

28 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

29 This bill does not require funding

30 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

31 Suspension without pay and/or termination pending investigation against the person who did the act.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **SENATE BILL 15**

3 Meghan McDonald Neville High School

4
5 **TITLE:** repeal the LGBTQ panic defense act

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 The LGBTQ+ “panic” defense strategy is a legal strategy that asks a jury to find that a victim’s sexual
9 orientation or gender identity/expression is to blame for a defendant’s violent reaction, including murder.
10 It is not a free-standing defense to criminal liability, but rather a legal tactic used to bolster other
11 defenses. When a perpetrator uses an LGBTQ+ “panic” defense, they are claiming that a victim’s sexual
12 orientation or gender identity not only explains—but excuses—a loss of self-control and the subsequent
13 assault. By fully or partially acquitting the perpetrators of crimes against LGBTQ+ victims, this defense
14 implies that LGBTQ+ lives are worth less than others. Juries have acquitted dozens of murderers of their
15 crimes through a defense team’s use of an LGBTQ+ “panic” defense strategy. As recently as April 2018, an
16 LGBTQ+ “panic” defense was used to mitigate a murder charge.

17
18 The LGBTQ+ “panic” defense has been banned in: California, 2014 Illinois, 2017 Rhode Island, 2018
19 Nevada, 2019 Connecticut, 2019 Maine, 2019 Hawaii, 2019 New York, 2019 New Jersey, 2020
20 Washington, 2020 Colorado, 2020 District of Columbia, 2020 Virginia, 2021 Vermont, 2021 Oregon,
21 2021 Maryland, 2021

22 One of the most recognized cases that employed the LGBTQ+ “panic” defense was that of Matthew
23 Shepard. In 1998, Matthew Shepard, a 21-year-old college student, was beaten to death by two men. The
24 men attempted to use the LGBTQ+ “panic” defense to excuse their actions.

25 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

26 I would like this bill to take effect on January 1, 2022.

27
28
29 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

30 There is no need for funding for my bill.

31
32 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

33 The judge would get a warning for trying to justify this act, if they continue to do so the judge in question
34 will be terminated.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **SENATE BILL 16**

3 Per Kayla Woods

Neville High School

4
5 **TITLE:** To treat police trials as regular citizen trials

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 According to NDRs politics podcast editor, Eric McDaniel, " During the 2020 presidential campaign, Biden
8 said supporting the law was a mistake. As president, Biden has pushed for police reform in the wake of
9 several instances of high-profile violence at the hands of police. The primary legislative effort, the George
10 Floyd Justice in Policing Act, is unlikely to come up for a vote in the Senate after police reform talks
11 collapsed last month." Having this bill shows people that they are not being ignored and the violence by
12 police numbers have increased. For example, it took rapper Lil Baby to make a song named "The Bigger
13 Picture" for the world to start paying attention the unfair crimes made by police officers. The bill should
14 be implemented on the set time because today officers get away with wrongful crimes with very little
15 punishment.

16
17
18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 This bill should be implemented on February 2, 2022. The bill should be implemented on the set time
20 because today officers get away with wrongful crimes with very little punishment.

21
22
23 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

24 No funding is needed

25 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

26 There is a \$250 fine



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **SENATE BILL 17**

3 Briggs Wood Baton Rouge Magnet High School

4 Michael Wang

5 **TITLE:** Join the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact is an agreement between multiple states in which all of
8 their electoral votes in a presidential election are allocated based on the winner of the national popular
9 vote. This has been adopted by 15 states and the District of Columbia, totaling 195 electoral votes. With
10 this bill, Louisiana's 8 electoral votes will be rewarded to the winner of the national popular vote as
11 opposed to the winner of the presidential election in the state of Louisiana. This is in response to the
12 unfair and ineffective electoral college system, which tramples the interests of individuals in favor of the
13 interests of those in specific geographic areas.

14
15 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

16 Electors will be directed to pledge their electoral vote to the winner of the national popular vote,
17 regardless of who wins the presidential vote in the state of Louisiana.

18
19 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

20 No funding is necessary for passing this bill.

21
22 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

23 Electors who do not comply with the Compact will be immediately replaced and have their votes nullified.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **SENATE BILL 18**

3 Harrison Laborde LSU Lab School

4 Brennan Ryder

5 **TITLE:** Expansion of the IB Program

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 The IB program is a rigorous international education program. It stands for International Baccalaureate
8 and it focuses on student growth and their ability to function in society in the future. The IB program is
9 not nearly as large in the US as it is internationally, most schools in the US do not even recognize the
10 credits students receive through the IB program. As students that attend a school that offers the IB
11 program, we are able to experience the benefits first hand. We are also able to hear from many
12 instructors that speak highly of the IB program. Research by multiple parties has shown that IB graduates
13 have up to a 20% higher acceptance rate into top/prestigious colleges. If we start to craft the IB program
14 a larger presence in the US, we could ease this program into being recognized by most colleges in the US.
15

16 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

17 We propose a quota as of January 1st, 2022 be set for the end of the year 2032 for a minimum of 5
18 already existing schools to offer the IB program to their students; the government should provide
19 assistance for any school who plans to offer the program.

20 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

21 The government assistance mentioned above will be drawn from current federal grants and an addition to
22 the Education Excellence Fund (EEF) that diverts 10% of the fund to schools who want to expand their
23 programs in this way. If absolutely necessary, property taxes could be raised by up to 0.25%.
24

25 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

26 If this said quota is not met by its end date, then the government will use the gathered funds to create
27 one or two new, government-run private, semi private, or magnet public IB schools. This means the tuition
28 of the students interested in IB classes will go to the state instead of the private schools who could have
29 implemented the program.



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

SENATE BILL 19

Josh Blake Lakeshore High School

Will Snizik

TITLE: Give Teachers Free Reign Over School Curriculums

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

For a long time, teachers and students in Louisiana have expressed dissatisfaction with the “one-size-fits-all” curriculum issued by the state to be taught in every school within it. Many feel that this system is not individualized enough for different levels of classes (i.e. Honors, Gifted, A.P.) and is often rushed, leaving certain subjects with imperfect plans for a whole year of learning. Additionally, teachers and students alike often find curriculum material very niche, and not often used in day-to-day life. This bill intends to both simplify the process of creating the curriculum and make it easier for students to follow, understand, and apply.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Starting with the 2022-2023 school year, at the beginning of every year, there will be a newly allotted day of paid professional development. On this day, teachers of core subjects will meet to determine the school year’s curriculum (i.e. What topics are covered, books to be read, etc.) for the four classes and academic divisions of them. Each teacher will have input, and, after they have all determined what will be a part of the curriculum, they will submit it to the state for review to make certain that it follows certain guidelines. The state will establish a set of criteria which curriculums for each subject need to follow, but will not be allowed to issue a curriculum themselves.

SECTION III: FUNDING

No funding will be required for this bill.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Any parish who is found to be issuing a state curriculum without teacher input will be, after a warning, fined \$500 per school being forced to use said curriculum, with fines increasing as offenses repeat.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **SENATE BILL 20**

3 Emma Bonney St. Joseph's Academy

4 Marianna Cuadra

5 **TITLE:** Provide Buses for Mandatory Hurricane Evacuations

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 About 19% of Louisiana's population live below the poverty line. Some cannot afford cars and must rely
8 on public transportation to get to places. During a hurricane evacuation they are not provided a safe way
9 to evacuate. Many cities that are more vulnerable to a hurricane have the highest poverty rates. For those
10 with cars, the provided solution is to drive in their cars in heavily congested traffic. Traffic would be less
11 congested if people were given the opportunity to evacuate via bus. This would be safer and more cost
12 effective for all parties who benefit.

13 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

14 Public transport buses and school buses would be used. The buses would follow the normal evacuation
15 route provided by the state officials. The buses will automatically be provided when a parish declares a
16 mandatory evacuation. The buses would take them to red cross shelters. The bus drivers will be
17 considered first responders. They will be paid 150% of their normal overtime. This payment plan is already
18 used for state workers working emergency preparedness i.e. DSNAP, special needs and general population
19 shelters.

20
21
22 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

23 This bill requires funding to pay the bus drivers and the fuel used by the buses. The specific amount of
24 money varies by circumstance. The money would come from the hurricane relief aid given by the federal
25 government, specifically FEMA.

26 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

27 There are no penalties for this bill.



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

SENATE BILL 21

Skyler Hale Central High School

TITLE: Mandatory Sex Education in Louisiana High Schools.

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

In the state of Louisiana, there are a number of problems surrounding the sexual health of minors. Currently, Louisiana law states that sex education is not mandatory and, if schools even choose to implement this course, abstinence must be emphasized. The effects of such regulations are evident in the state's teen pregnancy and STD rates. In both, Louisiana is ranked 3rd highest. Teens are also prevented from learning about their own bodies and personal sexual health due to the lack of resources available to them. This lack of available information leads teens to turn to uneducated peers or pornography, both of which provide less than ideal information. In order to fully educate teens on safe sex and to combat these rising rates of pregnancies and STDs, it is important that adequate sex education programs be implemented. Sexual health education programs should be required for students starting in middle school and continuing into high school years. This topic should not be tackled in a way that assumes teens aren't having sex, which is what abstinence does but instead works to educate teens and allow them to practice sex in safe ways.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

In order to implement this Bill, high schools will have to adopt an extra course or alter the current curriculum in their health courses. To allow for comprehensive sexual education, this new curriculum will address 7 key components: anatomy, puberty, identity, reproduction, STDs, healthy relationships, and personal safety. Each of these aspects will allow for thorough sexual health and will have no negative effect on those who wish to practice abstinence. In these courses, contraception and the effectiveness of each method (including abstinence and the withdrawal method) will be discussed in order to help teens with educated decision-making. Every year, a full evaluation will be done of each school's program to ensure proper information is being taught correctly. A full year, or 2 semesters, will be a graduation requirement in all high schools statewide. Following Louisiana state "opt-out" policy, if a parent refuses for their child to be in a proper sex-education course, they can. However, the child must still pass a comprehensive sex education exam in order to meet graduation requirements.

SECTION III: FUNDING

In some cases this won't require funding as previous health course curriculums could just be altered. However, in cases where there is no previous health course funding will be needed. According to the Economic Self-Sufficiency Policy Research Institute, it would only take an average of 200 dollars per year for each school. Currently there are 558 high schools in the state, meaning it would take around 111,000 dollars in funding to implement these programs (this number does not take into account those schools which already have a health program, meaning it is higher than what is actually needed). This is surprisingly low, and with national funding available from programs like PREP and PTPP that grant around 110,000 per year to fund comprehensive sex education, funding is not an issue. In addition, when compared to the hundreds of thousands spent on solving the STD crisis and medical bills of pregnant

1 teens, this would actually save the state money.

2 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

3 Schools that refuse to follow the guidelines previously mentioned will have to pay a fine of \$1000 for the
4 first year of not implementing the sex education program. For all following years, it will raise to \$3000
5 until a program is properly implemented.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **SENATE BILL 22**

3 Autumn Sommers

Caddo Parish Magnet High School

4
5 **TITLE:** High School Voter Registration Day

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 The duty of the education system is to properly prepare students for their adult life; this extends to the
8 act of voter registration. Voter registration is an effective tool to ensure that the students of Louisiana
9 become civically active in the community after graduation. Many Louisiana teens are unaware of the fact
10 that they are eligible to register to vote at the age of 16. Although the legal voting age is 18, early
11 registration is an important step to ensure Caddo Parish's young men and women fulfill their civic duty of
12 voting. Offering students the opportunity to register in high school will give the state of Louisiana an
13 opportunity to encourage civic engagement. Registration not only ensures that students will be eligible to
14 vote for elections, but it also helps them understand the importance of their voices being heard. Louisiana
15 is one of the states with the lowest voter turnout rates, meaning our citizens and community are not
16 getting the representation it needs. A Pew Research Study found that lack of access to voter registration
17 opportunities is one of the leading causes of low voter turnout. By increasing access to voter registration
18 within the education system, the youth of Louisiana will be more inclined to vote. With historically low
19 voter turnout rates within the younger cohorts, increasing voter registration is more important than ever.

20 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

21 Louisiana schools will hold a Voter Registration Day where eligible students will be encouraged to register
22 to vote. Schools will host the voter registration day during the spring to ensure that the maximum number
23 of students have reached the eligible age of 16. Students should be given a week's notice so they can
24 prepare accordingly. Many parishes operate under different circumstances, so individual school boards will
25 have discretion in deciding the date of their voter registration day. Voter registration should take place in
26 the library, as students will have access to computers. If the library is not available for student use,
27 schools should hold the Voter Registration day in another room where students have access to
28 computers. Schools that wish to register on paper can use the physical registration forms and transport
29 them to their local Registrar. Transportation of the paper voter registration forms will be overseen by a
30 representative chosen by each school board. The expected time for each registration period is only about
31 10 minutes, so schools will be able to register each class within their given class period. Students will
32 register in their English classes since the majority of Louisiana juniors and seniors have one English class
33 during the day. Students that do not have an English class will be able to register during their lunch
34 periods. Students who wish to opt out of registration may do so with no penalties. A proctor appointed by
35 the school will be informed of the information needed to register so that they can help students
36 throughout the process. The proctor's duties are to help students with any technical problems they
37 experience and to answer questions students may have about the registration process.

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SECTION III: FUNDING

The estimated amount of funding needed for implementation is 1,000,000 dollars, which is approximately 0.025% of Louisiana’s typical spending on education. This money will cover the printing of the physical voter registration forms, which is expected to be relatively low due to the preference to online registration. The funding will also be used to cover each representative’s wage, transportation fees, and the incentive award.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

All Louisiana schools are required to host an annual Voter Registration Day, giving their students at least a week’s notice to prepare. Schools that fail to host an adequate Voter Registration Day will have a hearing with their respective school board and will be subject to a budget decrease of no more than 2% of their annual budget. School boards that fail to set adequate parameters regarding the organization and implementation of this act will have a meeting with the Superintendent and School Board President to remediate the problem. Members responsible for the failure of organization will be subject to a probationary hearing as decided by the Louisiana Department of Education Chair. Schools that have the highest voter registration rate (found by dividing the number of registered students that were registered within the given timeframe over the number of eligible students) will receive the “Honor of Civic Education” Banner and a 10,000 dollar check to boast their achievement. To prevent smaller schools from having an unfair advantage, the top two schools with more than 250 eligible students with the highest registration rate and the top two schools with less than 250 eligible students with the highest registration rate will receive the awards.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **SENATE BILL 23**

3 Sela Alwood Saint Joseph's Academy

4 Havilland Forbes

5 **TITLE:** Provide Necessary HIV Services to Jails and Prisons

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Routine HIV testing in jails and prisons is strongly recommended; however, only 5 parish jails routinely
9 provide HIV tests to all prisoners. Inmates who do have HIV are at an even greater disadvantage.
10 Treatment is frequently delayed or even denied. HIV services are not equally provided to all state
11 prisoners given the fact that about 18,000 state prisoners are located in parish jails with little to no HIV
12 services. The Department of Corrections refuses to offer treatment and testing to these prisoners, which
13 ignores the wellbeing of over half of the state prison population. Prison conditions further spread HIV
14 infections through the consumption of drugs or in sex. An inmate's behavior and situations such as drug
15 use, sex work, poverty, etc. that resulted in their HIV infection are also the reasons for incarceration.
16 Furthermore, HIV affects groups such as African Americans and sex workers at rates substantially higher
17 than all other groups.

18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 This bill will provide requisite HIV testing, services, and treatments for Louisiana penitentiaries. Louisiana
20 prisons will be required to offer HIV testing for new or incoming inmates. If an incarcerated person tests
21 positive for HIV, the detention center will be responsible for the next step of providing treatment or
22 making treatment available.

23 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

24 HIV care will be made a reimbursable expense, which gives the Department of Corrections the
25 responsibility to pay for all treatments and services instead of the jail.

26
27
28 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

29 A facility found failing to provide treatment and testing to inmates will receive a fine of \$1000, and each
30 following offense will result in a 5% increase.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **SENATE BILL 24**

3 Daniel Brammer

Lakeshore High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Raise the Legal Drinking Age

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 It is common knowledge that consumption of alcohol has severe negative impacts on the brain. Regarding
8 this, it makes no sense that we place restrictions on minors prohibiting them from consuming alcohol, but
9 allow them to do so before their brains are finished developing. There is near universal consensus that the
10 brain isn't finished developing until around the age of 25, according to NPR, brainfacts.org, the University
11 of Rochester Medical Center, Duke University, and many other publications. Because protecting the
12 developing brain is one of the primary concerns when it comes to drinking prohibitions past the age of 18,
13 it only makes sense to extend this prohibition until the brain is finished developing. One might say that
14 rowdy college students will just drink anyway, so banning it is pointless, but laws are created to reflect
15 morality and show what society deems right and wrong, safe and unsafe. It is both morally wrong and
16 unsafe to idly sit by as individuals with still developing brains consume a product that will actively harm
17 them, therefore the law should prevent them from doing so.

18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 Starting January 2022, individuals in the state of Louisiana who are under the age of 26 will no longer be
20 allowed to purchase, consume or possess alcohol, with an exemption for religious purposes.

21 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

22 This bill requires no funding.

23 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

24 Penalties for individuals under the age of 26 who violate the restrictions outlined in Section II will face
25 the same penalties as one would currently face for underage drinking in the state of Louisiana. These
26 include a fine up to 100 USD, and/or up to 6 months in jail, and/or a suspension of the individual's
27 driver's license for up to 180 days.



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

SENATE BILL 25

Jeremy Amador

Patrick F Taylor

TITLE: Pollution of the Environment

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Companies and corporations have their factories and oil refineries dump their waste into the environment and even in neighborhoods. A prime example of this would be the Boasso American company, which dumped a significant amount of naphthalene, which is a chemical that can cause serious health risks, near a neighborhood of all things in 2015. These employees tried to create lies to hide their dumping, further incriminating how these companies do not care for wherever they dump their waste, all for ease and money. This article was released by the Attorney District of Southern Georgia. Another example that was covered by nola.com, where three major petrochemicals dumped waste and chemicals into seven different bodies of water. These companies then paid 11 million in total, but are three huge companies that 11 million means nothing too. These reprimands against these companies should be harsher, as to deter future damage to the environment, and even neighborhoods.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation of this bill would essentially be that EPA inspectors would give 4 scheduled inspections a year to these companies that produce waste and chemicals as byproducts of their business. These inspectors would also provide 4 random inspections a year of these companies to ensure that these companies do not break their contracts and dump waste into the environment. What this entails is that two inspectors will visit this company/facility and its facilities and have one of the inspectors inspect how much waste and chemical byproducts are produced, and the area surrounding the facility. The second inspector will inspect the route and way this company/facility dumps the waste in the area that is designated for them, and inspect the areas surrounding the route for environmental damage. If a company is found to be breaking the law, they will be fined a certain percentage of their annual income, and continued strikes will lead to the higher fines, and eventually the shutdown of that company/facility. There will be a total of 4 strikes where the last strike will be the shutdown of that company and along with the shutdown of this company/facility, the ceo or owner of that company will have their credentials stripped from them, and have this incident on their permanent record. All employees of said company/facility that shutdown, will receive financial compensation for the first two months of shutdown, and will gain state assistance to replace said job. These strikes on the company/facility will be removed every decade, but will be taken into account on a permanent record that could lead to future investigation of said company. Said company/facility will not be able to underpay workers for the percent annual revenue fine. Discovery of underpaying workers due to fines will lead to serious consequences on a state level.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Funding of this law will be covered by the Treasury of Louisiana for the financial compensation of the workers affected by the shutdown of the company, and EPA inspectors are already paid by the federal government, and the state government would need to negotiate with the federal government for 50 EPA officers.

1 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

2 First strike against the bill results in 15 percent of the annual revenue of that company dedicated to
3 repair of damaged areas. Second results in 30 percent annual revenue. Third will result in 45 percent of
4 the annual revenue. Fourth strike will result in the 2 week termination of that company (facility if a part of
5 a large company) along with a compensation of 200 million dollars. Breach of contract for underpaying
6 workers during these financial strikes, will result in lawyers being provided for the workers, and case will
7 be brought up to the Court of Louisiana.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **SENATE BILL 26**

3 William Li Caddo Parish Magnet High

4
5 **TITLE:** Our Children, They Must be Taught: An Implementation of a Mental Health Education Program for
6 Seventh and Eighth Graders

7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Suicide remains the second-leading cause of death among 15-24 year-olds across the nation. Although
9 depression does not directly cause suicide, it can increase the risk of suicide attempts by at least 14-fold
10 (according to the LAC Department of Mental Health). Even so, depression can halt teenagers from
11 achieving their fullest potential; a lack of social interactions can even lead to further ostracization by
12 their social surroundings. A combination of unstable home situations, social stressors, and schoolwork
13 can negatively influence the way teenagers mature. Negative influences do not start from just high school,
14 however. Students in middle schools are experiencing puberty for the first time, and with that comes
15 confusion, hormone changes, and unintentional aggression from both boys and girls, which can further
16 attribute to a hostile learning environment. Therefore, it is imperative that the State of Louisiana make a
17 comprehensive educational program to introduce middle school students to factors that may cause
18 depression, how to handle different types of stress, how to identify potential negative influences from
19 social media, and how to identify situations where their peers might be in a crisis. Currently, Louisiana has
20 no legislation regarding the implementation of a mental health education program for all of its public
21 middle schools. Most of the social problems that the students go under are handled by the school
22 counselors; however, a lack of trust and understanding from the students can bar both parties from being
23 able to benefit from each other. By transitioning adolescents into an awareness of mental health and
24 knowing how to deal with such matters, they will know how to effectively deal with the negative influences
25 of added stress and disruption as soon as they enter high school.

26 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

27 Implementation of this bill will begin starting the 2022-2023 school year in all Louisiana public middle
28 schools. All seventh and eighth-grade students are expected to participate in the program consisting of
29 videos, short social activities, and worksheets. An opt-out option is available for parents that do not wish
30 for their children to participate. The program will last a total of ten hours, and the school staff may divide
31 the hours as they deem fit to fit students' schedules. A short training workshop will be available over the
32 summer to counselors and faculty members responsible for the distribution of the program.

33 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

34 An estimated 5,000 dollars in state education funding will be required to pay for the creation and
35 maintenance of the program, the distribution of course material, and the hiring of workshop instructors
36 for the summer.

37 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

38 Failure to instruct the full ten hours of the program to students that wish to participate by the end of
39 each school year will result in the reduction of that middle school's funding by 10 percent until they have
40 fulfilled the requirements for the next fiscal school year.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **SENATE BILL 28**

3 Isaac Kim Lafayette High School

4 Ethan Bunney

5 **TITLE:** Parents on High School Duty

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 As of 2021, the state of Louisiana has the lowest quality education and one of the highest rates of crime.
8 This manifests itself in schools, as students who reportedly have many behavior problems in schools also
9 statistically exhibit absenteeism, lack of engagement in school, and most of all, moderate to severe
10 academic difficulties. These are thought to be mutually inclusive. With this trend Louisiana's drop out rate
11 stays at a constant rate. Around a fourth to a third of Louisiana high school students do not reach a high
12 school diploma. This substantial number of students are more likely to fall to crime, unemployment, and
13 poverty. With this backdrop it is hence necessary to encourage the installment of volunteer outreach
14 groups in schools, consisting of volunteer parents to encourage students to stay away from behavioral
15 problems and graduate so that they have more chances of success in the outside world.

16
17 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

18 This is purely a volunteer program. There are guidelines for these organizations, however. Parents must
19 have experience interacting with high school students. There must also be recognition by the school
20 boards or other similar management organizations for these groups. There must also be a plan of action
21 submitted by the groups to the school board every grading period, detailing specific tasks and stations.
22 There will be no general oversight needed, as the needs of each school shall vary heavily.

23
24 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

25 This bill will require no funding.

26 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

27 As an opt-in program, this program will not require any penalties.



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

SENATE BILL 29

Margaret Moe

St. Joseph's Academy

Alexis Harvey

TITLE: Breaking Code Silence: Ending the Troubled Teen Industry in Louisiana

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

The Troubled Teen Industry, also referred to as Congregate Care Programs (CCPs), are the network of behavior modification programs, boot camps and other militaristic experiences that are meant to correct behaviors, non-medical or medical residential treatment centers, therapeutic boarding schools, and wilderness therapy programs. This industry has thrived for decades despite constant allegations of child abuse, neglect, dangerous treatment practices, and negligence resulting in death. The concept of "tough love" has become a profitable, unregulated business model and children have become a commodity. Hundreds of thousands of youths are held within the Troubled Teen Industry every year. Due to lack of government oversight, these CCPs operate with near impunity. Children between the ages of 5-18 years old can be held there against their will, with no due process or criminal charges for an undetermined amount of time, which is sometimes years.

At-risk youth often face many difficulties on top of typical stresses. When a parent feels they can no longer control or help their struggling teen, they often seek additional resources and are referred to long-term residential treatment. Many CCPs claim to rehabilitate defiant teens and instill strict values using military type and unproven methods. At these "treatment" centers, behavior modification is taken outside of the clinical boundaries, based heavily on punishment, and applied to a population of vulnerable, and already traumatized youth, which quickly becomes abuse and neglect. Without access to report this abuse, children will endure months if not years of these tactics, and many more cruel and unusual punishments. Wilderness programs have harsh conditions that compound these tactics with an environment that is designed to break them down into desperation. Many teens face this institutionalized child abuse in forms such as overmedicating on sedatives, not being allowed verbal contact with others, lack of access to or denial of medical treatments, lack of access to basic needs, threats of human trafficking, and starvation for months at a time.

Many children are pipelined into CCPs from their state's Foster Care, IEP/School Districts, Juvenile Justice programs, and through custody related court orders. This means that taxpayers unknowingly pay the fees for their state's youth to be sent away into traumatizing climates of extreme child abuse. Data shows that 69% of youth treated at these centers are adolescents, with 31% being below the age of 13. In the past 5 years alone, over 145 of those children have died in these programs due to preventable causes, with 62 of them dying from injury caused by restraint.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Effective January 1, 2023, a Joint Commission will be formed from members of the Department of Children and Family Services and the Department of Health. Members will be appointed at the discretion of the

1 Louisiana State Governor and Louisiana State Legislature. This Joint Commission will oversee the
2 implementation of the new code of rights given to people in Congregate Care. Those rights (to be further
3 referenced as the Youth Congregate Care Provisions) are the rights to:

- 4 • Physical well- being, including: the freedom from abuse and neglect (including all forms of physical,
5 psychological, and sexual abuse, as well as financial exploitation and excessive medication), freedom from
6 aversive behavioral interventions, and freedom from physical, mechanical, and chemical restraint or
7 seclusion
- 8 • Emotional and social well-being, including: the prohibition of long periods of forced silence
9 (including restriction of communication with staff, caregivers, child protective services, law enforcement,
10 or advocates), having access to education and life skills training, and reasonable daily access to the
11 outdoors
- 12 • Have all essential needs met, including: to be adequately clothed, fed, sheltered, have access to
13 medical care, and access to drinkable water
- 14 • Be free from abusive, humiliating, degrading, or traumatizing treatment from staffers or other
15 youth, including: unlimited access to a protection or advocacy agency and the ability to report
16 mistreatment without fear of reprisal
- 17 • Appropriate treatment that is culturally competent, trauma-informed, and most supportive of each
18 person's development and personal liberty

19 The Joint Commission will be tasked with insuring that all Congregate Care Programs (behavior
20 modification programs, boot camps and other militaristic experiences that are meant to correct behaviors
21 and characteristics, non-medical or medical residential treatment centers, therapeutic boarding schools,
22 and wilderness therapy programs) in Louisiana give the provided provisions to all patients that they have.
23 Should a program not provide the above provisions, they will be shut down at the discretion of the Joint
24 Commission. Programs will be allowed to re-open after action by the Joint Commission, pending the hire of
25 new and appropriate staff and the upholding of the required provisions. Upon a second closing, the Joint
26 Commission may uphold a decision not to allow a third opening.

27 28 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

29 Funding for the Joint Commission will come from a federal grant. If a grant cannot be secured, a 0.005%
30 tax on alcoholic products will go into effect January 1, 2023.

31 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

32 Any programs that purposely choose to conceal a violation of the Youth Congregate Care Provisions will
33 be fined between \$100,000 and \$500,000 based on the severity of the concealed action, and then
34 subjected to closing protocols by the Joint Commission. They will not be allowed the possibility of re-
35 opening.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **SENATE BILL 30**

3 Amanda Hux Lafayette High School

4 Ibrahim Alam

5 **TITLE:** An act to legally recognize all Louisiana Native American tribes statewide

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Louisiana is home to more Native American tribes than any other southern state. There are four that are
8 recognized federally and 10 recognized by the state of Louisiana, but there are at least four tribes that
9 are home to Louisiana that are not claimed. Native American tribes provide Louisiana with a rich cultural
10 heritage; through their music, spiritual activity, traditions, food, and more, they provide a uniqueness to
11 our history and present-day life. Native Americans have long been mistreated throughout the United
12 States, and it's time for Louisiana to be the positive change that ends this continuous cycle. Recognizing
13 these tribes would recognize the historical and cultural contributions they have made within Louisiana,
14 along with providing them with certain state benefits and resources such as opening up key stakeholders,
15 or people interested in, providing equal education and housing benefits. This will also promote an overall
16 healthier state-tribe collaboration within Louisiana.

17
18 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

19 All previous laws and benefits that are applicable to state-recognized tribes are hereby extended to those
20 tribes that are unrecognized. Those tribes that wish to be state-recognized are legally authorized to
21 request recognition.

22 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

23 No funding is required for this bill.

24 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

25 No penalties apply to this bill, as it will be enforced by the Louisiana state government.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **SENATE BILL 31**

3 Natalie Cockrell

Caddo Magnet High School

4
5 **TITLE:** State-Wide Decriminalization of Marijuana

6
7 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

8 Louisiana has the highest incarceration rates of any US state. With the decriminalization of marijuana, the
9 incarceration rates could drop dramatically. Police and resources that are now focused on cannabis use
10 could instead be directed towards other larger state issues. This bill would eliminate arrest and
11 imprisonment for minor marijuana possession charges in Louisiana for adults over the age of twenty-one.
12 Citizens found with up to two ounces of marijuana on their persons are excused from any possession
13 fines or arrest. With this act, legal adults over twenty-one in Louisiana can also grow up to two cannabis
14 plants at a time. Louisiana residents are still prohibited from smoking cannabis in public spaces under the
15 Louisiana Smoke-Free Air Act.

16
17 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

18 Adult citizens will be pardoned from any charges or marijuana-related arrests as long as no more than
19 two ounces of marijuana is found on the person. Legal adults found with under two marijuana plants on
20 personal property are pardoned from any prosecution.

21
22 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

23 No funding for this bill is needed.

24
25 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

26 Any citizen found with more than two ounces is no longer pardoned and is subject to be criminally
27 prosecuted. Any adult with more than two plants growing at any given time is no longer pardoned. If a
28 citizen under twenty-one is found with marijuana on their persons they may be subject to fines if less
29 than two ounces, and prosecution if more. Any adult found smoking cannabis in a public area can be fined
30 for violating the smoke-free air act. Any laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.



2 **SENATE BILL 32**

3 Eddie Maxwell Central High School

4 **TITLE:** Universal screenings for early childhood learning disabilities

5 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

6 1 in 5 children in the U.S. has learning and attention issues such as dyslexia and ADHD. Some of these
7 children receive specialized instruction or accommodations, but many do not. Students who have not been
8 diagnosed, may have poor attendance, change schools multiple times, repeat a grade, or even drop out
9 without graduating. A third of students with a learning disability have repeated a grade, which increases
10 the risk of dropping out. Seven out of 10 students with a learning disability spend at least 80 percent of
11 their time in general education classrooms. Inclusion is beneficial, but in a nationwide survey, many
12 general education teachers said they don't have the training or the resources to meet the needs of diverse
13 learners. Students with disabilities are more than twice as likely to be suspended as those without
14 disabilities. The dropout rate for students with a learning disability (18.1 percent) is nearly three times
15 the rate of all students (6.5 percent). More than half (55 percent) of young adults with a learning
16 disability have been involved with the justice system. Receiving help in early grades improves the chances
17 that they will succeed in school. Research shows if students receive the appropriate help by the first
18 grade, 90 percent of them will achieve normal reading ability. In the United States, 1.2 million children
19 repeated a grade in 2014-2015, and 76 percent of these students were never evaluated. They failed an
20 end-of-the-year assessment or specific school subjects and may have gone to summer school, but still
21 were required to repeat a grade. These students will not benefit from repeating the grade; they need to
22 repeat it differently. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, early universal screening for the
23 risk of learning disabilities leads to better intervention, improved student performance throughout her or
24 his education career, and less money invested in IEPs.

25 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

26 Developmental surveillance will be incorporated at every well-child preventive care visit at no cost. Any
27 concerns raised during surveillance should be promptly addressed with standardized developmental
28 screening tests. In addition, screening tests should be administered regularly at the 9-, 18-, and 30-
29 month visits. The early identification of developmental problems should lead to further developmental and
30 medical evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment, including early developmental intervention. Also, the visits
31 will conduct a school-readiness screening before the child's attendance at preschool or kindergarten. This
32 would also include screenings for any student who is struggling academically before the next school year
33 begins.

34 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

35 The funding to afford the universal screenings would come from a 25% tax on the total funds from the
36 Office of State Police. The total funds of the Office of state police in Louisiana in 2020-2021 were
37 \$332,193,836. This massive funding hasn't stopped Louisiana from being #50 in crime or #48 in public
38 safety. The 25% tax would give just about \$83,048,459 to fund universal screenings services. The
39 Developmental Disabilities Council only has \$2,184,342 in funding so this would be a massive increase.

40 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

41 There are no penalties for this bill



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **SENATE BILL 33**

3 Jamarion Johnson

Woodlawn High School

4
5 **TITLE:** The NOALA Act (Nullifying or Amending Outdated Laws Act)

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Every year a numerous number of bills are passed in Louisiana that are both a help and a hinderance in
8 their own right, but we never stop to take a look back at the laws that have already been passed and
9 thought should we change them to fit what we are going through at this present moment or should we
10 toss it out completely. Some laws are solely based on a person's common sense, while many are old
11 statutes that no longer fit our need for them. My plan is to create a committee that will review and decide
12 which laws will be tossed and which will be kept.

13 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

14 A committee made up of Senators and Representatives will go through laws that no longer have purpose ,
15 will make their case as to why the outdated law should be nullified, and will have a vote. If the majority
16 wins then the law is hereby nullified, but if the law is voted against then it can be amended to fit the
17 current time or be brought back up for another vote in the future.

18 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

19 No Funding is needed

20 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

21 No Penalties are required



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

SENATE BILL 34

Brinley Pethe Haynes Academy

TITLE: Allow More People to Consider Surrogacy

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Imagine wanting a child but being unable to have one. Countless people all over the world are faced with this situation, including people in Louisiana. Many of these people consider surrogacy: an arrangement in which a woman agrees to carry a child for someone who will later become this child's parent. In fact, according to CDC data, from 1999 to 2013, the number of annual gestational carrier cycles in the U.S. increased from 727 to 3,432. For reference, a gestational carrier is a woman who carries a child that is not biologically related to her, and gestational surrogacy is the only type of surrogacy that is allowed in Louisiana. However, while people in other parts of the nation might be able to turn to surrogacy, many aren't able to do this in Louisiana.

In 2016, House Bill No. 1102 was implemented. Under this legislation, unless parents (1) are in a heterosexual marriage and (2) would both contribute DNA to the child, surrogacy is not an option for them. This means that unmarried couples, single men and women, men and women who would require egg or sperm donors, and same-sex couples are all prohibited from being legally recognized as the parents of a child conceived through surrogacy.

Pre-birth parentage orders, which grant parental rights to the intended parents, can only be obtained under the limited circumstances discussed above. If someone is unable to obtain a parentage order, then they have to try to adopt their child post-birth. This leaves the possibility that they will ultimately be unable to obtain parental rights.

Anyone in a surrogacy agreement that does not adhere to the current requirements may face civil and/or criminal penalties, including a possible fine of up to \$50,000 and possible jail time of up to ten years.

This bill aims to allow the aforementioned people to consider surrogacy as an option for having children.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

If passed, this bill will nullify the following requirements needed for surrogacy: (1) one must be in a heterosexual marriage and (2) the child must be genetically related to each parent. This will go into effect immediately. Courts will no longer be able to refuse parentage orders or refuse to recognize a surrogacy contract for these reasons.

SECTION III: FUNDING

There is no funding required for this bill.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If a court denies someone a parentage order or refuses to approve their surrogacy contract because they (1) are not in a heterosexual marriage and/or (2) would require a sperm donor or an egg donor, then this will result in a review of the judge who made the decision by the judiciary commission, which will determine the appropriate penalties. Depending on the severity of a judge's violation(s), examples of penalties include censure, suspension without salary, and involuntary retirement.



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

SENATE BILL 36

Robayet Hossain

Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies

TITLE: R.O.B. (Recreational Outside-Species Battle-Royale)

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

The state of Louisiana has been consistently invaded by a series of invasive species, harming the health of our land and people. Conservation groups, governmental regulations, and several private businesses have spent decades and millions of hard-earned dollar bills fighting the invasive animal problem in Louisiana. However, these animals are constantly growing in numbers and the efforts that have been put in place in recent years are just not working, including but not limited to mechanical (mowing, hoeing), chemical (pesticides, herbicides), and biological (manipulating pests to maintain populations) control mechanisms. Some examples of invasive species currently adversely affecting the state of Louisiana include the following: feral hogs, nutria, fire ants, lionfish, Asian carp, and much more. Feral hogs devour a variety of crops in the state, causing almost \$80 million in agricultural losses every year, also contributing to erosion and land loss. Asian carp are aggressive and grow quickly, eating exceedingly large amounts of food and posing competition problems for native species in the area. It is estimated that nutria have contributed to the loss of at least 40 square miles of land in Louisiana over the last two decades, literally eating away at our state. Enough is enough. Invasive species are harming our state daily, previous regulations have not been rather efficient against these species, and the situation is only getting worse. It is finally time we start thinking of the prolific presence of invasive species in our state as a powerful resource that can be put to our advantage instead of as something negative.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

In this new age of revolutionary ideals, there is now a solution to boost the state's entertainment industry while also effectively taking care of the invasive species issue: Recreational Outside-Species Battle-Royale. All people residing within the state of Louisiana will be able to "catch" animals such as feral hogs and nutria (specifically the land invasive species of significant size) and put them through recreational training under their own discretion. They are also encouraged to catch invasive species such as Asian carp and lionfish (invasive seafood that is edible for feral hogs) and invasive apple snails (edible for nutria) so as to feed and grow their animals. Parishes throughout Louisiana will then be allowed to plan battle royale tournaments (which could have tickets for audiences purchase for attendance, but this depends on the parish) under their own discretion with prizes for contestant winners. This solution provides an enjoyable excursion and fun incentive for people to take in the invasive species already living within the state and effectively reduce their population while also contributing to Louisiana's entertainment industry. In Louisiana, there are currently laws prohibiting the importation, sale, and possession of invasive species; this bill maintains the prohibition of the importation and sale of species, but it is releasing the restriction on the possession of these species. That way, new invasive species cannot continuously come into the state and be sold in markets, but the constantly growing populations of species already inside the state will have a chance to dwindle. It is important to note that this bill is a temporary enactment; two years of

1 this bill in place starting January of 2022 should be more than enough to ensure that the populations of
2 invasive species greatly reduce. After two years, the populations of invasive species in the state will be
3 calculated again and the bill time period reassessed by the state government so as to address this
4 situation fully. This "limited edition" time period also causes extreme market value for the entertainment
5 industry.

6 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

7 No direct funding is necessary. The entire purpose of this bill is to allow more freedom on the part of the
8 individual residents and parishes of Louisiana to be able to possess, cultivate, train, and compete with
9 their invasive species in battle royale tournaments. Everything else regarding animal training and event
10 planning, especially the funding associated with them, is completely up to the discretion of the people and
11 parishes.

12 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

13 There are no penalties associated with this bill. A parish can decide to not enact battle royale
14 tournaments; that is up to them. However, with strong monetary and entertainment incentives for the
15 people and the motivation for increased health of the entire state present, it is in the best interest of
16 each and every parish to enact this bill.



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

SENATE BILL 37

Sania Islam Haynes Academy

Jack West

TITLE: "But No One Wears a Crown": Capping Wealth in Louisiana

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Less than 1% of the adults hold over half of the world's wealth while 70.1% of adults hold less than 3%. Wealth disparity is far from a foreign concept in Louisiana. We rank 2nd in wealth and income inequality in the contiguous United States, with 12% of residents living in extreme poverty. From that wealth inequality stems further disparity in access to vital resources, with 17% regularly experiencing food insecurity, 8.9% being completely uninsured, and only an 81.4% high school graduation rate.

High wealth disparity indicates that there is a large gap between poorest Louisianans and the top 1%, creating a community where we allow few individuals to hoard resources that could lift thousands out of abject poverty. Louisiana has a history of fighting progressive tax policy, but one leader approached the issue head-on.

Huey Pierce Long Jr., the 40th Governor of our great state, proposed a plan to hinder the idle accumulation of wealth, instead sharing it among families of greater need. Inspired by Huey P. Long, this legislation will cap the income and assets of the unnecessarily wealthy, and instead utilize those funds to uplift low-income individuals through a basic-income system, allowing these people to finally be able to pay for meals, healthcare, education, etc., and allowing for true class mobility. Furthermore, because tax evasion and abuse of loopholes in Louisiana is so commonplace among the top percentage of citizens, this bill calls for additive funding to the Louisiana Department of Revenue.

Sharing Louisiana's wealth through this radically progressive tax system is the only way to progress our state forward.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

The following will be the new income tax brackets implemented beginning in 2022. As was before, returns and payments are due on or before May 15th of the following year. For fiscal year taxpayers, returns and payments are due on the 15th day of the fifth month after the close of the fiscal year.

Income Tax Brackets (USD):

0 to 100k: 1%

100k to 250k: 2.5%

250k to 500k - 5%

500k to 1M: 8%

1M to 2M: 10%

2M to 3M: 20%

...

9M to 10M: 90%

10M to 100M: 95%

Greater than 100M: 100%

1 The above brackets relate to single, married filing separately, or head of household filing statuses.
2 Married filed jointly and qualified surviving spouse statuses will double all dollar values in each bracket.
3 For example, if an individual's annual income is 1.5 M USD, 1% (1,000 USD) would be taxed from the first
4 100k dollars of income, 2.5% (3,750 USD) would be taxed from the next 150k, 5% (12,500 USD) would
5 be taxed from the next 250k, and 8% (40,000 USD) would be taxed from the next 500k, and finally 10%
6 (50,000 USD) would be taxed from the next 0.5M, coming to a grand total of 107.25k USD in state
7 income taxes.

8
9 A new state tax will be imposed on property owners in addition to current parish property taxes. Millages,
10 the tax rate levied on real estate or other property, for this new tax will mimic current assessments of
11 parish tax collectors. State property tax bills will be issued within a month of the issuance of each
12 parish's tax bills and will be due 31 days after the state property tax bill is issued. If not timely paid, the
13 amount will bear interest at a rate of 1% per month until paid.

14 15 Property Tax Brackets (USD):

16 0 to 150k: 0%

17 150k to 1M: 0.4%

18 1M to 3M: 0.8%

19 3M to 6M: 1%

20 6M to 9M: 2%

21 ...

22 27M to 30M: 9%

23 30M to 100M: 9.5%

24 Greater than 100M: 100%

25
26 All annual income above 100M and all property portfolios above 300M will be taxed 100%, creating a cap
27 on personal fortune in Louisiana.

28
29 All surplus funding from the above amended tax policies will be allocated by this bill. 95% will be
30 distributed by the Louisiana Department of Child and Family Services to create a yearly basic income for
31 individuals below the poverty line. The remaining 5% will be allocated to the Louisiana Department of
32 Revenue to fund the combat of tax avoidance in Louisiana.

33 34 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

35 This legislation funds itself, and, therefore, requires no additional funding.

36 37 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

38 Individuals falsifying income reports and tax documents will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law
39 under existing protections.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **SENATE BILL 38**

3 Ivan Trejo Lakeshore High School

4
5 **TITLE:** Restrict the Use of Technology within the Classroom

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 During the year 2020, the Louisiana Department of Education was awarded \$8 million in an effort to close
8 the gap of distance learning opened by the pandemic. These funds were dedicated to the purpose of
9 purchasing 23,000 Chromebooks for public schools. As can be seen, there has been an increased use of
10 technology in the classroom and outside of it. It can be said that there has been an unhealthy reliance
11 upon it. Additionally, students have grown distracted during class because of the internet access and do
12 not pay attention. The proposed bill would place a time limit on how long students have access to their
13 Chromebooks.

14
15 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

16 Upon the start of the 2022-2023 school year, schools must begin enforcing this restriction. Technology,
17 such as that of Chromebooks, will be restricted to two school days worth of time. With an average school
18 day being around 425 minutes, this would place the limit at 850 minutes per school week. Upon the time
19 constraint's end the Chromebook will shut off. Teachers would be allowed to utilize this time with their
20 students any day that they wish. School systems would be forced to implement operating systems that
21 successfully restrict this time.

22 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

23 No funding necessary for this bill.

24 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

25 Failure to comply by a school system will result in their funding for technology being taken away.



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

SENATE BILL 39

Analise Plunkett

Archbishop Hannan High School

TITLE: This act may be cited as the "Banning of Jorts of 2021."

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

A demise in denim, more commonly known as jorts, has unfortunately swept the nation as a high-level style risk for men. Jean shorts "jorts" most commonly worn by beer-clutching dads and white male fraternity members wear the article of clothing to express a way of style and more unfavorable, a way of life. Name one person who makes jorts look attractive. On top of being universally hideous and a public eyesore, they are either too tight, too short, too baggy or expose what a nice pair of jeans could cover. Jorts also provide a gateway for the infamous and tragic look: the double-denim duo. This monster of an outfit constructed of "blue hues" combines a denim top with often a pair of jorts worn by anyone who thinks saying "Thank you for coming to my TED Talk" is okay to say in 2021.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

To get rid of this threat to all that is good in the world, pro-jorters will be given two options: 1) enjoy a pair of khaki or athletic shorts the rest of society or 2) invest in some jeans or joggers. A new wave of technology in the manufacturing of scissors will occur where the scissor blade will not be able to cut through denim to prohibit any pro-jorters to indulge in their sinful wardrobe.

SECTION III: FUNDING

The expedition of finding the Ark of the Covenant will cover the costs of intense therapy with service dogs to rebuild the nation after the many years of abuse jorts have inflicted upon the world. The service dogs will be paid extra of course due to the fact that they are incredibly hard-working and diligent in their pampering and incomparable human-healing abilities.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If a jort devotee refuses to wear non-denim shorts or pants; they shall be faced with the task of doing a two hundred and eighty-four question Mathxl. Once they finish that, they will be sent to find the Ark of the Covenant and the profits from selling the artifact will fund this bill. Once the profits are collected, the delinquents will be sent to an eternal Catholic Mass where they will repent for their sins.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **SENATE BILL 40**

3 Joey Roth Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

4
5 **TITLE:** Extreme Risk Protection Order

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 This bill would allow people and institutions in Louisiana to enforce Extreme Risk Protection Orders
8 (ERPOs). An ERPO is a civil remedy that allows law enforcement or family members to petition a court to
9 temporarily remove firearms from a person who poses a risk of harm to oneself or others. For the
10 duration of the order, the individual is also prohibited from purchasing firearms. ERPO laws are designed
11 to provide a legal tool to intervene when there is demonstrable evidence that an individual is experiencing
12 a temporary crisis, poses an imminent risk of harm to self or others, and has a firearm. ERPO laws have
13 been enacted in 19 states and Washington, D.C. This bill would allow law enforcement or family members
14 to file a petition asking a court to temporarily prohibit an individual's access to firearms when there is
15 evidence that the person poses a risk of harm to oneself or others.

16 Early research suggests that ERPO laws have a significant impact on preventing gun-related suicide. More
17 than 50 percent of all suicides in the United States involve a firearm; however, under current law, a very
18 small proportion of those who die by firearm suicide would have been barred from possessing a firearm
19 under current law. Four ERPO laws have been successful in filling this gap by allowing law enforcement
20 and family members to temporarily remove firearms from individuals in times of self-harm crisis. For
21 example, Indiana documented a 7.5 percent reduction in firearm suicides in the 10 years following the
22 enactment of an ERPO law.

23 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

24 This bill will be enacted on January 1, 2022.

25 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

26 Due to additional responsibility for police departments, new funding may be necessary for the enactment
27 of this bill. We plan to adjust the state police budget for any funds necessary for the implementation.

28 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

29 No penalties are applicable for this bill.

30



LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021

SENATE BILL 41

Ivana Guidry Mandeville High School

TITLE: Implement a Tax on Corporations regarding Biodegradable Plastics

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

The idea of a disposable world has allowed corporations to ignore the ecological issues that they perpetuate for the sake of convenience and profit. Corporate profits have been placed ahead of environmental protection throughout American history. An example of the modern era are the actions of the Reagan administration, who often sided with businesses and industries with the explanation that profits come at the expense of a "little" environmental damage. Additionally, the rise of globalization has also created major environmental damage. Although the federal government has created regulations on environmental policies such as the establishment of the Clean Power Plan and joining of the Paris Accord, this is not enough to offset the environmental damage that is occurring, particularly regarding the accumulation of non degradable plastics in the nations lands and waterways. After COP26 in Glasgow, the purposely unspecific clauses of the agreement further show that direct action has not been taken.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Implement a supplemental tax on large businesses and corporations who refuse to convert to biodegradable plastics. Companies who convert to the use of biodegradable products will not be receiving this additional tax. Businesses will be given a transitional period of four years to achieve a product standard that 25% of all plastic output will be made of biodegradable plastics. If the product standard is not achieved at the conclusion of the transitional period, the tax will be implemented until the company proves that a product standard has been accomplished.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Tax funds will be allocated towards the research regarding the development, large scale production, and commercialization of biodegradable plastics. For example, the utilization of Glycerol, a byproduct of biofuel manufacturing, or a kind of bioplastic called polyhydroxyalkanoates, or PHAs, produced by stressed microbes that create polymer granules. This will make converting industrial plastics to biodegradable plastics much more inexpensive and realistic for small businessse

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

There will be a 5% environmental tax on businesses who do not achieve the 25% standard. This tax will be added to the government issued corporate tax rate. The biodegradable plastics tax will be reviewed every four years to evaluate research progress, production, and commercialization of biodegradable plastics. To further promote an industrial shift towards biodegradable products, the product standard of 25% will be increased by another 25% every eight years with the ultimate goal of 100% biodegradable plastics by the year 2046.. To further promote industrial transition to biodegradable plastics, the 5% tax rate may be increased in each four year review period.



1 **LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2021**

2 **SENATE BILL 42**

3 Mary Grace Wilson Archbishop Hannan High School

4
5 **TITLE: Animal Freeing**

6 **SECTION I: BACKGROUND**

7 Animal freeing would be the act of freeing all animals used in experiments and testing. Animals are living
8 creatures just like us so why should we use them for testing. We can come up with other solutions and
9 ideas such as cell cultures and or other methods. Cell cultures would be growing a cell in a laboratory.

10 **SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION**

11 We will slowly start to build these institutions and work with a few companies that have agreed to try
12 these new methods. Once these start up they will start to generate jobs with time we can get most if not
13 all institutions to make the switch. We will have to raise taxes a small bit to ensure that we will be getting
14 funded enough in the starting stages among other funding sources.

15 **SECTION III: FUNDING**

16 Funding will come from the raising of taxes starting up and partnering with already existing charity
17 organization. Once we have partnered with testing institutions and this becomes their way of testing
18 these new ways of testing will become a part of the company and will need no help from funding.

19 **SECTION IV: PENALTIES**

20 None

21

22