FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

2024 LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE CONFERENCE

YMCA OF THE CAPITAL AREA

63rd LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE CONFERENCE
December 5-7, 2024

"Democracy Must Be Learned by Each Generation."

The Mission of the YMCA Louisiana Youth & Government program is two-fold:

- *to encourage and foster leadership through service, fellowship, responsibility, and respect for oneself and others among all participants*
- *to educate and engage students in the process of government from local to international so that they become more active participants in their communities.*

GENERAL INFORMATION

63rd YOUTH LEGISLATURE
STATE OFFICERS

Governor	Kearra Grisby	St. Joseph's Academy
Secretary of State	Sela Alwood	Parkview Baptist
Supreme Court Chief Justice	Perry Joseph	Episcopal Acadiana
President of the Senate	Hannah Champagne	St. Joseph's Academy
President pro tempore	Brinkley Bennett	St. Joseph's Academy
Senate Floor Leader	Arun Cacodcar	Episcopal Acadiana
Senate Floor Leader	Michael Wilhelm	Catholic High
Speaker of the House	Avishka Fernando	Hayes Academy
Speaker pro tempore	Miniya Malone	Episcopal Baton Rouge
Speaker pro tempore	Allison Riley	St. Joseph's Academy
House Floor Leader	Christine Tseng	Haynes Academy
House Floor Leader	Christina Cotton	Central High
House Floor Leader	Robert Jacobs	Dutchtown High

PROGRAM STAFF

State Director	Jeremey Miller	La.youthandgovernment@gmail.com
Program Director	Julia James	
LEG Director	Maddie Scott	

OFFICIAL OATH OF OFFICE

Members of the Legislature and all other elected officers shall take the following Oath or Affirmation prior to entering the duties of their offices:

I _____ (state your name), do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the duties of the office of _____ for the State of Louisiana, and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution and Laws of the United States and this State. So help me God.

CODE OF CONDUCT

1. No delegate shall leave a YMCA LA Youth & Government function unless with the approval of his/her advisor AND the director of the program is secured. The delegate must be picked up and returned by a parent or legal guardian.

2. Each delegate is legally and financially liable for the removal, defacing, or willful damage to public or private property. This includes the property of fellow delegates and staff, schools, and the hotel. Any act of vandalism, destruction of property, or misuse of a facility may be a crime and will be treated as a potential criminal violation.

3. Food is not permitted in any conference meeting rooms. Beverages are limited to water and coffee.

4. The use of incense, vaping devices, tobacco products, and use of/possession of alcoholic beverages or non-prescription drugs is forbidden at the YMCA LA Youth & Government function.

5. Delegates shall not leave the conference perimeter except to travel to scheduled conference activities. This includes staying in designated areas at the hotel. The hotel pool is off limits for everyone, all the time.

6. Delegates may not visit or be in anyone else's hotel rooms without the explicit permission of their school advisor. Delegates may not be in any room of the opposite sex at any time.

7. All delegates shall be in and remain in their assigned hotel rooms by scheduled curfew and doors shall remain closed until scheduled end of curfew.

8. Delegates shall not invite or receive outside visitors to the conference or hotel.

9. There shall be no room switching in the hotel without the approval of the delegation advisor and the director of the program.

10. There shall be no noise in the halls or rooms of the hotel that would disturb other people after 10:00 p.m.

11. Official observers are registered as part of the YMCA LA Youth & Government conference and are governed by this code. All other visitors to the program are restricted to the assigned areas unless approval is secured from the director of the program. Each delegate shall attend all sessions of the YMCA LA Youth & Government program unless options are designated.

12. BADGE SWITCHING OR SHARING IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. Participants will wear their assigned badges at all times when they are not in their sleeping rooms and must be able to produce their badge at all times. Badges are to be worn above the waist and must be visible. Badges are not to be defaced, decorated, or altered in any way. ONLY ADVISORS CAN REQUEST REPLACEMENT BADGES.

13. Unless there is a fire, pulling a fire alarm is a serious offense. Hotel alarms automatically summon the fire department and create a great inconvenience and fear for the hotel and other guests.

14. Use of personal vehicles by students at YMCA LA Youth & Government conference is strictly prohibited. Only club and conference advisors and staff may use personal vehicles.

15. Student participation in all dimensions of the YMCA LA Youth & Government conference shall be maintained on the highest plane with utmost respect for fellow delegates, advisors and staff.

16. Weapons of any kind and items that could cause injury or damage to participants and/or property are strictly forbidden.

17. Students are responsible for demonstrating respect for themselves and others through their use of appropriate language, avoiding profanity; racial and ethnic slurs; or any otherwise denigration of others through other verbal and nonverbal language or communication. Harassing, intimidating or bullying others will not be tolerated.

18. The Program Director has the authority to determine both the appropriateness of appearance and attire of participants during the YMCA LA Youth & Government conference. All participants are to maintain a professional and business-like appearance each day between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. Dress codes will be enforced. *Specific clothing not allowed at YMCA LA Youth & Government conferences: miniskirts, extremely tight clothing, bare midriff, shorts, hats and caps. Jeans and athletic shoes are allowed during free time only (refer to schedule)*

I understand that conference delegates are housed four (3 or 4) to each room and that in order to participate in this program, I must share a room and bed with at least one other student of the same sex from my delegation. I further understand that I may not room with anyone other than YMCA conference delegates – not an advisor, parents, or other relatives. I also understand that I may not room alone.

I understand that I may be expelled from all future Youth & Government activities if I have drugs or alcohol at the conference or commit any of the infractions listed on the student code conduct form.

I understand that all fees are non-refundable.

I have read, reviewed with my advisor and understand the Code of Conduct required to attend Youth & Government activities.

EMERGENCY CARE & TRANSPORTATION PERMISSION – The YMCA of the Capital Area does not provide accident or medical insurance for program participants. I recognize that participation in YMCA sponsored activities may expose my child to risk of injury. I agree to hold the YMCA and the school system offering the program if applicable) harmless from any claims that may occur through participation in any activity at the YMCA, or in its programs. In cases of emergency or accident and I am unable to be contacted, I hereby grant the YMCA director or his/her agent to secure proper medical treatment and transportation for my child to an appropriate facility for treatment.

MEDIA PROMOTINAL MATERIALS – In further consideration of my child being allowed to participate in YMCA activities, I hereby grant permission for my child's name, voice, picture and basic personal information to appear on television as a participant in YMCA activities.

Parent/Guardian Signature_____ Date:_____

Student Signature_____ _Date:_____

FIRE EXIT
GYM
LEVEE
BAYOU
RIVERBOAT
CREOLE QUEEN
WEST WING
NATCHEZ
SAMUEL CLEMENS
DELTA QUEEN
MISSISSIPPI QUEEN
SALES & CATERING
EXECUTIVE OFFICES
GIFT
FRONT ENTRANCE
LOBBY
ELEVATORS
MEN
LADIES
FIRE EXITS
SWIMMING POOL
PATIO GRILLE LOUNGE
OUTDOOR PATIO
PATIO GRILLE
KITCHEN
F & B OFFICE
EMPLOYEE CAFETERIA
SECURITY
FIRE EXIT
CHAIRMAN'S LIBRARY
EXECUTIVE BOARD ROOM
CYPRESS I
CYPRESS II
ATRIUM (PRE-FUNCTION)
ATRIUM ENTRANCE
PREMIER BALLROOM
III
DOCK
BANQUET HOLDING KITCHEN
FIRE EXITS
N

THURSDAY, December 5th					
		Candidates	***House***	***Senate***	***Supreme Court***
3:00 - 4:30	**Registration**	Lobby outside Executive Boardroom			
5:15 - 6:00	**Opening Session**	Premier 1			
6:00-10:00	**Committees**	Meet in Atrium After Opening	Assigned Committee Rooms*	Assigned Committee Rooms*	Riverboat
10:00 - 10:30	**Gubernatorial Debate**	Premier 1			
10:30 -10:45	**Pizza Pick-Up**	Lobby outside Executive Boardroom			
10:45	**Curfew**				
	***House Committee Rooms**		***Senate Committee Rooms**		
	House Committee L	Natchez			
	House Committee A	Cypress 1	Senate Committee Y	Premier 1	
	House Committee Y	Bayou	Senate Committee M	Creole	
	House Committee O	Levee	Senate Committee C	RM 254	
	House Committee U	Mississippi Queen	Senate Committee A	RM 253	
	House Committee T	Delta Queen			
	House Committee H	Samuel Clemens			

FRIDAY, December 6th							
		Candidates and Lobbyists	*House Navy*	*House Gold*	*Senate Navy*	*Senate Gold*	*Supreme Court*
7:07 - 8:00	**State Board Meeting**						
7:30 - 8:00	**Delegation Council**	Riverboat					
8:00 - 8:30	**General Session**	Premier 1					
8:30 - 11:30, 12:00 and 12:30	**Sessions in Progress**	Meet in Atrium for Intent Speeches	Premier 1	Bayou-Levee	Mississippi- Delta	Sam Clemens-Natchez	Riverboat
12:00 - 12:30	**Lunch Group 1**		Premier 2		Premier 2		Premier 2
12:30 - 1:00	**Lunch Group 2**	Premier 2		Premier 2		Premier 2	
12:30,1:00 - 4:00	**Sessions in Progress**		Premier 1	Bayou-Levee	Mississippi-Delta	Sam Clemens-Natchez	Riverboat
4:00 - 4:30	**House and Senate Joint Sessions**		Premier 1		Mississippi-Delta		
4:30 - 5:30	**Delegation Council**	Riverboat					
4:30 - 7:00		*Break*					
7:00 - 8:30	**Governor's Banquet**	Premier 2					
8:30 - 9:00	**Change for the Dance**						
9:00 - 10:30	**LEG Fun**	Dance - Premier 3			Trivia - Premier 1		
After Devotional	**Pizza Pick-Up**						
15 minutes after Devotional	**Curfew**						

SATURDAY, December 7th				
		House	***Senate***	***Supreme Court***
7:04 - 8:00	**State Board Meeting**			
7:30 - 8:00	**Delegation Council**	Riverboat		
8:00 - 9:30	**Plenary Session**	Premier 1		Riverboat
9:30 - 10:45	**Veto Override Session**	Premier 1		
10:45 - 11:30	**Hotel Check-Out and Change for Closing Session**			
11:30 - 12:00	**Closing Session, Bill Signing and Announcement of 2024 State Officers**	Premier 1		

YOUTH LEG RESOURCES

Delegate Conference Guide

Committee Purpose

The purpose of committees is to determine what bills would be best to debate during chamber debate the following day. Ranking in committees should not be determined by whether a delegate agrees with a bill, but instead on five criteria: State Importance, Feasibility, Speaker Knowledge/Presentation, Originality, and Degree to which it is debatable. All bills shall be ranked on a scale of 1-5 for each criterion with 1 being the best ranking and 5 being the worst ranking.

Committee Ranking Form Here:

Remember!

1 = Best

5 = Worst

Technology Policy

While technology may be used during committee ranking, delegates must act with respect towards speakers. Other than being briefly used for research purposes or for reading your prepared statements, phones must remain away from debate.

Maintaining Respect

The YMCA core values are caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility. All delegates must remain respectful of other delegates and strive to exemplify these values.

Asking Author Questions

To ask an author a question outside of the time allotted for technical questions, any delegate may ask, “Does the author yield to a series of technical and/or non-technical questions, where I reserve my right to speak thereafter?” after being recognized during debate.

Motions & Points

Motions and points will be reintroduced this year. Though some notable ones are listed below, please visit “Explanations of Parliamentary Motions and Points” for more details.

Points of Information
Allows a delegate to clarify misinformation on the floor or add relevant information. Any delegate may rise and say, “Point of Information!” The presiding officer will acknowledge the point by saying, “Rise and state your point.” Points of information may interrupt speakers.

Points of Personal Privilege
Allows a delegate to be temporarily excused from the room. A delegate will say, “Point of Personal Privilege.” This should not interrupt speakers.

Point of Parliamentary Inquiry
Allows a delegate to ask the chair for clarification on any portion of parliamentary procedure that causes confusion. Any delegate may rise and say, “Point of Parliamentary Inquiry!” the presiding officer will acknowledge the point by saying “Rise and state your point.”

For all motions other than motions to amend legislation, the following procedure will be used:

- A delegate may seek recognition from the presiding officer by rising and saying, “Mr./Mme. Speaker/President.”
- Once the presiding officer recognizes the delegate, he/she will state the motion.
- If the presiding officer deems the motion appropriate, he/she will call for a second.
- If a second is given, the presiding officer will then ask for objections. If there are no objections, the motion is immediately adopted. If there is an objection or multiple objections, the presiding officer will convene a vote.

Motion to Suspend the Rules
Allows procedures in the handbook to become altered by the chair or speaker. Can be used to extend debate or alter dress code, permitting delegates to remove suit jackets. A delegate will stand and say, “Motion to extend debate by __ rounds” or “Motion to suspend the rules in manner of dress.” As with all motions, motions to suspend the rules are up to the discretion of the chair.

Amendments

This year, amendments will be reintroduced. These amendments can be used to change the content of a bill and are primarily used to change the implementation, funding, or penalties of a bill. <u>They are only in order in a bill’s chamber of origin after the first round of debate on Friday.</u>

To make an amendment, a delegate must write a proposed change in an amendment form, found in the back of their conference binder. The delegate will hand the completed amendment form to the chair, who will determine if the amendment is germane. The delegate will then raise their red placard and announce“I believe there is an amendment on the floor.” If the chair believes the amendment is germane, and if time allows, the chair will read the amendment aloud, and the bill author will determine if the proposed amendment is hostile or friendly to the intent of the bill. If deemed friendly, the amendment is adopted to the bill without further discussion. If deemed hostile, the chamber moves into amendment debate, an abridged debate where the amendment author will give opening and closing statements.

Bill Tracking

After a bill has passed or failed a chamber, the bill author will bring their bill to the bill tracking table outside of their chamber.
This year, after a bill passes in its chamber of origin, it must also pass the opposite chamber to reach the governor’s desk.

Find Bill Tracking and dockets here:

Outstanding Bills and Delegates

At the end of the conference, each delegate will be asked to vote for what they consider to be the “Outstanding Bill” from their chamber. These bills will be recognized in the closing ceremony.

Outstanding delegates will also be recognized at the end of conference for their engagement and decorum throughout the conference.

Outstanding Delegates and Bill Voting Form Here:

Access to voting for Outstanding Delegates and Bills will open on Friday, December 6th after House and Senate Joint Sessions at 5pm.

COMMITTEE RANKING SHEET (FOR YOUR PURPOSES ONLY)

1 2 3 4 5 **Committee:**_____

Bill Order	BILL #	BILL TITLE OR AUTHOR	IMPORTANCE (1-5)	DEBATABILITY (1-5)	FEASIBILITY (1-5)	PRESENTATION (1-5)	ORIGINALITY (1-5)	NOTES
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								
16								
17								
18								
19								
20								

HOUSE AND SENATE COMMITTEES

Each Senator or Representative shall be assigned to sit on a Senate committee or a House committee. The number of committees will be determined by the Program Staff upon receiving the final number of bills at the conference. Committee appointments shall be determined by the State Board, either randomly or by topic. Committee meetings are held on Thursday evening. Committee time is used to strengthen, combine bills and determine weaknesses. The purpose of Committee is to rank bills by favorable attributes in order to present the best bills on the Floor of the House or the Senate.

COMMITTEE TIME FRAME

The Committee Chairs will direct the committee to adhere to the following time frame during debate on bills:

2 minutes for an Opening Statement by the sponsor(s)
2 minutes for Questions
6 minutes for Debate (alternating speakers in support of and against the bill)
2 minutes for a Closing Statement by the sponsor(s)

Only **Technical Amendments** are permitted in committees. Technical Amendments are those that correct clerical, grammatical, spelling or other errors made by the author and are not allowed to reverse or otherwise change the intent of the bill. The Bill Author(s) may present Technical Amendments to the Committee Chair, who will ensure the amendments are germane prior to reading them to the committee during the Opening Statement and immediately adopting them without debate.

COMMITTEE ACTIONS

All bills shall be ranked on a scale of 1-5 for each criterion with 1 being the best ranking and 5 being the worst ranking.

1. State Importance
2. Feasibility
3. Speaker Knowledge/Presentation
4. Originality
5. Degree to which it is debatable

The degree to which it is debatable and originality criteria will be weighted more heavily than the others, each accounting for 30 percent of the total score.

The State Board will use these averaged and weighted rankings from the committees to create each chamber's docket for the following day. The House and Senate chambers will consider all bills presented in the docket. Only a motion to suspend the rules may rearrange it.

A maximum of two (2) bills from the Senate and two (2) bills from the House will advance to the Plenary Session, where they will be debated by all delegates. These bills are selected among the highest ranked bills from the committee process.

HOUSE & SENATE FLOORS

If a bill receives a favorable average rating from the committee and the Presiding Officers place it on the docket, the sponsor(s) shall present the bill to the appropriate House or Senate body.

PROCEDURES FOR BILL CONSIDERATION ON THE FLOOR

BILL SPONSOR'S OPENING STATEMENT **3 MINUTES**

- Sponsor may use all three (3) minutes.
- Sponsor may use part and yield rest to co-sponsor, questions, closing statements or the chair.

TECHNICAL QUESTIONS **2 MINUTES**

- The presiding officer will open the floor to Questions from the floor. The presiding officer will recognize members of the body to question the bill sponsor(s) on any matter relating to the content of the bill in question until time expires.
- The questions must be technical in nature and only relate to facts or statistics regarding the bill. Any questions deemed debatable or non-technical by the presiding officer will be called out of order.
- The presiding officer has the authority to deem questions germane or not germane.
- Delegates may only ask one question at a time.

INTENT SPEECHES **4 MINUTES**

- Candidates for State Board positions and Lobbyists are the only delegates allowed to give intent speeches.
- A speaker may sign up with the Secretary of State for an intent speech from the announcement of the docket up until the presiding officer begins the bill consideration process on the bill in question.
- Intent speeches are limited to two minutes each.

GENERAL DEBATE **12 MINUTES**

- The presiding officer will open the floor to general debate on the bill in which members of the body may express their opinions on the bill.
- Each delegate may speak for a maximum of two (2) minutes.
- In the event a delegate does not use all two (2) minutes, he/she may yield to another delegate to speak. This delegate may speak for the remainder of the original two (2) minutes given by the chair. Time may not be yielded if it has been yielded once before.
- The presiding officer will alternate between speakers in proposition and speakers in opposition of the bill. If the first speaker recognized supports the bill, the presiding officer will call for a speaker to debate against the bill, and vice versa.
- The speaker may ask the bill sponsor(s) a question or a series of questions upon being recognized by saying, "Will the author(s) yield to a question/series of questions?" The speaker may engage in debate before and/or after the question(s).
- Members of the body may also propose amendments by seeking recognition from the chair using a **red** card. Once the amendment has been deemed germane and allowable with time constraints by the chair, the Bill Author(s) will deem the amendment "friendly" or "hostile" to the bill itself. In the event it is deemed friendly, the amendment is adopted without debate. In the event it is deemed hostile, the following process will take place:

AMENDMENT DEBATE AND VOTE **9 MINUTES**

Amendment Sponsor's Opening Statement	2 minutes
Questions	1 minute
General Debate on the Amendment	4 minutes
Original Bill Sponsor's Statements	1 minute
Amendment Sponsor's Closing Statements	1 minute

- For a full explanation of the amendment process, see "Explanations of Parliamentary Motions and Points" further into this document.

BILL SPONSOR CLOSING STATEMENT **2 MINUTES**

- Once debate has closed on the bill, the presiding officer will recognize the bill sponsor(s) to deliver the Closing Statement to present the arguments for final passage for the final time.
- In the event the sponsor(s) yielded unused time from the Opening Statement, the total time available to the sponsor(s) will be two (2) minutes plus that time.

FINAL READING OF BILL AND VOTE

- The presiding officer will convene a vote for final action on the bill.
- The Clerk will read the bill by title only plus any amendments for the final time.
- The presiding officer will ask for the yeas and nays via a voice vote. A simple majority (1/2) is required for passage.
- In the event the presiding officer is unclear as to which side had the majority, he/she may recognize a Division as called from the floor. When a Division is called or the presiding officer is in doubt of the result, he/she will ask the yeas and nays to stand, respectively.
- When a bill is passed by a House or a Senate, it shall then be transported with the presiding officer's signature to the Bill Tracking station staffed by the Program Staff and routed appropriately.

VETO OVERRIDE PROCEDURES

OPENING STATEMENTS **4 MINUTES**

- The bill sponsor(s) will give an opening statement lasting no longer than two (2) minutes.
- The Governor will then give an opening statement lasting no longer than two (2) minutes.
- Both the sponsors and the Governor may use part of the time and yield the rest to questions or their respective closing statements.

QUESTIONS **2 MINUTES**

- The presiding officer will open the floor to Questions from the floor. The presiding officer will recognize members of the body to question the bill sponsor(s) OR the Governor on any matter relating to the content of the bill in question until time expires. The delegate asking the question must first specify whether the question is for the bill sponsor(s) or the Governor. When asked of the Governor, questions may be non-technical in asking as to the reasons for the original veto.
- The presiding officer has the authority to deem questions germane or not germane.
- Delegates may only ask one question at a time.

GENERAL DEBATE **12 MINUTES**

- The presiding officer will open the floor to general debate on the bill in which members of the body may express their opinions on the bill.
- Each delegate may speak for a maximum of two (2) minutes.
- In the event a delegate does not use all two (2) minutes, he/she may yield to another delegate to speak. This delegate may speak for the remainder of the original two (2) minutes given by the chair. Time may not be yielded if it has been yielded once before.
- The presiding officer will alternate between speakers in proposition and speakers in opposition of the bill. If the first speaker recognized supports the bill, the presiding officer will call for a speaker to debate against the bill, and vice versa.
- The speaker may ask the bill sponsor(s) a question or a series of questions upon being recognized by saying "Will the author(s) yield to a question/series of questions?" The speaker may engage in debate before and/or after the question(s).
- Members of the body may NOT propose amendments during the veto override session.

CLOSING STATEMENTS **4 MINUTES**

- Once debate has closed on the bill, the presiding officer will recognize first the bill sponsor(s) and then the Governor to deliver Closing Statements to present the arguments for the final time.
- In the event the sponsor(s) or the Governor yielded unused time from the Opening Statement, the total time available to them will be two (2) minutes plus that time.

FINAL READING OF BILL AND VOTE

- The presiding officer will convene a vote for final action on the bill.
- The Clerk will read the bill by title only for the final time.
- The presiding officer will ask for the yeas and nays via a voice vote. A yea vote is a vote to override the veto while a nay is a vote to maintain the veto. A two-thirds (2/3) majority is required to override.
- In the event the presiding officer is unclear as to which side had the majority, he/she may recognize a Division as called from the floor. When a Division is called, the presiding officer will ask the yeas and nays to stand, respectively.

EXPLANATIONS OF PARLIAMENTARY MOTIONS AND POINTS

Only the following motions and points are allowed during debate.

For all motions save motions to amend legislation, the following procedure will be used:

- A delegate may seek recognition from the presiding officer by raising their **red** placard.
- Once the presiding officer recognizes the delegate, they will state the motion.
- If the presiding officer deems the motion appropriate, they will call for a second.
- If a second is given, the presiding officer will then ask for objections.
    - If there are no objections, the motion is immediately adopted.
    - If there is an objection or multiple objections, the presiding officer will convene a vote.
- The required majority varies for each motion.

1. **Amendments to Legislation**
    - Motions to amend legislation are allowed at any point during the Debate portion of House and Senate floor debates by raising the **red** placard. They may not interrupt speakers. Technical Amendments are only allowed during Opening Statements in the Committee process.
    - These motions have the effect of changing the verbiage of bills.
    - The presiding officer is empowered to deem amendments germane or not germane to the legislation in question.
    - Before moving to amend the bill, the amendment author will hand the completed amendment form found at the back of the conference binder to the clerk or presiding officer.
    - After the presiding officer recognizes a delegate to speak during Debate, the delegate will move to amend the bill. "I move to amend House/Senate Bill X."
    - The presiding officer will then ask the bill sponsor(s) whether they deem the amendment friendly or hostile to the bill.
    - In the event the sponsor(s) deem the bill friendly, the amendment text will be immediately added to the bill without debate or a vote.
    - In the event the sponsor(s) deem the bill hostile, the presiding officer will open debate on the amendment.
        - The amendment sponsor will deliver an opening statement on the amendment for a maximum of two (2) minutes.
        - The presiding officer will open the floor to Technical Questions from the floor for a maximum of one (1) minute.
        - The presiding officer will open the floor to Debate. Each recognized speaker may speak for a maximum of one (1) minute. Upon the conclusion of each speaker's speech, the chair will immediately take back the floor in order to recognize another speaker. The total time for Debate shall not exceed four (4) minutes.
        - The presiding officer will then recognize the bill sponsor(s) to deliver comments on the amendment for a maximum of one (1) minute.
        - The presiding officer will then recognize the amendment sponsor for a Closing Statement for a maximum of one (1) minute.

    - The presiding officer will then convene a vote on the amendment. A simple majority (1/2) is required for passage.
- If a hostile amendment is approved by the body, the presiding officer will direct debate back to the general Debate on the bill as amended.
- In the event a delegate wishes to amend the amendment, the above process will take place with the secondary amendment. Tertiary amendments are not allowed.
- All debate must remain relevant to the question at hand, whether it be the general bill, an amendment or a secondary amendment.

2. **The Previous Question**
    - Motions for the previous question are allowed at any point during chamber debate of bills or amendments. They may not interrupt speakers.
    - Moving the previous question cuts off Debate and moves straight to the Closing Statement.
    - In the event this motion comes during debate on an amendment, the delegate must specify which question to move:
        - "I move the previous question on the amendment." This motion cuts off debate on the amendment and moves straight into the comments from the bill sponsor(s).
        - "I move the previous question on the bill." This motion cuts off debate on both the amendment and the bill and moves straight into the sponsor's Closing Statement on the bill.
    - A two-thirds (2/3) majority is required for passage.

3. **Table/Remove from the Table**
    - Motions to table legislation are allowed at any point during convened sessions of Houses and Senates. They may not interrupt speakers.
    - Moving to table legislation defers consideration of the instrument.
    - There are two (2) possible options with motions to table:
        - General Motion to Table: This motion simply lays the instrument on the table and may be removed from the table at any point.
            - An instrument laid on the table may be removed from the table with a corresponding motion.
            - "I move to remove [insert bill name] from the table."
            - The instrument will be returned to its original place on the Docket. If the chamber has moved beyond that point on the Docket, a motion to suspend the rules and rearrange the Docket may be used.
        - Motion to table for a specified amount of time: This motion defers consideration of legislation until a specified time.
    - A simple majority (1/2) vote is required for passage.

4. **Suspension of Rules**
    - Motions to suspend the rules are allowed at any point during convened sessions of Houses and Senates. They may not interrupt speakers.
    - These motions have the effect of adjusting rules in this handbook to satisfy the needs of the floor to properly execute debate.
    - The presiding officer is empowered to deem these motions appropriate and admissible.
    - The following are common motions to suspend the rules:

- Extend time: Delegates may use this motion to extend time for questioning or debate.
    - The motion must include a specific amount of time for extension.
    - These motions may only extend the general time for questions or debate; they may not extend times for individual speakers' speeches or subsequent questioning.
    - "I move to suspend the rules and extend the time for questioning by two minutes."
- Rearrange the Docket: Delegates may use this motion to adjust the order of consideration of bills on the Docket.
    - These motions may move a single bill, move multiple bills, or force immediate consideration of a particular bill.
    - "I move to suspend the rules and rearrange the Docket so that [insert bill number(s)] appear(s) before [insert bill number].
    - "I move to suspend the rules and immediately consider [insert bill number].

- All motions to suspend the rules require a two-thirds (2/3) majority for passage.

5. **Reconsideration**
    - Motions to reconsider are allowed at any point during either committee hearings or convened sessions of the Houses and Senates. They may not interrupt speakers.
    - Should a bill fail to be reported favorably in committee or pass in a House or a Senate, any delegate who voted against the bill in its initial consideration may move for the committee or chamber to reconsider the bill.
    - These motions are only permissible in the body in which the bill failed to proceed. For example, a bill with an unfavorable report in committee may not be reconsidered by a House or Senate.
    - "I move to reconsider [insert bill number]."
    - If the motion to reconsider passes, the presiding officer will immediately convene consideration of the bill.
    - No bill may be reconsidered if it has been reconsidered once before.
    - A two-thirds (2/3) majority is required for passage.
6. **Recess**
    - Motions to recess are allowed at any point during either committee hearings or convened sessions of the Houses and Senates. They may not interrupt speakers.
    - These motions dismiss the committee meeting or session of a House or Senate for a specific duration of time, including a lunch break.
    - The committee chair or presiding officer is empowered to not recognize a motion to recess should he/she feel it unnecessary.
    - A specific length of time is required in the motion.
    - A simple majority (1/2) is required for passage.

7. **Adjournment**
    - Motions to adjourn are allowed at any point during either committee hearings or convened sessions of the Houses and Senates. They may not interrupt speakers.
    - These motions end committee meetings or sessions of a House or Senate.

- The committee chair or presiding officer is empowered to not recognize a motion to adjourn should he/she feel it unnecessary.
- In the event there will be future sessions, a motion to adjourn must include a time to reconvene.
- In the event there are no future sessions, the motion becomes a motion to adjourn sine die.
- A simple majority (1/2) is required for passage.

8. Point of Information
    - Points of Information are allowed at any point during either committee hearings or convened sessions of the Houses and Senates. They may interrupt speakers.
    - A Point of Information is a statement of a fact or statistic to clarify misinformation on the floor or to provide additional insight relevant to the debate.
    - Any delegate may rise and say, "Point of Information!" The presiding officer will acknowledge the point by saying, "Rise and state your point."

9. Point of Order
    - Points of Order are allowed at any point during either committee hearings or convened sessions of the Houses and Senates. They may interrupt speakers.
    - A Point of Order is used to alert the presiding officer of a perceived error in parliamentary procedure.
    - Any delegate may rise and say, "Point of Order!" The presiding officer will acknowledge the point by saying, "Rise and state your point."
    - Upon hearing the Point of Order, the presiding officer will either correct the action in question or explain to the delegate how the action in question was in order.

10. Point of Parliamentary Inquiry
    - Points of Parliamentary Inquiry are allowed at any point during either committee hearings or convened sessions of the Houses and Senates. They may interrupt speakers.
    - A Point of Parliamentary Inquiry is used to ask the presiding officer for clarification on any portion of parliamentary procedure that causes confusion.
    - Any delegate may rise and say, "Point of Parliamentary Inquiry!" The presiding officer will acknowledge the point by saying, "Rise and state your point."
    - Upon hearing the Point of Parliamentary Inquiry, the presiding officer will explain the point in question to the delegate.

11. Point of Personal Privilege
    - Points of Personal Privilege are allowed at any point during either committee hearings or convened sessions of the Houses and Senates. They may not interrupt speakers.
    - A Point of Personal Privilege is used make a personal request during debate, including permission to vacate the chamber for a brief time.
    - Any delegate may rise and say, "Point of Personal Privilege!"
    - Upon hearing the Point of Personal Privilege, the presiding officer will either grant or deny it.

SUPREME COURT PROCEDURES

OPENING STATEMENTS **3 MINUTES (EACH)**

1. The complainant will present a three (3) minute opening statement that introduces the basis for the complaint.
2. The Attorney General will present a three (3) minute opening statement.

QUESTIONS FROM THE BENCH **10 MINUTES**

The Justices will have the opportunity to ask either party questions concerning their arguments for a period of ten (10) minutes.

PRESENTATION OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE **5 MINUTES EACH**

Each party has the opportunity to present any documentary evidence to the court for a period of five (5) minutes.

DELIBERATION AND JUDGMENT **15 MINUTES MAX**

After all proceedings have occurred, the court will enter deliberation, in which the complainant and Attorney General must vacate the room. As soon as a decision has been reached, both parties will be recalled into the room and the Chief Justice will present the decision.

CHALLENGING A BILL IN SUPREME COURT

If a delegate wishes to challenge the constitutionality of a bill, they may complete a challenge form located at the back of this binder and submit it to the Bill Tracking Station outside Premier 1. Bills may be challenged if they appeared on the docket for Friday or Saturday.

Challengers or complainants will have an Attorney assisting them and their arguments through the Supreme Court procedures. The original bill author will also have an Attorney General assisting them to defend the constitutionality of their bill.

LOBBYIST PROGRAM

Lobbyists shall apply and be put into Lobbyist firms before the conference. Before the conference, Lobbyists will create firms centered around a specific topic (education, healthcare, etc.). Firms may choose multiple topics, but no two firms may represent the same position on an issue. For example, a firm can lobby for pro-healthcare bills and anti-education bills. Another firm may not be pro-healthcare, but it can be anti-healthcare.

Lobbyists may create names for their firms and give a short presentation on their firm's purpose during the closing session on Thursday night.

ROLES DURING COMMITTEE

- Lobbyists have guaranteed speaking time in committee through a Lobbyist's Writ. A Writ, similar to a policy brief, advocates for or against a bill based on research and evidence. It may not last for more than 1 minute when read aloud to the chamber.
    - During committee, writs may be spoken before committee debate by the lobbyist or through the chair.
- The chair must approve all writs as Germaine.
- Lobbyists may also pass notes to committee members throughout the debate.

ROLES DURING CHAMBER DEBATE

- Similar to committee, Lobbyists may offer Writs on bills, but they must be presented to the chamber by the chair. Writs are still limited to 1 minute.
- Lobbyists may sign up to deliver intent speeches through the Secretary of State.
- Notes may still be passed during debate.

Lobbyist firms may meet with the Governor to lobby for bills.

Floor Debate Sample Script

CHAIR:	*"Will the clerk please read Bill #__ by title only."* (The bill sponsors go to the front of the chamber.)
CLERK:	Reads the bill by title only (noting any changes made during the committee hearing, i.e. additions, deletions). This is referred to as the second reading of the Bill. (The first reading was in committee.)
CHAIR:	*"The Bill Sponsors have 3 minutes to present the bill in opening statements"*
BILL SPONSORS	The Bill Sponsors begin by **stating their name and school**, then delivering an opening speech about their bill. When the Bill Sponsor finishes opening statements, the Sponsor may yield any remaining time to their Bill Co-Sponsor, the chair or to their closing statement and will say: *"I would like to yield any remaining time to_____(my Co-Sponsor, the chair, or my closing statements)."*
CHAIR	"*We will now move into a three minute round of **Questions**. The Chair recognizes _____ (state legislator's name)."*
LEGISLATOR	Once recognized, stand, state name and club and immediately address the technical question to the Sponsor. After the Sponsor's/ Co-Sponsor's reply, the Chair continues to recognize other Legislators until time is called (after 3 minutes).
CHAIR	*"Are there any intent speakers?"*
CLERK	*"Yes/No"* If yes, *"The intent speaker is _____."* If no, *"There is no intent speaker."*
CHAIR	(If there is an intent speaker) *"The Chair recognizes _____. You have 2 minutes to speak on this bill."*
INTENT SPEAKER	Intent speaker goes to front of chamber. States name, club and position and addresses the chamber.
CHAIR	*"We will now move into Debate. This is a twelve minute round.* (The presiding officer recognizes a Legislator with their placard raised.)
LEGISLATOR	Stand, state name and club. Within the two minutes to address the chamber, the Legislator can: 1. Use all of the time. 2. Use part of the time and yield the remaining time to another legislator by stating "*I yield my time to ___ (name)."* That legislator will have the remainder of the 2 minutes to speak. 3. Use part of the time and yield the remaining time to the Chair by stating, *"I yield the remainder of my time to the Chair."*

	4. Use part of the time and yield the remaining time to the Bill Sponsor's closing statement by stating, *"I yield the remainder of my time to the Sponsor's closing summation".* This can only be done during propositional debate. 5. Use part of the time to ask the Bill Sponsor if he will answer a series of questions by stating, *"Will the Bill Sponsor yield to a series of questions."* Questions may only be asked if the Bill Sponsor says yes. If the sponsor says no, the recognized legislator may still address the chamber. If time allows, the Legislator can address the floor after the Bill Sponsor answers the questions. Remaining time must be yielded.
	The debate process continues for the remainder of the twelve minutes. The Chair will alternate between proponents and opponents of the bill as long as there are speakers on each side until time expires. After a proponent speaker addresses the chamber, the Chair will say, "I will now recognize an opponent speaker, are there any such speakers?" The opposite will occur upon the conclusion of an opponent speaker's address.
CHAIR	*"The Bill Sponsors now have two minutes (plus any additional time yielded to closing statements during debate) for closing statements."*
BILL SPONSORS	State name and club, and give closing statements. Time may be yielded only to Co-Sponsor and the Chair.
CHAIR	*"Bill # ___ will now be read by title only and placed on final passage."*
CLERK	Reads the Bill by title, noting any amendments that passed.
CHAIR	*"We will now move to a vote on Bill #___. All those in favor of this bill please signify by saying 'Aye' in your normal speaking voice. All those opposed signify by saying 'Nay' in your normal speaking voice.* (If voting machines are available in chambers, vote Aye or Nay through machines) *This bill does pass/fail."*
	If the Presiding Officer is in doubt, he can call for a standing vote. If Legislators feel the voice vote is too close to call, they should call out "division" and the presiding officer will may call for a standing vote.

Guide to Floor Debate on an Amendment

CHAIR	*"There is an amendment of the floor. Will the Clerk please read the amendment in its entirety."*
CLERK	Reads amendment in entirety. If amendment is deemed hostile by the Bill Sponsors, debate on the amendment only ensues. The Amendment Sponsor goes to the front of the Chamber.
CHAIR	*"The Amendment Sponsor has two minutes to present the amendment."*
AMENDMENT SPONSOR	State name and club, gives presentation on amendment.
CHAIR	*"We will now move into a one minute round of technical questions on the amendment. Are there any such questions on the floor? The Chair recognizes____."*
LEGISLATOR	Once recognized, stand, state name and club and immediately address the technical question to the Amendment Sponsor. After the Amendment Sponsor's reply, the Chair continues to recognize other Legislators until time is called.
CHAIR	*"Is there anyone who wishes to speak on this amendment?"* (Refer to floor debate procedure. The same order of events takes place for an amendment except the word "amendment " is submitted for the word "bill" and the time limit is different- Debate – 4 minutes; Bill Sponsor- 1 minute; Amendment Sponsor- 1 minute.) Following the last speaker's remarks, the Chair continues...
CHAIR	"*We will now close debate on the amendment. Bill Sponsor(s) have one minute for comments on the* ***amendment.****"*
BILL SPONSORS	States name and club and presents position on the amendment.
CHAIR	*"The Amendment Sponsor has 1 minute for closing statements."*
AMENDMENT SPONSOR	States name and club and makes closing remarks.
CHAIR	*"Will the Clerk please read the amendment?"*
CLERK	Reads the amendment.
CHAIR	*"We will now move to a vote on the amendment by ____ (Amendment Sponsor). All those in favor of this amendment signify by saying 'Aye'. All those opposed signify by saying 'Nay'."* Raps gavel and announce outcome of vote on amendment.

ELECTIONS & STATE OFFICERS

ELECTION OF STATE OFFICIALS

Each district will have the option of nominating candidates for the state offices of Governor, Speaker of the House and President of the Senate at its district meeting. The candidates selected at the district meeting will run against each other for the aforementioned state offices at Youth Legislature. Those elected will serve in their official capacities during the next year's session of Youth Legislature

District Meeting Election Procedures:

Each district can nominate a maximum of one (1) candidate for every three (3) schools in the district. Districts with between one (1) and three (3) schools can nominate one (1) candidate for each office, districts with between four (4) and six (6) districts can nominate two (2) candidates for each office, districts with between seven (7) and nine (9) districts can nominate three (3) candidates for each office, and so forth.

Each Youth & Government club may cast two (2) votes for the candidate(s) of its choice. Votes may be cast for the same candidate or split between two candidates. Each delegation will be allowed to select one representative to cast their club's votes and deliver them to the program staff member running the elections.

Youth Legislature Conference Election Procedures:

Voting stations will be made available to all delegates Friday night after the Governor's Banquet to cast their ballots for the next conference's Governor, Speaker of the House and President of the Senate.

Only members of the House will cast votes for Speaker of the House and only members of the Senate will cast votes for President of the Senate. All delegates will cast votes for Governor in the general election.

The election of Governor will be determined by the following process:

- Each member of the Delegation Council, comprised of one (1) representative from each participating club, will cast two (2) votes upon hearing speeches from each of the candidates. Votes may be cast for the same candidate or split between two candidates. This vote distribution will account for **15 percent** of the final vote.
- The vote distribution from the general election of all delegates will account for **85 percent** of the final vote.
    - Delegates will rank the candidates in order of preference.
    - If a candidate surpasses 50 percent of the delegates' first-choice votes, he/she will be the winner of the general election and that vote distribution will account for 85 percent of the final vote.
    - If no candidate surpasses 50 percent of the delegates' first-choice votes, another round of voting analysis occurs:

        - The candidate with the fewest first-choice votes will be eliminated with his/her votes being redistributed to the other candidates based on those voters' second-choice votes.
        - If a candidate surpasses 50 percent of the new vote tally, he/she will be the winner of the general election and the current vote distribution will account for 85 percent of the final vote.
        - If no candidate surpasses 50 percent of the new vote tally, this process will repeat until a candidate surpasses 50 percent of the vote.
- The candidate with the greatest percentage of the vote in the combined Delegation Council vote, accounting for 15 percent, and the general election vote, accounting for 85 percent, will become the Governor.

The election of the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate will be determined by the following process:

- Delegates will rank the candidates in order of preference.
- If a candidate surpasses 20 percent of the delegates' first-choice votes, he/she will become the Speaker/President, and that candidate will get a portion of their second-choice vote applied to the next round of voting analysis based on how many votes that candidate received in excess of the minimum 20 percent required.
- If multiple candidates surpass 20 percent of delegates' first-choice votes, the candidate with the most votes will become the Speaker/President, the candidate with the second-most votes will become the Speaker pro tempore/President pro tempore, and so forth. All candidates who exceed 20 percent of the vote will have a portion of their second-choice votes applied to the next round of voting analysis based on how many votes that candidate received in excess of the minimum 20 percent required.
- If multiple candidates tie while surpassing 20 percent of delegates' first-choice votes, every delegate's next-choice vote is used to break the tie.
- Once both the Speaker/President and the Speaker pro tempore/President pro tempore have been determined by this process, the next candidate will become a House/Senate Floor Leader.

Running for State Office

All candidates for Governor, President of the Senate and Speaker of the House must provide a photo and answers to various questions for the Youth Legislature conference binder.

Submitted photos must meet the following guidelines:

- Head and shoulders formal photo
- Plain background
- Sharp picture in either color or black and white
- Males must be dressed in a collared shirt, tie and sport jacket
- Females in business attire

Governor candidates will prepare a commercial video for their candidacy not to exceed one (1) minute in length. The videos may not have any endorsements from MUN or LEG State Officers from

that academic year. Videos must be received by the program staff according to prescribed deadlines.

All candidates must have a minimum of one (1) year of Youth Legislature experience. Candidates for Governor must be rising seniors while all other candidates may be rising juniors or seniors.

Candidates must declare their candidacy during district meetings and complete an intent-to-run form online prior to or at the respective district meeting.

At the conference, governor candidates must have a nominator who is not a MUN or LEG State Board Officer from that academic year OR a member of the conference's Delegation Council. The nominator will give a speech Friday morning prior to the convening of all sessions.

Candidates for Governor have open speaking privileges in all committees Thursday night and may give a maximum of two (2) intent speeches in the House and a maximum of two (2) intent speeches in the Senate on Friday.

Candidates for Speaker of the House and President of the Senate may give a maximum of two (2) intent speeches in their respective chambers. They must also serve as members of the House and the Senate, respectively, and sponsor bills. They will have open speaking privileges in both chambers of the House and the Senate, respectively.

No candidate for any office will expend more than $20. No candidate for any office will distribute handouts of any kind.

Candidates may only hang one (1) standard size poster and only one banner no larger than 3' X 6' in the general assembly room during registration. Banners exceeding that size will be removed. Only the candidate may wear a button to advocate his/her candidacy. Any additional campaign paraphernalia will be confiscated.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF YOUTH LEGISLATURE STATE OFFICERS

All state officers are required to attend the State Officer Training in August. No state officer may miss more than three (2) State Board meetings without a valid excuse.

Governor

1. Attend the YMCA Youth Governor's Conference in Washington, D.C. The conference is usually held the second week of June, but dates will be provided to Governor candidates as soon as they are available to the state office.
2. Set the tone for Youth Legislature by delivering an opening address to all delegates.
3. Assist the program staff with the planning of functions at Youth Legislature.
4. Preside over general sessions.
5. Sign or veto each bill passed by the House or Senate.
6. Close Youth Legislature with a State of the State Address, summarizing the accomplishments of the conference and reporting his/her action on bills passed by the conference.
7. Serve as a State Y&G Officer and assist with training and other statewide activities.

Secretary of State (selected by the program staff by application)

1. Act as Commissioner of Elections.
2. Ensure that all elections are adhering to election guidelines.
3. Schedule candidates' intent speeches.
4. Coordinate with the Governor to preside over the Lobbying Program.
5. Preside over the Delegation Council.
6. Serve as a State Y&G Officer and assist with training and other statewide activities.

Chief Justice (elected by the Supreme Court)

1. Preside over sessions of the Supreme Court.
2. Serve as a State Y&G Officer and assist with training and other statewide activities.

Speaker of the House

1. Preside over sessions of the House of Representatives.
2. Determine the docket after committee meetings.
3. Preside over the Joint Session at the end of the conference.
4. Serve as a State Y&G Officer and assist with training and other statewide activities.

Speaker pro tempore of the House

1. Preside over sessions of the other House of Representatives.
2. Determine the docket after committee meetings.
3. Serve as a State Y&G Officer and assist with training and other statewide activities.

President of the Senate

1. Preside over sessions of the Senate.
2. Determine the docket after committee meetings.
3. Preside over the Joint Session at the end of the conference.
4. Serve as a State Y&G Officer and assist with training and other statewide activities.

President pro tempore of the Senate

1. Preside over sessions of the other Senate.
2. Determine the docket after committee meetings.
3. Serve as a State Y&G Officer and assist with training and other statewide activities.

House and Senate Floor Leaders

1. Preside over sessions of the House and Senate when the presiding officer is absent.
2. Serve as parliamentarian for the respective chamber.
3. Assist in determining the docket after committee meetings.
4. Serve as a State Y&G Officer and assist with training and other statewide activities.

SENATE BILLS

SENATE BILL 151

Greta Bailey U-High

TITLE: Decontrol Mifepristone and Misoprostol

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

On May 24, 2024, the Louisiana legislature passed a law that would make mifepristone and misoprostol controlled substances beginning October 1, 2024. The drugs were also made Schedule IV, when they had been completely un-controlled prior.

While the drugs are commonly used in combination to end pregnancies, they have other uses. Mifepristone can be used to treat hyperglycemia, also known as high blood sugar, and misoprostol is used to treat miscarriages, induce labor, and stop postpartum hemorrhaging.

These applications of the drugs are important and can be life-saving. The situations that they are used in are often emergencies where the patient could die if not given treatment. Making mifepristone and misoprostol controlled substances and mandating that they be stored in locked cabinets is dangerous and will cause deaths.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Once this bill is enacted, mifepristone and misoprostol will return to be uncontrolled substances and procedures regarding them will revert to what they were prior to October 1, 2024.

SECTION III: FUNDING

This bill requires no funding because it only reclassified two formerly uncontrolled substances.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

There are no penalties necessary for this bill.

SENATE BILL 152

Ben Morvant Metairie Park Country Day School
Chloe Jones

TITLE: Establish the Louisiana Manifesto of Governance of Wheeled-Shoes and Other Methods of Getting There at High Speed and Maneuverability (ELMGWSOMGTHSM)

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

The TURTLE Act of last year boosted wheeled shoes into the forefront of culture in Louisiana via the Heely Olympics. As such, a new governing body must evolve to regulate and protect this emerging field of transportation.

Wheeled shoes are some of the most efficient forms of transportation available. Many sources have reported record speeds upwards of 75 MPH. This combined with their nimble maneuvering creates a truly remarkable piece of equipment. With this opportunity for greatness, however, there are also opportunities for disaster. Case in point, many wheeled-shoe users report serious injury--both physical and psychological-- after using concrete walls or metal street lamps as a means of rapid deceleration. It is this act's duty to protect the people of Louisiana from themselves.

ELMGWSOMGTHSM creates the Louisiana Bureau of Wheeled Shoes (LBWS), a branch of the DOTD. A new licensing and permit system for various classes of wheeled shoes is also introduced. The LBWS is committed to protecting both the safety of citizens and the safety of our rights.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

SECTION 2.1: DEFINITIONS

“Shoe” - A protective foot-covering featuring a solid sole, designed to encase the foot, provide support, and enable secure wear. Any of these qualities may be diminished--within reason--for aesthetic or performance purposes.

“Wheeled-shoe” - Any shoe with an attached wheel, bearing, or other device intended by the manufacturer to aid the movement of the user by means of rolling.

“Wheel” - Any device intended by the manufacturer to aid the movement of a machine, item, or person by means of rolling.

“Class-A wheeled shoe” - Any wheeled shoe that has 1 or more wheel elements.

“Class-B wheeled shoe” - Any wheeled shoe that has 1 or more wheel elements. It must also contain 1 or more mechanical springs, but less than 6, intended by the manufacturer to aid in the propulsion, deceleration, or otherwise manipulation of the user or wheeled shoe itself while in motion.

“Class-C wheeled shoe” - Any wheeled shoe that has 1 or more wheel elements. It must also contain 6 or more springs intended by the manufacturer to aid in the propulsion, deceleration, or otherwise manipulation of the user or wheeled shoe itself while in motion. OR, any wheeled shoe that has 1 or more mechanisms attached to

the shoe in any way that is intended by the manufacturer to aid in the propulsion, deceleration, or otherwise manipulation of the user or wheeled shoe itself while in motion, the nature of which mechanism does not use elastic energy or friction as the principle force is which to accelerate, decelerate, or otherwise manipulate the user or wheeled shoe itself while in motion.

SECTION 2.2:

This act creates the Louisiana Bureau for Wheeled-Shoes, or LBWS. The LBWS withholds the rights to: issue, revoke, or alter the clearance of any wheeled shoe permits for any reason, and alter the process by which permits are issued and renewed.

The LBWS is a branch of the Louisiana Department of Transportation Development and is therefore subject to scrutiny and change at the discretion of the DOTD.

This act creates seven new Louisiana State public office positions. The elected officials will serve as the LBWS executive board. The positions will be added to the next LA state governors election ballot and every other governors election ballot after that. LBWS executive board members are subject to the following term limits: one eight year term, all board members must be younger than 55 and older than 17 at the time of election, all members must be US citizens, all members must be Louisiana residents.

LBWS executive board members will be compensated $75,000 dollars a year each as salary; this number is subject to change by the Louisiana Department of Transportation Development.

SECTION 2.3:

A Class-B wheeled shoe permit is available to any US citizen above the age of 8 years that provides any combination of at least two of the following documents and at least one valid proof of citizenship: a valid state Class-E driver's license or above, social security number, birth certificate, US issued passport, US military ID, or US certificate of citizenship. After applying for a Class-B permit, the applicant must pass a standardized written exam issued by the LBWS. Upon passing the exam, the applicant must pay a flat fee of $50. After all criteria have been met and all fees have been paid, the applicant is subject to a waiting period of no shorter than three days and no longer than two weeks after which the applicant will receive a copy of their Class-B wheeled shoe permit in the mail. Class-B permit holders must renew their permit every 10 years by passing the standardized written exam issued by the LBWS.

A Class-C wheeled shoe permit is available to any US citizen above the age of 10 years that provides any combination of at least two of the following documents and at least one valid proof of citizenship: a valid state Class-E driver's license or above, social security number, birth certificate, US issued passport, US military ID, or US certificate of citizenship. After applying through the LBWS, the applicant must pass both a standardized written test and a standardized mechanical aptitude exam conducted by the LBWS. Upon passing both exams, the applicant must pay a flat fee of $100 and an additional annual fee of $35. After all criteria have been met and all initial fees have been paid, the applicant is subject to a waiting period of no shorter than three days and no longer than two weeks after which the applicant will receive a copy of their Class-C wheeled shoe permit in the mail. If the applicant does not pay their annual fee by April 20th every year, the applicant's permit will be revoked and a Class-B wheeled shoe permit will be issued to said applicant. Additionally, all Class-C wheeled shoe permit holders must renew their permit every 5 years by taking and passing the standardized mechanical aptitude exam.

SECTION 2.4:

Any class B or class C wheeled shoe permit that has not been renewed within their corresponding time limits will be considered not valid in any way.

Illegal use of Class-B wheeled shoes constitutes the use of any Class-B wheeled shoe in a public setting without the corresponding Class-B permit on hand.

Illegal use of Class-C wheeled shoes constitutes the use of any Class-C wheeled shoe in a public setting without the corresponding Class-C permit on hand. The possession of a Class-B permit does not, in any way, permit the use of a Class-C wheeled shoe.

Illegal use of Class-B wheeled shoes with reckless abandon constitutes the use of a Class-B wheeled shoe in a public setting that poses a serious threat to the safety of any property or person other than the operator.

Illegal use of Class-C wheeled shoes with reckless abandon constitutes the use of a Class-C wheeled shoe in a public setting that poses a serious threat to the safety of any property or person other than the operator.

Violation of any provision present in RS 14:98 qualifies under the corresponding punishment(s).

SECTION III: FUNDING

The LBWS will have an initial budget of 4 million USD for the next fiscal year. This initial funding will be provided by an additional low-interest loan from the Federal Reserve to the Louisiana State Government. The loan will be paid back within one calendar year through the money generated by permit fees and legal fines created by this bill. All subsequent funding will also come from the money generated by permit fees and legal fines created by this bill.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

SECTION 4.1

Illegal use of Class-B wheeled shoes is a misdemeanor. First time offenders will be charged with a $50 fine. If that fine is not paid within 60 days, then it increases to $100. Repeat offenders will be charged with a $100 fine that if is not paid within 60 days, increases to $150. The Statue of Limitations is two years.

Illegal use of Class-C wheeled shoes is a misdemeanor. First-time offenders will be charged with a $150 fine that if is not paid within 60 days, increases to $250. Upon a third repeat offense, the belligerent's permit will be revoked and the same $150 fine will be applied. The now permitless dweeb may reapply for a permit at any time, however, they must effectively start from the beginning and are therefore subject to denial of the permit. The Statute of Limitations is two years

Illegal use of Class-B wheeled shoes with reckless abandon is a misdemeanor. It is punishable under the same penalties listed under illegal use of Class-C wheeled shoes. The Statute of Limitations is four years.

Illegal use of Class-C wheeled shoes with reckless abandon is a felony. First-time offenders will be charged with a $350 flat fine and have their wheeled-shoe permit suspended for three years before they are allowed to

apply again. Repeat offenders will be charged with a $500 flat fine and have their wheeled-shoe permit irreversibly revoked. The statute of limitations is six years.

Operation of Class C wheeled shoes qualifies under RS 14:98 section 98 subsection (A) (1) and all relevant provisions.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 153

Anderson Krupala University Laboratory School

TITLE: LOUISIANA HIGHER EDUCATION PRESERVATION ACT:

Bill to make Louisiana's 45-cent sales tax permanent to fund higher education and student aid.

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

This Act seeks to permanently extend the 45-cent sales tax levied on the sale of goods and services within Louisiana, specifically to provide a stable funding source for higher education. The current expiration of this tax is projected to lead to a $250 million budget cut for higher education institutions across the state. This tax is essential for supporting public colleges and universities and protecting student financial aid, as approximately 60% of college students in Louisiana rely on state financial aid programs such as the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS). Recent funding cuts have decreased award amounts, impacting students' abilities to afford tuition. By enacting this law, we aim to safeguard educational opportunities for Louisiana students, enhance workforce development, and foster economic growth.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

The law shall take effect immediately upon passage. The Louisiana Department of Revenue will be responsible for implementing the collection of the sales tax, ensuring that all revenue generated is specifically designated for higher education funding.

SECTION III: FUNDING

The implementation of this bill requires no additional funding beyond the existing revenue generated by the 45-cent sales tax. Making this tax permanent will provide sufficient funds to replace the anticipated $250 million budget cut to higher education. It is projected that this tax will continue to generate consistent revenue, allowing public colleges and universities to maintain operations and support services without increasing tuition for students. Furthermore, maintaining financial aid levels will help mitigate dropout rates, which have been reported at over 30% for first-year college students in Louisiana due to financial barriers.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

There are no penalties associated with this bill, as it establishes a funding mechanism rather than regulatory compliance. However, failure to allocate the tax revenue as designated may result in accountability measures imposed by the oversight committee.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 154

Mason Bond Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies

TITLE: RAID (Restrict Artificial Intelligence Damage)

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Artificial intelligence is capable of creating incredibly convincing content, things that could be easily mistaken for real. This capability presents a real threat in almost every aspect of life. In a professional setting it could fake records; in an academic setting it could create the entirety of an assignment; in an artistic setting it can steal another artist's work; and in a private setting it could create compromising photos against one's will. In the past two years, multiple celebrities have come forward about AI content made about and using them; Scarlett Johanson, Billie Eilish, and George R. R. Martin to name a few. In the art world, AI is also proving a massive danger. According to the Congressional Research Service (CRS), copyright extends to things created by humans with the protections against copyright infringement by nonhuman creators is barely described. There is a loose provision in national art laws stating that an AI product is not in infringement of copyright law so long as it is not "substantially similar" to copyrighted works. This provision does nothing to counter the act of training AI using real material, often done against the knowledge of the original artists, or to limit the mimicry of real artists. There are even more concerns to be considered as well, with some AI creations being nearly indistinguishable from real life one could develop video, photographic, or textual evidence capable of linking individuals to crimes or actions they have no connection to. In the Court case of Forrest v. META PLATFORMS, Australian businessman Andrew Forrest brought forward a complaint that his likeness was used unwittingly in scam operations made with AI-based tools from META, while META utilized that same provision that AI content has no ownership to defend against charges of their involvement in the scams. This must not be allowed to continue.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill aims to limit the capabilities for harm by AI programs in the State of Louisiana through a multi-faceted approach defined as;

1. Limitations on corporate use of AI;

1.1. All corporate entities marketing AI tools within the state must offer the tool as a version that is trained without the use of any copyrighted material.

1.2. Any corporation with products utilizing Generative Artificial Intelligence must have a confirmation of intent, means, and permission, to be reviewed and confirmed by any affected individuals and government officials.

2. Limitations on personal use of Generative AI

2.1. A permit of use for Artificial Intelligence will be created, issued by the Department of Justice based on background checks, expressed intent, and creations made with AI preceding the implementation of this law, with an age requirement of the legal age of maturity.

2.2. All Generative AI products must have a plainly visible watermark to represent the tools used in their creation.

All AI designated with the purpose of being a "chatbot" require 2.3. legal identification and proof of maturity.

3. To these ends, a small department shall be formed under the oversight of the Louisiana Departments of Justice and Public Safety

The department would be established and operational within one year (365 days) of the passage of this bill, with all limiting measures being in place and operational by the six month (180 day) mark of the department beginning operation.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Funding would be 2 million dollars; 1 million dollars from both the state departments of Justice and Public Safety (5.17% and 1.16% of the unspent funds as measured from Fiscal Year 2023 respectively); to be reassessed after 1 year of operation. These funds will be used to establish the department for AI control and provide for the development of more accurate AI detection tools.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

There will be varying penalties depending on the nature of the offence;

In the case of corporate offences;

1. Should a company fail to disclose the use and intent of AI products;

1.1 Upon a first offence they will be fined for $5 000

1.2. Upon a second offence they will be fined for $5 000, and 2% of in-state gross earnings over the last fiscal year will be taken and relegated to funding for the new department

1.3. Upon a third offence through a ninth offence they will be fined for $7 500, and 3% of in-state gross earnings over the last fiscal year will be taken and relegated to funding for the new department

1.4. Upon a tenth offence the company will be barred from using the AI product within Louisiana

In the case of individual offences;

1. Should there be a definable infringement of copyright and lack of watermark;

1.1. All punishments for this infringement will follow those outlined by Louisiana copyright law

2. Should an individual produce content with Generative AI without a license to universally harmless ends;

2.1. Upon a first offence they will be fined for $100 and referred to get a license

2.2. Upon a second offence they will be fined for $200 and referred to get a license and a mandatory background check will be performed

2.3. Upon all following offences they will be fined for $250 and receive escalating jail time up to and including 2 weeks (14 days), at the discretion of the court

3. Should an individual produce content with Generative AI without a license to personally harmful ends;

3.1. Upon a first offence they will be fined for $500 and a background check will be performed

3.2. Upon a second offence they will be fined for $750 and receive jail time up to and including 1 week (7 days), at the discretion of the court

3.3. Upon all following offences they will be fined for $1000 and opened to the following charges dependent on circumstances;

3.3.1. Stalking

3.3.2. Cyberstalking

3.3.3. Terrorizing or Menacing

3.3.4. Extortion

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 155

David Russo Haynes Academy

TITLE: FLY (Further Learning in Youth)

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Traveling the world has many benefits. When doing so, one meets new people; becomes educated in a culture that is not their own, such as by learning a new language; and maybe even finds new interests that they never would have had. Studying abroad is a good way for students to travel the world, and experience these things for themselves, not to mention it has other mental benefits. In a study done by the University of Arkansas, students who study abroad improved in five different personality traits: openness, conscientiousness, extroversion, agreeableness, and emotional stability. Along with this, upon return, 80% of students feel that they can better adapt to work environments, and 97% of students claim to have an increased sense of self confidence as a result of studying abroad. In the U.S. however, only around 2% of students study abroad, and in Louisiana, 0.63%, a low number compared to other countries across Europe and Asia. This bill therefore establishes a program for safe and affordable study abroad opportunities for public high school students throughout Louisiana.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Starting in the 2026-2027 school year, the Louisiana FLY Program will only apply to public school students in their junior year who meet TOPS qualifications. The only countries in which students may study are Britain, Australia, Italy, Japan, and Costa Rica. If a student meets the requirements to apply, they will automatically be accepted into the program if they complete the application. During the application process, students will pick who they want to travel with: either specified students who also applied for the program or random students from around Louisiana. Each student will travel with at least one other Louisiana student unless they are the only one to apply for the program, in which case they may travel alone. Students will only be allowed to study for a semester, with the cost being $2,000 per student per semester. Applications must be submitted before the start of the student's sophomore year, to give the state adequate time to plan for the excursions. (i.e. if you want to study in the 2026-2027 school year, applications must be submitted before the start of the 2025-2026 school year). If a student comes from a household that makes below the median household income, which is $58,229, they can apply for financial aid during the application process. The program will be run in conjunction with both the Department of Education and the Department of Child and Family Services with five new positions being formed in each department (one person per country in each department). The positions in the Department of Education will be similar to an ed program consultant, and will seek out desirable schools in the selected countries and make sure that students are taking the correct courses offered to meet all graduation requirements. The positions in the Department of Child and Family Services will be similar to child welfare consultants, and they will find families for the students to live with during their time abroad and check in on students during their time abroad. The starting pay for the new positions in each department will be $80,000/year. An international emergency hotline will be established for students to use if they need to return home urgently, or if other problems arise while they are abroad.

SECTION III: FUNDING

The funding will come from the money allocated to the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP), which provides

funding for the public school system. On average, there is around $4 billion worth of funds in the MFP, and only about $2.8 is allocated to the parish school systems. $1 billion of the remaining $1.2 billion will be used to fund the program, but not all will be used (Only around $360 million - $450 million should be needed to cover the cost of all eligible students). Financial aid will be paid for with the remaining funds left in the $1 billion allocated from the MFP. Salaries for new positions will be paid for using excess tax funds already allocated to state government positions.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

There are no penalties for not participating in the program, however each public school is required to advertise the study abroad program. If a school fails to do so, they will be charged a small fine that will increase monthly and be pooled back into the funding for the program.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 156

Kendall Scott Dutchtown High School
Kyla Alcorn

TITLE: No Out-of-School-Suspension for K-3

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Suspension in Louisiana is defined as the temporary removal of a student from their regular classroom setting. Exclusionary discipline takes valuable instructional time away from students and getting suspended once has been found to start a perpetual cycle of continuous suspension that may lead to expulsion, which is defined as the removal of a student from all regular school settings for at least one semester. This is more detrimental to young students, particularly those in K-3 who are still impressionable and learning proper emotional regulation and decision-making skills. If an offense is serious or puts other students in danger, that would be grounds for juvenile prosecution or expulsion where the student would be removed from school. Our youth need to be in school absorbing as much information as well as having as much social interaction as possible especially after the effects of the covid 19 virus. Exclusionary discipline also places a burden on parents to find care for their children at home when they have to work.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

If implemented, our bill would outlaw out-of-school suspensions for kindergarten through third-grade children. The punishment for willful disobedience and breaking of school rules will be proportionate to the offense. Physical violence against students, administrators, and teachers will not be tolerated and will be punishable by behavior modification programs developed by the individual school systems.

Behavior modification programs are defined as but not limited to revoked recess privileges, inability to participate in afterschool activities, having to eat lunch alone, being put in time out, and other disciplinary action at the discretion of the school disciplinarian.

A mandatory meeting with the school counselor and a phone call home would also be ordered to make the parents aware of their child's behavior. School counselors will be mandated to provide referrals to parents of students who display behaviors that are dangerous to themselves or others. If passed, this bill would go into effect in August of the 2025 school year.

SECTION III: FUNDING

No funding for this bill will be necessary as every elementary school in the state is mandated to have a counselor and a disciplinarian on staff already per guidelines established by the Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If schools are found to violate this law, there will be a fine of $1,000 per student.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 157

brice doty Dutchtown High School

TITLE: Ending Faithless Electors

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Electors of the Electoral College are selected by each party to vote for a presidential candidate and carry out the will of the people of Louisiana. However, electors are not mandated to vote in line with the presidential candidate they've pledged to support. this bill will change that

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Any presidential elector who has previously signified their consent to service an elector must attend and vote for the presidential and vice presidential candidate they've been nominated to select with except in situations of sickness or unavoidable accidents.

SECTION III: FUNDING

n/a

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Any elector who fails to either attend or vote for the presidential and vice presidential candidate they have been nominated to select, except in previously mentioned exceptions, will be fined $1500 and their vote will be voided, a new elector will be selected and the process will repeat as previously stated in implementation

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 158

Vincent Lu Dutchtown High School

Andrew Morrill

TITLE: PATH Initiative (Promoting Active Trails for Healthy Communities)

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Due to the passing of Senate Bill 295, car insurance companies can increase premiums without permission of the government, which furthers Louisiana's problem as being one of the most expensive states for car insurance. However, introducing a pedestrian-friendly transportation bill will allow people who can't afford car insurance to have better access to walk or biking for their main method of transportation.

The purpose of this bill is to

- Address the economic and social mobility challenges faced by residents of poverty-stricken urban areas of Louisiana by improving access to pedestrian-friendly infrastructure.

- Reduce obesity rates and improve cardiovascular health through increased opportunities for walking and biking as regular methods of transportation.("Nearly one out of four adults in Louisiana is considered obese in 2022." The Environmental Public Health Tracking also considers basic cardiovascular exercises such as walking to be a crucial step to combat obesity. A "Harvard researchers looked at 32 obesity-promoting genes in over 12,000 people to determine how much these genes actually contribute to body weight. Among the study participants who walked briskly for about an hour a day, the effects of those genes were cut in half.")

- Promote mental well-being by encouraging physical activity that has been proven to reduce depression and anxiety, particularly in low-income populations.("1 in 9 cases of depression that could potentially be prevented if all adults did just 150 minutes of physical activity per week, the minimal amount recommended by the U.S CDC.")

- Facilitating alternative forms of transportation can reduce reliance on automobiles, especially for individuals who may not be able to afford car insurance premiums.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

A team of researchers will decide what impoverished areas of the top 5 metropolitan areas will benefit the most from the addition of pedestrian-friendly infrastructure. The areas will then be measured in square feet estimating the cost of construction, materials, and servers depending on the amount of square feet within that area will be assigned a budget for the construction within the areas along with a time frame created by the construction company that includes factors such as weathers, daylight savings, and traffic patterns within the area. This budget and timeframe will be able to change if any major events take place however without cause or reason extension in construction time will cause a fine to be administered. Also, the budget will be concrete in what they are set unless a council within the EDA approves them.

SECTION III: FUNDING

The preliminary estimate for the cost of pedestrian-friendly infrastructure spread across 104.5 square miles in the 5 largest metropolitan areas in the state is determined between $4,626,500-$9,515,500. Funds will be

allocated by multiple sources. The State of Louisiana will request a grant between $50,000-$500,000 for transportation from the States' Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP) annually during the period of construction. The rest of the money to cover the PATH Initiative will be funded by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Louisiana Transportation Trust Fund, and Capital Outlay Program. The PATH Initiative will also be open for the populace to donate money towards.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Construction companies will be held accountable for the timeline of the construction; this will be enforced using an increasing amount of pay for the fine: the first-month extension without cause will be a warning however no new additional money will be granted. The second-month extension will be a fine of 1000 dollars without cause. After the 2 months each month will add a percentage of the total cost of the construction with the original 1000 dollars (for example 3 months: will be 1000+ 1% of the construction cost).

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 159

Lexi Odell Prairieville High School

TITLE: Legalizing Abortions in Louisiana

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

In the United States, over 1.3 million minors and women struggle through needing an abortion each year. Although this statement may seem unrealistic to some people, the need for an abortion can come from medical emergencies, rape, unlivable circumstances for the child (such as no home), and so much more. As of 2004, 73% of these abortions were given to women unfit to care for their babies, 22% were given to victims of rape, 20% were given to minors, and who knows how many women each year are forced to go through these situations alone without the opportunity of abortions. Due to laws such as Roe v. Wade being removed, more and more women are forced to go through these circumstances without even having a chance to receive abortions. This bill proposes that Louisiana cannot withhold abortions from women, especially without knowing the struggles they are facing.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

If passed this bill will go into effect throughout Louisiana immediately. This bill will affect all health care facilities throughout the state.

SECTION III: FUNDING

No funding is needed to put this bill into effect as the women receiving abortions would pay from insurance or out of pocket.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If healthcare facilities are found refusing to help women in need of abortions they will be fined $10,000 for each offense until the third offense within the time span of a year which the facility will then be suspended of their medical license.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 160

Aaren Mohammed Dutchtown High School
Jake Albares

TITLE: Commercial Agriculture Modernization Effort of Louisiana (CAMEL)

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

According to the USDA's Economic Research Service Louisiana is ranked 8th in the United States for agricultural production, despite agriculture being Louisiana's third biggest income source. Using data from the USDA and the LSU AG Center, Louisiana generates approximately 4.6 Billion dollars per year from land crops and about 2.4 Billion dollars per year from seafood, meaning that Louisiana agriculture produces earnings around 7 Billion dollars total per year. Diving a little deeper, we see that our Louisiana land farms produce around $120,000 to $200,000 per year, even though only around 20-30% of commercial agriculture in Louisiana is automated/uses technologically automated farming techniques. Approximately 30,000 farms, each generating an average profit, contribute to the $4.6 billion in annual revenue from land crops. We aim to provide more funding to our state's agricultural farms, allowing for greater usage of automated farming techniques such as GPS-guided tractors, drones, sensors, data analytics, and other modern mechanized equipment. This initiative would serve as a kickstart to a new agriculturally focused era of our state in-order to strengthen the production yields of our farms; to feed our people and to break our state out of its struggling economy.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

To achieve this initiative a "middleman", for lack of a better term, will be required to ensure organizational structure for this bill. This middleman will be labeled as the CAMEL Organization. This organization provides the backbone to this bill as its job is to individually assess and debrief with each of the farming groups that request funding. Factors such as how many acres each farm contains, their economic output, the percent yield of crops, current equipment, equipment needed, the number of workers they have/salary of said workers, and mostly anything a farm would require to increase its yield, will/potentially be discussed individually with each farm that opts into this bill. Moreover, this organization will also provide numerous new jobs as we need employees to carry out its designated tasks (tasks are stated above). The salaries of these employees are stated in the funding section below. Farms are not obligated to reach out this funding, however, if a farm would like to participate, then that said farm could reach out to the CAMEL Organization through any means applicable. This bill does not exclusively apply to "large farms". To ensure "small farms" do not get squeezed out of competition, the CAMEL Organization will ensure larger farms are adjusted to having a flexible percentage of their produced commerce held as exports; for example the CAMEL Organization will prevent "large" farms from inflating the farmer's market (that usually contain multitudes of smaller scaled farms) with their exponentially higher quantity of goods. The profit of these exports is monitored and regulated by the CAMEL Organization to ensure competition remains stable. Shifting gears, we now look at our "smaller farms", potentially family farms with smaller acres and fewer workers. If these smaller farms cannot produce the yield that bigger farms produce, then there is no point for these smaller farms to also export goods as they will simply be squashed out, this is where our CAMEL Organization comes into play. These smaller-scaled farms would be advised to focus their efforts on selling a majority of their commerce towards in-state businesses for profit; such as supermarkets, restaurants, or farmer's markets. Keep in mind that scaled farms are not limited to selling their commerce in-state; for example, if a "small" farm were to collaborate with other "small" farms across the state to form a farming conglomeration, then with the power of friendship, that group could produce yields as numerous as the "large" farms, allowing them to bask in the profit of a large farm, while still being a smaller scaled farm.

SECTION III: FUNDING

The diverse amount of different technical equipment that is considered "advanced farming equipment" will be up to the discretion of our CAMEL Organization. However, there is a variety of different pricing for these technologies. This initiative is to be funded through the inclusion of federal grants, state agricultural programs, and potential partnerships with private organizations that are dedicated to agricultural innovation. Some of the key funding sources will include:

-USDA's Rural Development Grants: This grant allows a Public Body/Government Entity, or a Nonprofit entity primarily serving rural areas to receive a grant of what is deemed necessary by CAMEL. Opportunity grants (Community economic development, Technology-based economic development, and Long-term business strategic planning are what we are allowed to fund for this grant). Enterprise grants (We may use this for Acquisition or development of land, easements, or rights of way; construction, conversion, renovation of buildings; plants, machinery, equipment, parking areas and utilities.

-Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Grants: A small percentage of SARE funding may be used to purchase the materials required to conduct a research or education project, but generally SARE funding cannot be used to make large purchases for land, equipment or capital investment.

$34,785 Farmer/Rancher

$75,000 Research and Education

$29,869 On Farm Research/Partnership

$32,128 Graduate Student

$330,999 PDP State Program

-Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program: This program is to fund the CAMEL Org. by using America's Seed Fund to provide technology-focused entrepreneurs, startups, and small businesses with funding to develop their ideas and a pathway to commercialization. Phases of funding:

Proof of Concept: 6-12 months = $50,000 - $275,000

Technology Development: 24 months = $750,000 - $1.8 million

-USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Loans: These loans would be used to fund the infrastructure, technologies, and equipment that farms would require to modernize. Loan Amounts:

Direct Loans: Up to $600,000.

Guaranteed Loans: Up to $2,251,000.

Down Payment Program: Up to 45% of the purchase price or appraised value.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Participation in this funding program is voluntary, so no penalties will apply to farms that choose not to accept the funding. However, if a farm receives funding and is found to misuse the said funds, that farm will be subject to the termination of future funding and the requirement to repay any misused funds.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 161

Maeve Dolan Episcopal High School of Baton Rouge

TITLE: To Promote Voting in Louisiana

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Voting is an essential part of our civil rights as citizens of this country. However, due to the financial stress of missing work or a lack of awareness about voting, many citizens are essentially deprived of their voting rights. U.S. voter turnout, especially in congressional elections, lags behind other countries. This bill will promote voting by requiring PTO (paid time off) so that people can vote on election day, and it would make election day a statewide holiday to promote the importance of voting to the people as well as employers. This would apply to congressional elections as well as presidential elections, meaning that the provisions would take effect once every two years. This bill is an active yet non-aggressive approach to increasing civil engagement. Thirty states have already moved to require time off to vote, and Louisiana should take the right step for democracy, and join them.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

At least five business days ahead of time, employers will ask their employees to choose a time-slot of three hours in which they are supposed to vote on election day. These hours will be paid for as if they were regular working hours. If employees require late time changes or additional time, that will be determined by the employer.

SECTION III: FUNDING

N/A

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Employers that do not comply with PTO requirements for purposes of voting will be put under review by the Department of Labor. If the employer does not clearly and certainly show that they will comply with the law, the business will most likely be shut down. Small businesses (those with fewer than ten employees) will be issued warnings by the DOL upon violations of the bill, but will not be shut down or otherwise punished. This bill does not apply to part-time employees.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 162

Justice Roniger Benjamin Franklin High School

TITLE: Increase in Minimum Wage

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Louisiana is consistently ranked among the highest in poverty rates across the nation, currently ranked #49 in the US. One of the main stems of this poverty rate is from Louisiana's lack of employment laws that can leave many individuals left behind the curb. Currently Louisiana is 1 of 5 states in the US that hasn't adopted a state minimum wage, instead opting to adopt the federal minimum wage of $7.25 per hour. Because of the lack of minimum wage, Louisiana employers are able to pay tipped employees below the minimum wage if their wage including tips can reach that $7.25 per hour. Introducing this bill will allow for Louisiana's population to be on average further above the poverty line, along with a new state minimum wage, making Louisiana's economy stronger by comparison.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

In the implementation of this bill, Louisiana would adopt a state minimum wage of at least $9 per hour which would allow for employees to have a more stable income and would increase their spending, thereby boosting the economy. Eventually the state minimum wage would increase to be comparable to economically prosperous states at about $13-$15 per hour. If the law were to be passed, it would be implemented at the beginning of the upcoming year, therefore not disrupting paychecks midway through the checking process.

SECTION III: FUNDING

The Fair Labor Standards Act allows for the creation of the federal minimum wage, providing an annual minimum of $500,000 to businesses and companies for this wage. The creation of a higher state minimum wage would primarily come from the FLSA funding (which appeals from the federal government) as well a slight increase in taxation on goods (mainly in the service industry where under federal wage is the highest) in order to not increase the price of living. Using all of the federal government's money from FLSA for wages would additionally prevent corruption by not letting those in higher positions take money meant for the minimum wage employees. The counterbalance from this would be the employees having more income to be able to spend on the market around them, therefore boosting the economy overall.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

The money given by the FLSA would be used only to support the state minimum wage, meaning companies and businesses who decide not to use this money for these wages would be charged with embezzlement (since it is money given by the federal government). Penalties for embezzlement vary depending on the amount of money kept, but can range from a $1,000 fee and six months in prison up to $25,000 fee and between 5-20 years in prison.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 163

Kat Kondkar Benjamin Franklin High School

TITLE: Improving Public Educations Coursework and Agenda

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Louisiana is consistently ranked in the bottom 10 states for education standards and performance in the country. It is vital to work to improve our numbers to help young students across the state excel and open more doors for educational opportunities in their lives. Students who have to attend schools closest to them often do not receive a high quality education due to poor standards and curriculum rigor in the schools. In 2016, Louisiana was ranked #48 for student's chances of success, and #47 for K-12 achievement. This is a pressing issue that needs to be addressed in our state. I am proposing a bill to raise the standard of curriculum coursework and class agenda items in public schools across the state. This would include schools incorporating more honors courses and AP courses to offer students.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

In order for this bill to take effect, the Louisiana Department of Education will meet and set new standards and expectations for all schools to meet in terms of curriculum, coursework, and rigor. After these changes are made, the law can be implemented in schools across Louisiana, starting in the nearest new school year.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Louisiana citizens who earn more than $350,000 per year would receive a 1% increase in income taxes. The money collected from these taxes would fund this bill by allowing teacher training, access to better resources (AP textbooks, computers), etc.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If Louisiana schools fail to implement or begin the process of improving their curriculum and education standards while still receiving the money from taxes to help them, they will be forced to pay this money back, and re-allocated to other schools.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 164

Martha Ewing Benjamin Franklin Highschool

TITLE: Uplifting Louisiana's Population Out of Poverty: Increasing State Earned Income Tax Credit

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Just last year, it was reported that Louisiana had the second highest rate of poverty in the US, ranking just after Mississippi, with 18.6% of our population living at or below the federal poverty line. Also last year, Louisiana was found to have a devastating 25% of our children living in poverty, the third highest in the nation. With these statistics in mind, it's clear that a change in our governing needs to be made. This bill proposes we create this change by increasing our State Earned Income Tax Credit, a state system that gives an additional percentage of aid to people that qualify and receive credit from the Federal Earned Income Tax Credit. The Earned Income Tax Credit is a credit that people receive that lessens the total amount of taxes that an individual has to pay each year. This credit is given to people of low to moderate income, and the amount they receive off of their taxes is equal to a percentage of their set income. This percentage is determined by factors that may put a person at a greater need, which include their number of children, marital status, age, and where they live. Currently Louisiana gives 3.5% of the credit that the Federal Earned Tax Credit gives to people who qualify, which is less than what most states a part of this system give, which is generally closer to 20-30% of what the Federal Earned Tax Credit supplies. This bill would raise this percentage from 3.5% to a moderate 15%. By decreasing the amount that low income individuals and families have to pay in taxes, Louisiana would be providing a larger cushion to support our population in poverty, with the ultimate goal of hopefully alleviating enough of the burden of taxes to raise some of these hard working people out of poverty.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill should be implemented at the start of the next Tax Year, January 1st, 2025. The specific amount that Louisiana gives to each eligible individual will be a fixed percentage of 15% of what the individual receives from the Federal Earned Income Tax Credit, which has special parameters to declare how much credit each person should receive.

SECTION III: FUNDING

As this bill seeks to reduce taxes of individuals in need, it would create a deficit in the amount of earnings that Louisiana receives from taxes. To offset this deficit, this bill proposes to increase our state's Sin Tax on cigarettes from 36 cents per pack to $1 per pack. This would be a reasonable place to increase taxes as Louisiana ranks as having the third lowest tax on cigarettes in the country, with the national average of this tax being $1.54 per pack.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

As this is a state determined factor of taxing, there are no penalties.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 165

Lilly Mayes Benjamin Franklin High School

TITLE: Equitable Public Education Funding

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

In a state that consistently ranks in the bottom of nationwide statistics for education, we need to ensure that our students have the resources and opportunities they need to succeed. However, many students don't receive an adequate education due to where they live. Public schools in wealthier districts have better access to the resources and facilities they need to succeed because the tax revenues and property taxes are higher in their district. Schools in underserved areas have less funding compared to schools in wealthier districts. This makes it extremely difficult for students in these districts to receive the education they deserve.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

In order for this bill to take effect, a fund would be created by the Louisiana Department of Education that receives all property taxes and revenues that are allocated to education. This money would then be equitably distributed to public schools across the state, taking into account schools with high populations of disabled students, ESL students, and students who are eligible for free or reduced lunch.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Louisiana residents who earn over $1 million in a year would have a 1.5% increase in income tax. The money gained from these taxes would fund this bill.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If school districts do not correctly allocate money towards the pool, they will be required to pay the money they owe in full along with an additional 25%. This 25% must come from non-education related funding in order to avoid negatively impacting students due to their district negligence. If citizens who qualify for the income tax evade it, they will be required to pay twice the amount of taxes that they evaded.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 166

Bethany Muirhead Benjamin Franklin High School

TITLE: Single Use Plastic Bags are Bad!

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

The Single Use Bags Are Bad Bill aims to reduce the amount of single use bags that are used in order to reduce plastic waste. Single use plastic bags are very harmful to the environment, during production they release toxic chemicals that contribute to climate change, are difficult to recycle and take hundreds of years to decompose, during which they release microplastics into soil and water, contaminating the food chain when consumed by animals. Plastic bags majorly contribute to ocean pollution making up over 10% of debris on US coastlines. Taxing single use plastic bags will help to incentivize consumers to use reusable or paper bags, as well as fund environmental cleanup.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

For implementation, corporations and businesses would be required to charge a 5¢ tax on all single use plastic bags provided to consumers at the time of sale, or alternatively transition to the use of paper bags. The tax will be due on the same day as sales tax returns and payments which are on or before the 20th of the month following the end of the previous month.

SECTION III: FUNDING

The bill will not need any financing. The Bill will make money off of the tax which will be reinvested into The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality to help aid in cleaning up the environment as well as litter and pollution mitigation.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If corporations fail to charge the tax on single use plastic bags they will be fined anywhere from 500$-5,000$ for each day plastic bags were not taxed.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 167

Margo Esquivel Haynes Academy

TITLE: Making Accessible Reform to Guarantee Offenders Equity (M.A.R.G.O. E.)

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

In Louisiana, 66% of inmates are held in pretrial detention, imprisoned for nothing but an accusation. Meanwhile, mass incarceration costs the state $700 million each year. It's not because the system is broken- it's because the system isn't used to its full extent. With the passage of this bill, law enforcement agencies throughout Louisiana would be encouraged to use LEMIS IBR, a free Records Managing System, that records warrants, arrests, citations, convictions, and all other factors considered when setting bail. Beginning in 2030, the data in LEMIS IBR would be used in a Public Safety Assessment (PSA) program to assess the risk of defendants committing a new crime while out on bail or failing to appear in court. Based on these assessments, defendants will be assigned one of three categories, which will have different recommendations for bail. The PSA gives judges a simple, unbiased recommendation, helping to make bail equitable across income classes.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Upon passage of this bill, an invitation to use LEMIS IBR will be sent to all law enforcement agencies in the state of Louisiana. Beginning in 2027, a period of beta testing will occur, in which judges will set bail independently and will be compared to the PSA's recommendation of bail, allowing for adjustments to the algorithm. In 2030, judges will automatically receive a copy of the PSA for all arraignments on their docket. The PSA will categorize the defendant within Release Levels 1-3. Release Level 1 consists of those with the smallest risk during release, and will be recommended for unsecured bail. Those in Release Level 2 will be recommended to have bail set no higher than 35% of their annual income, and it will be recommended that those in Level 3 be denied bail. While it is not mandatory they follow the guidelines, it will be heavily encouraged, and featured at all judicial conferences.

SECTION III: FUNDING

For the first ten years, $1,000,000 will be reallocated from the Department of Justice (DOJ) budget to the PSA program. $800,000 will be taken from the Acquisitions budget, and $200,000 will be taken from the Supplies budget. After the first ten years (beginning in 2035), the money previously budgeted to pay for pretrial detainees will be reallocated to the PSA Program.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

No penalties necessary.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 168

Willie Chang Lafayette High School
Radia Karim

TITLE: SIGMA (Securing Informational Growth through Member Age limits.)

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Becoming a member of the Louisiana Legislative body is an extremely easy process. To serve in the House, you must be at least 18 years of age, be a citizen of the United States, must have been a Louisiana resident for at least 2 years while also having lived in a legislative district for at least a year, and must be a qualified elector. The requirements for serving in the House are the same, with the only differentiation being that members of the Senate have to have served in their respective senatorial districts for at least a year before they serve. Both have minimum age requirements and are allowed to serve 3 consecutive 4-year terms (12 years), however, there are no cutoffs as to how OLD each legislative member can be. Just to get a grasp of the age range, consider the following facts: the current average age of the 118th House on the national level is 57 years old, and 64 years old for the senate. The current oldest senator as of 2024 is Senator Chuck Grassley from Iowa, who was 89 years old. 54 senators are older than 65 in the current Senate. In the house, the oldest representative serving in the house is Rep Grace Napolitano from California currently serving at the age of 86. Around 4.8% of the members of Louisiana's HOR are under 35. If we also look at the average age of LA congress, the numbers vary between 53 and 54 years old. These averages are extremely close to our national retirement age of 66 years old. We must consider that the state of human brains experiences a decline in cognitive skills, according to the National Institutes of Health, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which is also the largest biomedical research agency in the world, the cognitive decline most noticeably in memory after the age of 60, which is why we have the recommended retirement age set at 66 to make sure that those in the workforce are able. Public ser Overage members of the legislative body would not only inflict serious mental and cognitive decline that make them unable to serve with the progression of time but are also not accurate representations of their constituents. A famous example is Francis Thompson, the oldest representative in the state of Louisiana at the age of 86. Although he reached his term limit during his time serving on the House and Senate, he was able to extend his tenure and is now on another House term.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

To de-incentivize extremely old members from serving on the Louisiana legislative body, this bill seeks to withhold the salaries of members past the age of 70 (still allows these members to receive a pension from the government, the amount of pension received yearly does not increase) and to redirect the funding for their salaries towards civic education. Civic education includes administering lessons on Louisiana policies and candidates that are taught by a non-biased teacher (legally bound) to support and increase voter turnout. In these lessons, teachers are required to present information that is given by the state about policies and information that the candidates have submitted themselves. Teachers are not allowed to make any commentary on these topics. 20% of the funds will be used to pay the writers of the curriculum. The rest of the funding (30%) will go towards the teacher's salary. During the presentation-making process, state policies will be covered and running candidates shall list information about their campaign/themselves that they wish to be present in the curriculum. The rest of the money (50%) will be used towards civic education campaigns including promotions on the importance of voting whether in-person or by mail, this also includes having field trips visiting candidates' offices or visiting historical sites. It can also include a link to a webpage including information about elections, newsletters, and even where to register for the civic education lessons mentioned above. These civic education lessons are voluntary, and open to the general public, although if a school decides to implement these educational programs, they will receive leftover funding, which can be used towards incentivizing the youth into participating. These funds will be evenly distributed based on how many students in each school contribute and participate in this program (if there are any funds left over).

SECTION III: FUNDING

All funding will be sourced from the redirection of the money saved from salary payments to civic education lessons as outlined in Section 2.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

No penalties are included in this bill.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 169

James Redmann Jesuit High School

TITLE: TOPS Reform Act

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

TOPS or the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students gives money to students with qualifying GPAs and a high enough standardized test score. TOPS has been a part of getting Louisiana students help to pay for college for many years. Yet, the state legislature has spent hundreds of millions of dollars paying thousands of dollars to students who have abysmal GPAs and barely above average standardized test scores. Louisiana students are leaving the state at an alarming rate to go to colleges in other states where there are better opportunities and better scholarships. Louisiana is giving millions of dollars to let the mediocre students go to college when the smart Louisiana students are leaving the state.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

The TOPS Scholarship will give out higher scholarships while also raising the requirements. The Louisiana Legislature will keep the money for in state schools while raising the GPA and standardized test score so that the smarter students will be rewarded with higher scholarships and have more incentive to stay in state.

SECTION III: FUNDING

The Louisiana Legislature already sets aside around 300 million dollars for TOPS each year. The funding will increase or decrease to the number of students eligible to receive TOPS.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

N/A

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 170

Elliott Eagleton Catholic High School

Miles Melancon

TITLE: Don't Block the Box

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

“Blocking the box” is an action in which a vehicle enters an intersection when vehicles in the exiting lanes of the intersection prevent you from making it all the way through. If the traffic light turns red before the vehicle exits the intersection, that vehicle blocks cross traffic from moving through the intersection and prevents mobility in crosswalks and bike lanes. Throughout the country, many different cities have implemented “Don’t Block the Box” laws. Examples include Austin, TX; Washington, D.C.; and New York, NY. These laws recognize two facts: traffic blockages impede the progress of each state’s cities, and this type of traffic blockage can be prevented. If “Don’t Block the Box” is passed, many different intersections throughout the state of Louisiana will experience more efficient and orderly traffic flow. Signs will be posted in the most critical intersections bringing awareness to drivers of the importance of not blocking the box. Louisiana will experience a stronger system of commerce due to better traffic experiences within commercial hubs.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This law will take effect beginning March 1, 2024. Between now and then, members of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) will survey different intersections throughout their branch’s operating area. Depending on traffic density throughout the day, the DOTD agents will decide whether to install a “don’t block the box” sign in the intersection or to refrain from action. These surveys must be repeated every two years but may be completed early if the relevant DOTD branch deems the survey urgent.

The “don’t block the box” sign will have a white background with an intersection in the middle and a red “X” spanning the entirety of the intersection. Atop the intersection will be text reading, “DON’T BLOCK” and below the intersection will be text reading “THE BOX”. The sign will be made from retroreflective sheeting and a backing material as the Federal Highway Administration has standardized for a majority of road signs. The sign will be installed upon pre-existing traffic light poles where the official deems convenient, visible, and unobstructive. If the commissioning official deems there is no convenient placement for the sign, the sign may be mounted upon a sign support.

If a vehicle enters any intersection and fails to exit the intersection before their indicating light turns from green to red, the operator of the vehicle will be subject to punishment under this bill. Whether an operator is penalized is independent from the presence or absence of a “don’t block the box” sign.

SECTION III: FUNDING

$1,000,000 to $2,000,000 is needed to implement this bill. This totals the cost of creating and installing signs and acquiring cameras for DOTD agents to analyze intersections with. The money to support this law will be allocated from the Louisiana Transportation Infrastructure Fund. Budgets may be readjusted proportionally as needed.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Penalties for blocking the box include a moving violation ticket and a fine of no more than $225 determined at

the discretion of the parish according to the traffic density of the area where the violation occurred. All fines collected from penalties will be kept by their respective parishes and municipalities.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 171

Mason Kwon Metairie Park Country Day School
Clovis Layrisson

TITLE: The Louisiana Drinking Age Restoration Act (LDAR)

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Currently, Louisiana's minimum drinking age is 21 years of age. When Congress passed the National Minimum Drinking Age Act of 1984, Louisiana was the last state to raise the drinking age from 18 to 21, waiting until 1996. In the 12 years between the passing of the Act and Louisiana's adoption of the bill, tourism grew, as outsiders traveled to New Orleans, the "sin city" of the south, a place for tourists to drink, party, and have a good time without repercussions. While New Orleans is still marketed as a "sin city," the Louisiana Drinking Age Restoration Act (LDAR) would lower the drinking age to 18, boosting tourism past pre-COVID levels, stimulating the economy, and bringing in much needed money for the state. Also, Louisiana currently suffers from widespread underage drinking, and the whole of the United States of America suffers from a culture of binge drinking. Lowering the drinking age in Louisiana would encourage lawful drinking due to its more lenient regulations in comparison to a higher drinking age, similar to Europe, where the drinking age is, on average, 18 years of age and they do not suffer from the harmful binge drinking culture.

If the minimum drinking age were lowered, Louisiana would lose approximately 10% of its highway funds provided by the federal government; however, under the Louisiana Drinking Age Restoration Act, the current Alcoholic Beverage Tax will be increased, and the Louisiana Stadium and Exposition District Hotel Occupancy Tax will be increased to compensate for the loss of funding while also stimulating the Louisiana economy and creating jobs.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

The Louisiana Drinking Age Restoration Act would lower the drinking age through the following actions:

(1)Amend all outstanding Louisiana drinking laws to adopt a minimum drinking age of 18 years of age

(2)Raise the Alcoholic Beverage Tax by 50% on each category of alcoholic beverages

(3)Raise the Louisiana Stadium and Exposition District Hotel Occupancy Tax from 4% to 8%

All changes would take effect at the start of the next fiscal year.

SECTION III: FUNDING

The Louisiana Drinking Age Restoration Act requires no funding.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

All current penalties that apply to underage drinking, DWI, DUI, and further drinking regulations would continue to apply under the new minimum drinking age.

Refusal or failure to file and pay taxes by the deadlines previously set by the Alcoholic Beverage Tax and the Louisiana Stadium and Exposition District Hotel Occupancy Tax will result in punishment detailed by each respective tax.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 173

Axe Plaisance Lafayette High

TITLE: Protect Child Influencers

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

(A) "Vlogger" means an individual or family that creates video content, performed in Louisiana, in exchange for compensation, and includes any proprietorship, partnership, company, or other corporate entity assuming the name or identity of a particular individual or family for the purposes of that content creation. "Vlogger" does not include any person under the age of 16 who produces his or her own vlogs. A minor under the age of 16 is considered engaged in the work of vlogging when the following criteria are met at any time during the previous 12-month period:

(1) at least 30% of the vlogger's compensated video content produced within a 30-day period included the likeness, name, or photograph of the minor. Content percentage is measured by the percentage of time the likeness, name, or photograph of the minor visually appears or is the subject of an oral narrative in a video segment, as compared to the total length of the segment; and

(2) the number of views received per video segment on any online platform met the online platform's threshold for the generation of compensation or the vlogger received actual compensation for video content equal to or greater than $0.10 per view

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

(A) All vloggers whose content features a minor under the age of 16 engaged in the work of vlogging shall maintain the following records and shall provide them to the minor on an ongoing basis:

(1) the name and documentary proof of the age of the minor engaged in the work of vlogging;

(2) the number of vlogs that generated compensation as described in subsection (a) during the reporting period;

(3) the total number of minutes of the vlogs that the vlogger received compensation for during the reporting period;

(4) the total number of minutes each minor was featured in vlogs during the reporting period;

(5) the total compensation generated from vlogs featuring a minor during the reporting period; and

(6) the amount deposited into the trust account for the benefit of the minor engaged in the working of vlogging, as required by Section I

(B) If a vlogger whose vlog content features minors under the age of 16 engaged in the work of vlogging fails to maintain the records as provided in subsection (A), the minor may commence a civil action to enforce the provisions of this Section. No minor under 16 years of age shall be employed, permitted or allowed to work in any gainful occupation unless the person, firm, or corporation employing such minor procedures and keeps on file an employment certificate and follow other child labor laws.

(C) A minor satisfying the criteria described in subsection (A) of Section I must be compensated by the vlogger. The vlogger must set aside gross earnings on the video content including the likeness, name, or photograph of the minor in a trust account to be preserved for the benefit of the minor upon reaching the age of majority, according to the following distribution:

(1) Where only one minor meets the content threshold described in Section I, the percentage of total gross earnings on any video segment including the likeness, name, or photograph of the minor that is equal to or greater than half of the content percentage that includes the minor as described in I; or

(2) Where more than one minor meets the content threshold described in Section I and a video segment includes more than one of those minors, the percentage described in paragraph (1) for all minors in any segment must be equally divided between the minors, regardless of differences in percentage of content provided by the individual minors.

(D) A trust account required under this Section must provide, at a minimum, the following:

(1) that the funds in the account shall be available only to the minor engaged in the work of vlogging;

(2) that the account shall be held by a bank, corporate fiduciary, or trust company

(3) that the funds in the account shall become available to the minor engaged in the work of vlogging upon the minor attaining the age of 18 years or until the minor is declared emancipated

(4) The parents are barred from getting into the account once the child gains access to the account

SECTION III: FUNDING

This Bill does not require financing, all payment comes from the parents of child vloggers.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

(A) If a vlogger knowingly or recklessly violates this Bill, a minor satisfying the criteria described in subsection (A) of Section I may commence an action to enforce the provisions of this Section regarding the trust account. The court may have the parents pay, to a minor action brought in accordance with this Section, the following damages:

(1) actual damages;

(2) punitive damages; and

(3) the costs of the action, including attorney's fees and litigation costs.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 174

Laini Ferdinand Benjamin Franklin High School

TITLE: Emergency Disaster Relief

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Louisiana communities are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of natural disasters, including hurricanes, flooding, tornadoes, and storm surges, due to a combination of environmental, social, and economic factors. Flooding destroys homes, disrupts transportation, damages crops, and harms local economies which can lead to long-term displacements for residents, with many struggling to return to their homes after disaster events. The combination of high winds, storm surges, and flooding can cause significant damage to homes, infrastructure, and businesses. The introduction of this bill will aid communities in rebuilding after the destruction of disasters.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation of this bill will consist of shelter operations, first aid, and search and rescue efforts specific to Louisiana's hurricane history carried out by emergency relief teams. They will focus on water rescue techniques, swift water rescue, sandbag operations, and the handling of displaced populations.The team will be taught in cultural awareness to communicate effectively with Louisinana's diverse population during a disaster. The Department of Budget and Finance will ensure that the Relief Fund receives its initial allocation from the state budget. It will also include setting up a Small Business Recovery Fund, administered by the Louisiana Economic Development office. This fund will provide low-interest loans and grants to businesses that were impacted by the disaster. This bill will be implemented immediately to prepare for the next upcoming natural disaster.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Establishment of a Louisiana Emergency Disaster Relief Fund within the state treasury. A portion of the state's general fund will be set aside each year for emergency disaster relief, allowing the state to immediately respond to disasters as they occur. The Relief Fund shall be funded by allocations from the state budget as well federal disaster relief funding (FEMA). The state shall commit matching funds for any federal disaster assistance allocated to Louisiana, up to a maximum of 25% of the federal allocation, to ensure timely and effective deployment of disaster relief efforts.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

No penalties

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 175

Violet Reeves Mandeville High School

Kevin Drane

TITLE: Legalize the use of Psilocybin in medical treatment

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Psilocybin is a fungal metabolite, naturally found in a multitude of mushroom species (colloquially known as "magic mushrooms"), the compound interacts with serotonin receptors in the brain to trigger various psychedelic effects. Depending on the person and dosage, psilocybin can cause euphoria, changes in perception, perceived spiritual experiences and feelings of detachment, among other effects. These effects are not due to psilocybin itself—rather, upon ingestion, it is metabolized to produce psilocin, the active form of the compound. When given under medical supervision in controlled conditions, psilocybin may be effective for managing various psychiatric conditions, including obsessive-compulsive disorder, alcohol use disorder, substance use disorders, as well as post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Psilocybin's effects are observable soon after administration (days) compared to standard antidepressants, which, when they work, can take weeks to fully take effect. The antidepressant effects can also last for a while—from 4 weeks up to 6-12 months, depending on the person. While someone might have to take a standard determined dose daily for months or years, they might receive just 1 dose of psilocybin every few months, or even once per year.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Any physicians licensed in good standing with the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners may issue recommendations within the context of a bona fide doctor-patient relationship if "in the sincere judgment of the physician, therapeutic psilocybin may be helpful to the patient's condition or symptoms." In which psilocybin-assisted therapy may be an appropriate treatment option, they can refer the patient to a psychiatrist who is an authorized prescriber.

In a clinical setting, a pre-determined and controlled dose of psilocybin is given to the patient under the supervision of a medical professional. Because the patient is in a therapeutic space and the dose is known, it is unlikely there will be a bad reaction. But this will likely be a very small number of psychiatrists to begin with, and physicians might not know of available psychiatrists. At this stage, psilocybin will also only be available for people with treatment-resistant depression. This is generally when someone hasn't responded well to antidepressant medications/treatments for their condition. Over time more conditions may be added to allow for others to also use psilocybin as a form of medical treatment. Each of the clinics will be regulated by the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy — is authorized to operate in each of the nine regions of the state established by the Louisiana Department of Health. A 17-member board is mandated by state law to oversee the clinics and will award a 10th permit as needed. Either or both Louisiana State University and Southern University, jointly or separately, have the right of first refusal to be licensed as production facilities. If they chose to opt in then production is regulated by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture. Each batch of product will be tested for purity and to ensure that it does not exceed any hazardous levels of psilocin prescribed by the Legislature. Product that have been tested and accepted by the licensee may be transported to one of the licensed clinics in the state for a consumer.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Funding for the bill will come from the taxation of psilocybin treatments and taking 2% of all profits earned from the medicinal use of psilocybin.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If a clinic is in violation of any rules or codes broken upon inspection by the Board of Pharmacy, then they will be shut down permanently and facing fines upwards of 10,000 dollars for each violation found. Those (medical practitioners) who give the treatment will be suggested to the Louisiana state Board of Medical Examiners for a review of their licenses.

SENATE BILL 176

Olivia Sterling University Laboratory School
Morgan Williams

TITLE: "The Government Has GYATT to Change!" Reform Act of the Ohio Rizzler

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

This bill, formally titled the "The Government Has GYATT to Change!" Reform Act of the Ohio Rizzler, seeks to address some of the most perplexing and occasionally absurd aspects of our current government system. Through various reforms, the bill aims to make the government more understandable, efficient, and—most importantly—less prone to giving people migraines. If passed, this bill will bring in a new era of bureaucratic sanity, maybe even with a touch of flare.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

1. Increased Transparency:
- All government processes must be explained in terms understandable to an average 12-year-old, possibly with some helpful memes included.
2. Government Speak Translator:
- Every official document must include the "Jonkler's Dictionary" which is essentially a glossary that converts eloquent government terms into regular human speech. If this fails, government employees must publicly admit they don't know what they're talking about, which should be done on social media with an appropriate apology meme. They shall then submit themselves to a public stoning ceremony.
3. Bureaucracy Streamlining:
- All departments must reduce their paperwork by 38%, in favor of employing interpretive dance, finished off with jazz hands, to communicate decisions. This will be measured via an annual "Dance-off," judged by a panel of professional dancers and a confused cat.
4. Mandatory Government App:
- A government app will be developed to allow citizens to track their requests and complaints. It will feature daily notifications like "You've GYATT to be patient, we're working on it."

SECTION III: FUNDING

1. Budget Reallocation:
- The government will reduce spending on excessively long meetings that could have been emails.
2. Donations from Online Fundraisers:
- A "GoFundMe" campaign will be set up for this initiative, titled "Government: Get Your Act Together.", otherwise known as "Government: GYAT." We estimate that people will happily donate $5 to avoid hearing more about tax reform at family gatherings.
3. Government Merchandise:
- T-shirts with slogans like "I Survived the Paperwork," "Bureaucracy: The Movie," and "Ask Me About My Government Complaint" will be sold to raise funds. (Proceeds will go toward funding the program, and toward building a better government hopefully.)

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

1. Failure to Streamline:

- Any department that fails to meet its annual reduction in paperwork will be forced to binge-watch 72 hours of C-SPAN and summarize each session in no fewer than 5,000 words. This will be graded by a 7th-grade history class. A written apology to the citizens of Louisiana and a written explanation of why they should be reducing their paperwork will also be required.

2. Misuse of Government Jargon:

- Any official caught using any unnecessary government jargon after receiving the “Jonkler’s Dictionary" will be sentenced to a week of answering citizen emails using only emojis, slang vocabulary, and pop culture references.

3. Not Participating in the Dance-off:

- In the event that a department does not send at least one representative to the bureaucratic "Dance-off," the head of the department will be required to do the Gangnam Style dance on live television for 30 minutes, which will be covered by every news station across the state.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 178

Marcus Soileau Prairieville High School
Ben Tilley

TITLE: Changing Louisiana Voting to Ranked Choice

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

The two-party system in Louisiana has stifled political diversity, leaving many voters feeling unrepresented and frustrated with the extremes of both parties. Louisiana's two-party system has consistently led to little diversity in political representation. According to the Pew Research Center in 2020, 60% of Americans felt that neither of the two parties adequately represented their views. Additionally, it says that many people were also frustrated with the extremes of both parties. The two-party system has also fostered an us versus them situation, which in many cases stops political diversity. For instance, a study by the American Political Science Association (APSA) showed that between the 1970s and the 2010s, the percentage of bills passed with bipartisan support declined sharply. In the early 2000s, around 70% of legislation was passed with bipartisan support, whereas by the 2010s, that number had dropped to about 30%. Lastly, the two-party system also leads to voter disillusionment. This is when voters feel they must choose the ‘lesser of two evils’. This leads to voter apathy and ultimately low turnout for votes.

Ranked voting not only encourages voter participation, but it can also lead to more candidates and a greater diversity of ideas. Ranked voting can allow voters to show preference for multiple different candidates. Studies from the National Bureau of Economic Research have shown that ranked-choice voting can lead to higher satisfaction among voters. Additionally, ranked-choice voting encourages more candidates to run for office. Candidates will not be worried about people “wasting a vote” on them. It encourages a wider range of ideas from diverse candidates. Furthermore, ranked-choice voting has been proven to increase voter turnout. For example, In San Francisco, ranked-choice voting was implemented in 2004, and the voter turnout in 2004 was 41%; by 2016, this number had jumped to 56%. While this reflects a 12-year span, the increase is primarily attributed to ranked-choice voting, which allows voters to express multiple preferences and promotes inclusivity.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation of this bill will occur in several key phases:

1. Funding Preparation (Starting January 2025)

- The state will begin compiling the necessary funding for upgrades and training programs.

2. Pilot Program Launch (January 2026)

- A pilot program will be initiated to test ranked voting across the state.

- This program will run for two years, providing essential data and feedback on the system's effectiveness.

- After two years a public vote will be taken deciding whether the program will be fully integrated.

3. Evaluation and Full Implementation (Post-2028)

- If the program is successful and the public votes, then rank voting will be implemented state-wide.

- If the public votes against it or if it is unsuccessful, then the state will return to the current voting system.

4. Ballot Design Changes

- This bill will mandate the removal of political party affiliations from ballots.

- Candidates will be listed in alphabetical order by name, allowing voters to make choices based solely on candidate qualities rather than party affiliation.

SECTION III: FUNDING

To effectively fund the transition to ranked voting in Louisiana, we propose a strategic combination of sources totaling $10 million. This transition is vital for enhancing voter choice and engagement.

Funding Sources:

- $2 million to $4 million: Reallocated from the Louisiana Secretary of State's existing election assistance funds, utilizing any underutilized resources from previous budgets.

- $1 million to $2 million: Federal grants from the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), which supports improvements in voting technology.

- $5 million: Identified from the state's IT budget, repurposing technology improvement funds for voting systems.

- $1 million: Sourced from public-private partnerships with local businesses and civic organizations, focused on enhancing civic engagement.

Allocation:

This funding will be directed toward upgrading voting equipment, developing voter education programs, and ensuring effective training for election officials. These efforts will facilitate a smooth transition to ranked voting in Louisiana, ultimately fostering a more inclusive and effective electoral process.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

There will be no penalties.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 179

Riley Berry Mandeville High School

TITLE: Expand "Youth and Government" into Louisiana High School Curriculum

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

The Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) is "committed to making informed policy decisions that will result in improved academic achievement and educational opportunities for all students." This statement reflects ideas to encourage growth in the Louisiana education system, and through the passing of this bill, we will utilize the education system to better our political system thereupon. The importance of the lawmaking process is no better demonstrated than in conferences like this and in club meetings at individual schools as they prepare their bills and arguments. The true purpose of debate is seen as students advocate for issues close to their hearts, for the betterment of their home. As participants of this great system we must question how we can get more people involved in this process. What better way to accomplish this than to seed the qualities we love so dearly in our after school clubs into the very education system of our state, allowing all students interested in politics to participate in "youth and government" regardless of transportation or financial systems?

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

The BESE and local school boards will direct the addition of the youth and government course to the high school curriculum in Louisiana. This class will teach the basic principles of the lawmaking process and encourage active participation of students in the Louisiana government through youth legislature conferences such as the one we are at now and others. Students will be encouraged to attend conferences such as LEG and MUN (Model United Nations), and apply for state positions. This class will be taught as an elective course and will satisfy one of the elective courses required for graduation if chosen by students to take.

SECTION III: FUNDING

No additional financing is required for the implementation of the bill. Any additional funds required by individual bills for the funding of this course can be handled by local school boards.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

No penalties will be enforced concerning the adherence of this bill as the course will be optional and will only apply to schools wishing to participate.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 180

Ray Pineda Parkview Baptist
Evelyn Gullo

TITLE: Legalize Duels

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

In Louisiana's history, dueling served as a legitimate, rational institution, deeply woven into the social fabric of the state. Far from mere violence, dueling served as a way of solving personal disputes that reflected that society's commitment to honor.

Recent FBI data from 2024 reveals that over half of all homicides stem from personal disputes over property, money, or other personal matters. Louisiana's justice system is severely overwhelmed; a 2017 study showed that public defenders are handling five times the recommended caseload, highlighting problems with efficiency in our legal system.

The reintroduction of dueling would lessen stress on our judicial system, reduce the murder rate, and prevent third party casualties. This would increase the feeling of public safety. Dueling would serve to deter deceit and dishonesty in the public character. The reinstatement of dueling would foster honesty, integrity and honor in our community.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Each duel would have to be monitored directly by a law enforcement officer. The only weapon permitted shall be a single-shot dueling pistol equipped with one bullet and be provided by the duelist. These weapons shall be inspected thoroughly by the law enforcement officer beforehand to ensure adherence to these regulations. A licensed medical professional shall be present on site during the duel. The duel must be recorded on film in the event that the legality of a duel must be re-examined by a court. Both duelists shall be subject to a psychological evaluation by a professional, prior to the agreement, to verify the participants are of sound mind when consenting to the duel. Both parties must appear in front of a judge or a notary to sign a contract stating they consent to the duel. A thirty-day waiting period before the duel shall be mandatory for the duel to take place. In this thirty-day waiting period duelists shall have the opportunity to withdraw their consent to the duel. These duels shall be held in a court appointed location with minimal bystanders. The duelists must be eighteen years or older. These duelists must be placed 35 to 45 feet apart from one another

SECTION III: FUNDING

The primary costs associated with this law shall be limited to the initial training of law enforcement officers in dueling supervision procedures, at four hundred twenty-five dollars per officer. These training costs shall be fully offset by the implementation of a mandatory one-time dueling permit fee of two hundred and fifty dollars per participant. All permit fees shall be directed to a dedicated fund for law enforcement training and program maintenance.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Anyone who violates the conditions of this law shall be prosecuted for murder if the opposing duelist is killed, or attempted murder if the opposing duelist is not killed. If the condition of a duel is violated due to an officer's negligence, the officer will be charged with manslaughter. If the condition of a duel is intentionally violated by an officer, the officer will be charged as an accomplice to murder.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 181

Lu Islam Lafayette High School
Mya Mouton

TITLE: Care for the Fostered

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Currently, foster parents receive a stipend every month for each foster kid they take into their care. A stipend is a fixed amount of money paid to an individual for a specific purpose. In the case of fostering, it is to cover the cost of taking care of the child. This money is used to pay for resources such as extra groceries, transportation, clothing, shelter, and other necessities. The state of Louisiana will pay parents an average of $467.40 for a child up to two years of age. This amount changes depending on the age of the child. Currently, daycare for the child is paid through a program called Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). This program allows daycare to be paid for by the state. The payment goes directly towards the daycare, but only some daycares receive this state funding. Oftentimes, parents need to enroll their foster child into daycare as soon as possible because they have a job, meaning they cannot stay at home with the child to take care of them. However, the waiting lists for these daycares are long. Since there is a limited amount of daycares that obtain this funding, this creates an issue for working parents. Due to this issue, parents have to turn down taking in a foster kid because they cannot find a place for the child to stay before they are enrolled into the state funded daycare. The CCAP program is also used by low income families which adds to the amount of people on the waiting lists. Our bill proposes that foster families should receive an extra $300 every month that can be put toward childcare. This would allow working parents to put their children in any daycare that is available. This could also be used to provide the money that parents would typically receive on their job, allowing the parents to stay home and take care of the child themselves.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill would be implemented January 1st, 2026. Action will occur within the Louisiana government. Foster families will be allotted more money per month, which will then be used to pay for daycare/incentivize parents who are staying home.

SECTION III: FUNDING

$6,600,000 per year is needed to pay foster families the extra $300. 5% of the funding currently going toward the CCAP program (which is used to pay the daycares directly) will be redirected to go toward the foster care program. These funds will then be paid directly to the foster families. The budget currently going toward the CCAP program will be readjusted by putting that money towards the foster program.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

None necessary.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 182

Chloe Agena Archbishop Hannan High School
Sophia Golberg

TITLE: Love Island Louisiana

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

The state of Louisiana will select 30 eligible single members of society to enter this televised dating competition. Losers will be kicked out of the state with the goal of bettering the future of Louisiana's society by removing participants. This will in turn decrease the bad choices in the dating pool.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

To implement this bill the state of Louisiana will need to randomly select a contestant per parish (30 parishes per season) and fund housing and a filming crew

SECTION III: FUNDING

Financing will come from BRAVO TV, as well as from companies that want to show their commercials while the show is running. The revenue that is collected from the show will also be used to fund it as well as receiving a 40% tax credit when filming in Louisiana. The excess revenue that is not used in the production cost will be reallocated to the state government.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

When members are kicked off the show by vote they are thereby banned from the state of Louisiana until they have proved to be functioning members of society that would be wanted in the dating pool. If found in Louisiana there will be a $300 fine and an escort out of the state.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 183

Thomas Simoneaux Archbishop Hannan High School

TITLE: F.A.I.R. V.O.T.E. Act

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

SUBSECTION I. SHORT TITLE AND PURPOSE

This bill may be referred to in public works as the "Fairness And Integrity in Reforming Voter Outcomes for Transparent Elections Act," or the "FAIR VOTE Act;" The purpose of this bill is to reform various election protocols, rules, and laws to facilitate more democratized outcomes.

SUBSECTION II. DEFINITIONS

Statewide executive offices: the elected offices of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Treasurer, Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry, and Commissioner of Insurance;

Other executive offices: Members of the Public Service Commision, Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, and District Attorneys;

Federal legislative offices: United States Senators and Members of the United States House of Representatives;

State legislative offices: State Senators and Members of the Louisiana House of Representatives;

Non-judicial parish/municipal offices: Mayors, Sheriffs, Clerks of Courts, Coroners, Assessors, Police Chiefs, Parish Presidents, Parish Council/Commission Members, City Council Members, Police Jurors, School Board Members, and Aldermen;

Judicial offices: Justices of the Louisiana Supreme Court, Judges of the Louisiana Court of Appeals, District Judges, Civil District Judges, Criminal District Judges, Magistrates, Magistrate Judges, Justices of the Peace, Constables, City Marshals, City Judges.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

SUBSECTION I. ELECTION REFORM MEASURES

PARTISAN PRIMARIES.—Prior to the November general election, political parties recognized by the state of Louisiana shall hold a primary election to determine which candidate shall receive their party's nomination and appear on the general ballot for statewide elected offices, other executive offices, federal legislative offices, state legislative offices, and other non-judicial parish/municipal offices. Primary elections shall be held on a date to be determined by the Secretary of State, but shall be held no earlier than the first Tuesday of July and no later than the third Tuesday of September.

INSTANT RUNOFF ELECTIONS.—For the November general election, voters shall rank candidates on the ballot in order of preference. When the votes are counted, the last place candidate shall be eliminated, and votes for this candidate shall be transferred to the second ranked candidate on the ballot thereof. This shall continue for several rounds until one candidate has reached a majority of votes cast.

JUDICIAL ELECTIONS.—Elections of judicial offices as defined in Section II shall be nonpartisan in nature, with no candidate's political affiliations or preferences being taken into account. Therefore, no primaries shall be held, and the general election shall take place alongside those mentioned in Section III, Subsection B and shall be conducted in the same manner.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS.—Presidential primaries shall be organized by the party withstanding the violation of any established election law and facilitated by the Secretary of State. The general election shall take place alongside those mentioned in Section III, Subsection B; however, they shall not be held via instant runoff voting, and will rather be held via simple plurality voting.

SUBSECTION II. INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING

IN GENERAL.—An independent commission is hereby created under the executive branch of the Louisiana state government for the purposes of redistricting.

NAME.—The commission shall be named the "Louisiana Citizens' Redistricting Commission." (further referred to in this bill as the LCRC)

COMPOSITION.—The LCRC shall be composed of twelve members, chosen decennially by the state legislature, having

two members chosen by the House majority leader,

two members chosen by the House minority leader,

two members chosen by the Senate majority leader,

two members chosen by the Senate minority leader,

two members chosen jointly by the House majority and minority leaders, and

two members chosen jointly by the Senate majority and minority leaders.

MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS.—Members of the LCRC do not have to be state legislators, however they must be Louisiana natives holding or having held some form of elected office. The LCRC should me made up of members from all over the state and members should be knowledgeable on

Louisiana cultural regions,

Louisiana geography, and

federal state law regarding political subdivisions.

QUORUM AND ADOPTION.—

In order to conduct business, LCRC meetings must have a 7/12 member quorum.

In order to adopt a new district map, it must be agreed upon by 9/12 members of the LCRC. The LCRC must adopt new boundaries for bodies listed in Subsection F prior to January 1st of the first election year following the release of the census.

DUTIES.—The LCRC shall be responsible for drawing the boundaries of electoral districts following the decennial U.S. Census for the following bodies:

the United States House of Representatives,

the Louisiana State Senate,

the Louisiana House of Representatives,

the Louisiana Supreme Court,

the Louisiana Public Service Commission, and

the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

REDISTRICTING CRITERIA.—The LCRC shall take the following criterions into account when drawing boundaries: adherence to legal requirements under state and federal law; balanced population between districts; contiguous geography; minority representation; andkeeping communities of interests together, including but not limited to towns, villages, cities, and parishes.

SUBSECTION III. NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE

IN GENERAL.—Louisiana shall hereby be a party in the agreement known as the "National Popular Vote Interstate Compact" (further referred to as 'the NPVIC').

The state of Louisiana shall cast all of its electoral college votes for the candidate who receives the plurality of votes in the national contest for President of the United States.

The secretary of state shall certify the appointment of the elector slate nominated in association with the presidential slate declared national popular vote winner.

SUBSECTION IV. VOTER REGISTRATION

AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION.—Eligible citizens shall be automatically registered to vote upon their eighteenth birthday, and shall be automatically re-registered upon receiving services from the Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles.

VOTER PURGES.—It shall be unlawful for the Secretary of State to delete any voter from the registration list unless the voter therein has died, changed permanent residence to somewhere outside of the state, or become ineligible due to a criminal conviction or mental incapacity.

ELECTION DAY REGISTRATION.—There shall be no restrictions as to when eligible citizens may register to vote, including on the day of the election.

SUBSECTION V. MAIL-IN VOTING

There shall be no restrictions on registered voters to request and receive a mail-in ballot.

SUBSECTION VI. VOTING ON SUNDAYS

During the Early Voting period, there shall be no restrictions on Sunday voting.

SUBSECTION VII. DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD AND WATER

There shall be no restrictions on the distribution of food and water to voters at polling places.

SUBSECTION VIII. VOTER VERIFICATION

VOTER IDENTIFICATION.—Voters shall not be required to present photo identification or other identifying documents at the polls.

VERIFICATION.—Voters shall be required to provide poll workers with their name, address, date of birth, and the last four digits of their social security number, in addition to signing an affidavit of eligibility.

SUBSECTION IX. VOTER INTIMIDATION PREVENTION

No person shall intimidate, threaten, coerce any other person for the purpose of interfering with the right of such other person to vote. Such behavior includes but is not limited to—

aggressively questioning voters about their qualifications to vote,

falsely presenting oneself as an elections official,

spreading false information about voter requirements,

displaying false or misleading signs about voter fraud and criminal penalties, and

other harassment, particularly toward non-English speakers and voters of color.

SECTION III: FUNDING

The funding for the provisions of this bill shall come from property taxes.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If the Secretary of State or any other election official is found in violation of the provisions of this act, he or she shall be fined five thousand dollars per violation, and his or her removal from office shall be considered by simple majority vote of the state senate.

If any poll worker is found in violation of the provisions of this act, he or she shall be fined one thousand dollars per violation, and he or she shall be permanently barred from serving as a poll worker in the state of Louisiana.

If any individual is found in violation of the provisions of Section XI, he or she shall be fined five hundred dollars per violation, and he shall be promptly removed from the premises of the polling location in which he or she was found in violation.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 184

Micheline Benoit Lafayette High School

TITLE: Re-Separate Church and State in Schools

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

In recent years, multiple Southern states have been blurring the line between church and state by enforcing religious influence in schools. In specific, Louisiana has passed multiple bills requiring the display of religious texts as well as two bills permitting chaplains acting as an extension of the church to provide student services. Chaplains are defined as an individual authorized by the leadership of a religion under the religion's principles to conduct religious exercises. This particular aspect directly employs non-trained counselors while also incorporating volunteers for the reason of their religious background. This serves as a violation of the Establishment Clause and sets a negative precedent for our explicit separation of church and state.

Louisiana currently requires that all public K-12 institutions as well as public colleges and universities display 'In God we Trust' in all classrooms. Lawmakers pushing for this sentiment have backed it by stating that it's not inherently religious, but reinforces the acknowledgement of a higher power. The Establishment Clause has historically extended in legal cases to disallowing the state's encouragement of religion or any specific religion.

Similarly, all public K-12 institutions as well as public colleges and universities will be required to display the Ten Commandments beginning January 1st, 2025. This is indisputably a violation of the separation of church and state as described by the Establishment Clause given the Ten Commandments' inclusions of "Thou shalt not have any other Gods before me" (described to be the word of the Christian God) and "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." Supporters of this bill argue that the Ten Commandments are not inherently religious, but the text of the Ten Commandments as well as their origin state otherwise.

Louisiana is currently violating the Constitution and putting our government in danger. There is an ongoing case that is on its way to federal courts to sue Louisiana for the passing of the Ten Commandments bill. By dissolving bills that violate the constitution and student rights, Louisiana stands to set a positive precedent while also saving resources and effort.

Beyond the question of constitutionality, displaying religious texts, especially ones specific to one religion, can isolate non-religious students and create a dangerous dynamic of the superiority of one set of beliefs. Church and state have stood separately for years and we have no reason to regress back in history.

To prevent the unlawful and immoral push for students to adopt religion by state lawmakers, new regulations will be created for public K-12 institutions, colleges, and universities. In order for local action to be more accessible, material and/or faculty speech actively pushing for religion of any specific religion in public schools will be disallowed by the relative school board and the Louisiana Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Similarly to how teachers are not allowed to discuss/display inappropriate material according to teacher handbooks, regulations following the Establishment Clause will be added. This aims to allow students to focus on their education without distraction, prevent indoctrination, and follow the Constitution. This bill is not anti-religion, but against state employees violating the Establishment Clause and pushing religion onto students.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education will implement the requirement for public school district boards to prohibit "material or speech respecting an establishment of religion, pushing for students to adopt a specific religion or any." This will be enforced during instructional time like any other regulation on teacher speech/classroom materials. This will be effective immediately.

Speech pushing for religion is deemed as an attempt to sway a student's religious belief. This does not include historical teaching of religious influence and events.

Tips on speech/visuals violating the Establishment Clause in classrooms will begin an investigation by the appropriate school board.

Public colleges and universities are under their own jurisdiction as they are businesses at large.

The following bills are from the 2024 Regular Session. House Bill 71, requiring the display of the Ten Commandments in classrooms, is dissolved. House Bill 334 and Senate Bill 123, authorizing chaplains to volunteer for schools, is dissolved.

The following bill is from the 2023 Regular Session. House Bill 8, requiring the display of 'In God We Trust' in classrooms, is dissolved.

SECTION III: FUNDING

N/A

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Should a teacher violate school board policy, they will receive a talking to and a strike on their record. Repetitive violations are to be handled by a school's administration. Should a school not properly enforce regulations, school board officials will handle this like any other refusal of enforcing policy.

SENATE BILL 185

Bay Palmer Archbishop Hannan High School

TITLE: Cap it!

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Oil is one of the largest economic drivers in Louisiana, the oil and gas sector provides significant employment, tax revenue, and contributes significantly to Louisiana's GDP. Louisiana is also one of the top producers of both oil and natural gas in the United States, and our coastal areas are key locations for offshore drilling. However, our state's oil and gas industry has also left a troubling legacy of thousands of abandoned oil wells scattered across the landscape, many of which are leaking dangerous pollutants into our environment. These orphaned wells are a direct threat to Louisiana's already fragile environment, specifically our coastal areas and wetlands. When wells are abandoned, they can leak pollutants that damage water quality, harm wildlife, and destroy vital habitats. This bill will require all oil and gas companies operating in the state of Louisiana to post a financial bond before drilling any new wells. The purpose of the bond is to ensure that these companies have the financial resources necessary to properly decommission wells when they are no longer in use. This will prevent the companies from abandoning their wells. The federal government estimates that there are over 1,000 orphaned oil and gas wells in Louisiana, which currently cost taxpayers millions of dollars to clean up. This bill will be a step in the right direction to fixing this problem.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Every oil and gas company seeking to drill a well in Louisiana will be required to post a financial bond with the state's Department of Natural Resources before the start of drilling. The amount of the bond will be calculated by the Department of Natural Resources in consultation with the company and experts in well abandonment. The DNR is responsible for making sure that the bond is posted and remains in place throughout the lifetime of the well. If a company abandons the well or closes it poorly the DNR will use the bond to cover the costs of well closure, restoration, and environmental cleanup. If the company closes the well safely closes the well they will get most of their bond back. This bill will take effect 12 months after its passage to allow oil companies time to adjust to the new requirements. All wells drilled after this period must comply with the bond requirement.

SECTION III: FUNDING

The total cost of this bill will be minimal because it primarily involves work done by the DNR to monitor the bonds and oversee well abandonment procedures. The funds necessary for these tasks will come from the bond fees posted by oil companies. About 10% of the bond will be used to pay for the services provided by the DNR. This will ensure that the program does not place an additional burden on state taxpayers. The bond the oil companies will be required to put up will be determined by the DNR, but roughly it is expected that the average bond requirement will range from $50,000 to $250,000 per well, depending on the complexity and potential environmental risks of the drilling site.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If the oil companies start drilling without posting the bond they will face a fine of $10,000 per day until the bond is posted, as well as suspension of drilling operations until they post it. If an oil company fails to decommission a well and abandons it according to state law, the DNR may use the bond to cover the costs of proper decommissioning.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 186

Chloe Jones Metairie Park Country Day School
Peetsie Goldenberg

TITLE: Disclose Learning Accommodations On Standardized Testing To Any University Receiving State Funding And Ensure Equality For All Students

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Students in Louisiana with ADHD, anxiety, receive learning accommodations including testing over many days. From the point of view of the university, a student who used accommodations versus a student who did not are evaluated the same. Rather than leveling the playing field, it is disadvantageous to those who cannot afford to get a test or who are struggling under standard accommodations. Disadvantaged youth do not have the financial or environmental resources available to get these tests. What happens to them? While helping students with disabilities, it harms average students who may struggle without accommodations. The test is no longer standardized.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill would require the students to sign a form when they ask for specific special time accommodations. This form would be binding and require that if they send the score, the accommodation letter must be provided as well. Institutions will receive this information along with a score.

SECTION III: FUNDING

This bill will not cost anything.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Failure to comply with signing the accommodation form will result in not being able to send the score to any institution receiving state funding from Louisiana.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 187

Tripp Lowry C.E. Byrd High School
Kinsley Forsythe

TITLE: L.I.G.H.T. Act: Louisiana Instruction on General Holocaust Teaching Act

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

According to The Times of Israel, a news platform rated with a high factuality rating from the Media Bias Fact Check Service, more than 10% of Americans under 40 think that Jews were the cause of the Holocaust, and in Louisiana, that number climbs to 16% in Gen Z and Millennials. The New Orleans Jewish Federation and the regional chapter of the Anti-Defamation League, a national anti-hate organization, argued that Louisiana's low Holocaust literacy is reason enough to support any plan for Holocaust education. Additionally, a nationwide survey on Holocaust education revealed that Louisiana ranks 45th in Holocaust Knowledge Scores, as 62% of those surveyed did not know that 6 million Jews were murdered in the Holocaust, and 50% cannot name a concentration camp or ghetto. With anti-Semitism and other forms of bigotry such as racism remaining so prevalent within Louisiana and the United States as a whole, it is important to educate current and future generations about historical instances of extreme hate to prevent future escalation of racial, economic, and religious disparities in Louisiana. Today, despite inclusion of Holocaust education in various standards of the Louisiana Department of Education's new history standards, students in many parts of Louisiana are not being properly informed on the Holocaust according to third-party analysis and survey data of young Louisiana populations. Allowing students to understand the Holocaust, its causes, and long lasting effects can lead to crucial formational development in combating hatred and discrimination. While a mandated Holocaust education bill has been introduced to the Louisiana Senate, the bill died because of the sponsoring Senator's inclusion of exclusionary education policies, a problem which this bill attempts to rectify.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Each public school shall provide age and grade appropriate instruction regarding World War II and the Holocaust to students in grades 8-12. The instruction should be incorporated into the existing, required history course while incorporating at least 1 Holocaust-related reading material for grades 8 and 11 as Modern History is taught during these years according to Louisiana Education standards. The instruction taught must include, but is not limited to the following: The history of World War II and the Holocaust; the concentration camp system; anti-Semitism; the persecution of Jews and non-Jews; Jewish and non-Jewish resistance; and the Nuremberg trials. Each public school governing authority shall incorporate World War II and Holocaust instruction training into the existing in-service training program for teachers whose responsibilities include courses of study into which the instruction is incorporated. This training shall cover the topics required above. Each Parish school board in the state of LA shall oversee the schools within their respective areas to ensure on-time and effective instruction within the grades 8-12.

No later than March thirty-first annually, each public school governing authority shall submit a written report to the state Department of Education relative to the compliance of schools under its jurisdiction with the instruction and training requirements of this Section. For schools that are not in compliance, the report shall include an action plan to ensure compliance by the beginning of the following school year No later than April thirtieth annually, the department shall submit a report to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education that summarizes the information provided to the department relative to the information above.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Sources of free instructional materials for Holocaust education include but are not limited to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Pennsylvania State University Center for Holocaust and Jewish Studies, Echoes and Reflections, Yad Vashem: The World Holocaust Remembrance Center, and the University of Southern California Shoah Foundation.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If a school consistently fails to follow state guidelines, it may be required to create and follow a corrective action plan under the supervision of the Louisiana Department of Education. This plan might include timelines and specific steps for realigning with the state curriculum, a function of the Louisiana Department of Education already established.

SENATE BILL 188

Murphy Wilson C.E. Byrd High School
Georgia Buteau

TITLE: To create more strict qualifications for prescribing Wegovy

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Wegovy is a drug intended to help patients lose weight to enter a healthy BMI, however it has many negative side effects. The active ingredient, semaglutide, is a glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonist that is effective in managing blood sugar levels. Wegovy is inspired by Ozempic, a semaglutide containing agent in use for Type 2 Diabetes. “Ozempic is not approved for weight loss” by the FDA, according to University of California - Davis Heath. Instead, patients seek treatment through Wegovy. According to MedicalNews Today, adults must have a BMI of 30 or over, or 27 with a health condition, to be prescribed Wegovy. Children above age twelve must be in the 95th or greater percentile for weight. While Wegovy shows promising results for weight loss, it is accompanied by many negative side effects. According to Wegovy.com, “Common side effects of Wegovy® may include nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, constipation, stomach (abdomen) pain, headache, tiredness (fatigue), upset stomach,” and many more. There are also more extreme side effects that are not mentioned in the warnings. These side effects, such as extreme pancreatitis, gastroparesis, and thyroid tumors have led users to file lawsuits against Novo Nordisk - the manufacturer of Wegovy - due to his failure to warn them about the dangers, according to Robert King Law Firm. These extreme side effects call for a need to reduce the amount of prescriptions for people that do not have a dire need to lose weight so rapidly. This bill intends to change the qualifications to Adults with a BMI of 30 or higher with a health condition, and adults with a BMI of 35 or higher with or without a health condition. Children ages 12 or greater must be in the 95th percentile or higher.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

In order for this bill to be implemented, medical evaluations will have to be done by a licensed healthcare provider to determine if the patient is an appropriate candidate. There will be a minimum BMI threshold put in place to ensure people without obesity related health conditions are not prescribed. Prescribers will undergo specialized training and have to get certified in weight management for absolute certainty that only medical professionals with sufficient knowledge and expertise can prescribe the medication. Documentation of the patients dosages will be put in place and monitored over the course of their treatment and after to ensure there are no abnormalities.

SECTION III: FUNDING

In order to fund this bill, Louisiana may need to review the current state budget to identify where funds can be reallocated. Applying for federal grants to support this health initiative may also be beneficial. Private sector partners, like pharmaceutical companies may be contacted to share the costs and resources of implementing this bill.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Healthcare providers who violate the law may face substantial fines and medical license suspension. Patients who are harmed by improper prescription may file civil lawsuits against the provider. Penalties may vary based on the severity of procedures broken.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 189

Bethiel Weldeghiorghis Baton Rouge Magnet High School
Joey Robert

TITLE: T.A.M.P.O.N (Toxic Awareness and Mandatory Product Oversight Notification)

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

A recent study conducted by the UC Berkeley School of Public Health found that tampons sold in the United States contained at least sixteen heavy metals including arsenic, cadmium, and lead. While the FDA requires tampons to be regulated as medical devices, it has failed to make them safe for use. This is concerning because the skin of vagina has a higher potential for chemical absorption than anywhere else on the body. The same study found that the sixteen metals tested can increase the risk of dementia, infertility, diabetes, and cancer. They also have the potential to damage the liver, kidneys, brain, cardiovascular system, nervous system, endocrine system, and fetal development.

This bill will rectify the FDA’s shortcomings, making it illegal not to disclose the ingredients in tampons, pads, and other menstrual products. This bill is similar to California’s proposition 65, which requires companies to warn California citizens of any chemicals known to cause cancer or birth defects that are present in their products. Like proposition 65, this bill will require companies selling period products to warn Louisiana citizens of any toxic chemicals or harsh metals that can cause harm to its consumers.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill would be implemented January 1st, 2025. All companies selling menstrual products in the state of Louisiana will be required to disclose any harsh metals and toxic chemicals present in those products, including but not limited to: arsenic, barium, cadmium, calcium, cobalt, chromium, copper, zinc, iron, manganese, mercury, nickel, lead, selenium, strontium, vanadium and zinc.

SECTION III: FUNDING

No funding necessary.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Any company found in violation of this law would be fined $10,000 for the first offense and the fine will increase by 50% after each violation. The collected fines will go to fund Louisiana research hospitals' exploration of carcinogenic period products and their effect on the human body.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 190

Kit Russell Woodlawn High School

TITLE: Being Number One Isn't Fun

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

RS 17:281, Instruction in Sex Education, makes the teaching of sex education optional for schools to teach, and limits what can be taught. In this statue, schools are prohibited from teaching homosexuality, talking about abortions, distributing contraceptives, and must emphasize abstinence as the only way to prevent pregnancies and STDs. They are also prohibited from using federally supplied material if it contradicts the law. This means that students can not be taught the proper way to use contraceptives, such as condoms, which can lead to improper use that can result in pregnancy or the transmission of STDs.

According to the CDC, as of 2022, Louisiana is ranked number 1 for cases of Chlamydia, number 3 for cases of Gonorrhea, number 9 for primary and secondary Syphilis, and number 7 for Congenital Syphilis. Overall, Louisiana currently has the second highest ranking for STDs.

California, New Jersey, and Oregon are credited with having the best comprehensive sexual education courses by the Center of American Progress. California ranks 22nd for Chlamydia, 18th for Gonorrhea, 19th for primary and secondary Syphilis, and 11th for Congenital Syphilis. New Jersey ranks 42nd for Chlamydia, 43rd for Gonorrhea, 36th for primary and secondary Syphilis, and 30th for Congenital Syphilis. Oregon ranks 39th for Chlamydia, 40th for Gonorrhea, 10th for primary and secondary Syphilis, and 16th for Congenital Syphilis.

As of 2022, Louisiana ranks 3rd highest for teen pregnancy rates, with 23.7 births per 1,000 females occurring in women between the ages of 15-19. Due to the ban on abortion that happened early this year, this rate can be projected to increase.

California, Oregon, and New Jersey have rates of 9.8, 10.1, and 8.2, respectively.

States that provide proper sex education classes have lower cases of STDs and teen pregnancies because people are educated on safe and preventative measures. The high teen pregnancy rates show that relying on abstinence is not effective or realistic.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill will make it law for all public secondary schools to teach inclusive sexual education that matches the standards of the Center of American Progress, teaching about topics such as healthy relationships and consent in addition to contraceptives and sexual health. The course will also be made a graduation requirement. Each public school district will propose their own health education courses to be approved by the Louisiana Department of Education by. All proposed courses must meet guidelines that will be set by the Louisiana Department of Education that must include, but is not limited to, teaching about different STDs and prevention methods,different forms of contraceptives, healthy relationships and importance of consent, and sexual health for both heterosexual and homosexual individuals of any sex. The proposals must be submitted to the Louisiana Department of Education by January 1st, 2026

Implementation will be in full effect by the beginning of the 2026-2027, school year meaning districts are mandated to provide comprehensive sexual education classes.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Funding for these programs will be included in the proposals outlined in the implementation section of this bill. Each school district will calculate the amount of funding necessary for their district, and funds will be added to the property taxes of residents living within the district in proportion to the amount of funding needed. Districts are also welcome to use grants, like LAHPERD grants, or use free curriculum plans, such as those offered by Planned Parenthood Partners of Sex Ed, or federally provided curriculum (as long as they meet the specifications set by the Louisiana Department of Education), to help mitigate the raising of property taxes in a school district. Overall, the costs will be covered by the individual districts to ensure that funding can be maintained.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If a school district refuses to comply, or does not follow standards set, they will be fined 750 dollars per school year for as long as they continue to violate the rules of this bill. These fines will be kept by the state of Louisiana until the district complies. Once the district complies, all fines paid will be returned to the district. Once a year, each district will send reports to the Louisiana Department of Education that contain a review of how each school in the district is doing regarding the implementation of the new sex education standard based on observations done by the district. Any violations present will result in the 750 dollar fine. A district can only be fined once per school year, not per individual school, and fines will be returned after the district is proven to no longer be in violation.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 191

Taylor Albert Woodlawn High School
Trenen Prater

TITLE: The P.A.C.K (Paws And Claws Keepers)

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

The P.A.C.K. seeks to address the critical issues faced by the furry community, a social group of individuals who express their identities through anthropomorphic animal characters. This vibrant community embodies creativity, inclusivity, and a commitment to social justice. Research shows that approximately 65% of individuals within the furry community report experiencing hostility, including verbal abuse, online bullying, and even physical assaults fueled by prejudice.

In addition to being a misunderstood subculture, the furry community actively engages in charitable endeavors, supporting animal shelters, wildlife conservation efforts, and a range of social justice initiatives. These contributions underscore the positive values associated with this community, countering the negative stereotypes that persist. The challenges faced by furries parallel those experienced by other marginalized groups, as incidents of hate crimes and negative stereotyping remain common and largely unaddressed within the legal framework. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), hate crimes targeting individuals based on their perceived identities have risen significantly over the past decade. This legislation aims to combat the prejudices directed at furries, affirming their rights to equal protection and dignity as citizens.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Upon passage of this bill, the furry community will be formally recognized under the Fourteenth Amendment, ensuring that they are afforded the same legal protections as other societal groups. This recognition will empower furries to report instances of bullying and hate crimes with greater confidence, fostering a safer environment for self-expression and artistic endeavor.

In addition, this bill will affirm the First Amendment rights of individuals to express their identities through fursonas—personas characterized by anthropomorphic animal traits—while simultaneously criminalizing hate speech and actions targeting the furry community. This legislation will clarify that incidents of hate speech and hate crimes are not protected under freedom of speech provisions.

Furthermore, the bill will establish a dedicated hotline for individuals reporting hate crimes against furries, creating a structured mechanism for local law enforcement agencies to compile and respond to such incidents with appropriate measures. The P.A.C.K. will ultimately enhance the legal recognition of the furry community as a legitimate cultural group.

SECTION III: FUNDING

To support initiatives necessitated by this bill, funds will be sourced from the existing Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009. Other than reallocating these funds, The P.A.C.K. will require no additional financial resources for implementation.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Any individual or organization that commits hate crimes against furries will face penalties that may include:

Tier One Penalties (Minimally Severe): This category includes less severe acts of bullying and minor hate speech. Offenders will be required to complete community service, with the number of hours determined by a judge.

Tier Two Penalties (Moderately Severe): This category includes severe bullying and hate speech. Offenders will face a fine of $150, and for repeat offenders, the fine will increase by 130% with each additional offense. Individuals who commit a third repeat offense may face up to one week of incarceration.

Tier Three Penalties (Most Severe): This category consists of individuals who commit violent acts against the furry community. These offenders will face a minimum of one month in jail, with the exact duration determined by a judge based on the severity of the offense.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 192

Helena Liljeberg Woodlawn High School
Wesley Porter

TITLE: Just Give Me My Money

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Currently, Louisiana doesn't have its own minimum wage - instead, we allow our citizens to earn the national minimum wage of $7.25. This national minimum wage was enacted in 1938 under Article 1, Section 8 of the US Constitution (Congress's power to regulate commerce). In 1938, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was around 14, whereas in 2024, the CPI is around 307. To put this in perspective, $1 in 1938 is worth $22.36 today. With increased inflation rates, our poverty level and number of low income families is high. Only $7.25 an hour is not currently survivable, especially for a family. As of 2024 in Louisiana, 883,236 people (19.6% of the population) are below poverty level and 3.9% are unemployed. Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Tennessee are the only states that resort to using the national minimum wage as opposed to implementing their own. Most other states have raised their wages to support their workers and combat the negative effects of inflation prices.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

The "Just Give Me My Money" act aims to raise the current minimum wage from 7.25 and increase it by 2 dollars to make it $9.25 for individuals aged 14 and older working in chain corporations to battle poverty. Chain corporations are businesses under the same name with multiple locations owned by one company. Franchises, being separately owned, will not be affected. Since the unemployment rate is very high, this measure should not significantly affect small businesses regarding hiring and employee turnover. Funding a minimum wage increase to $9.25 in Louisiana could be effectively achieved through a phased and strategic approach. The increase would be implemented gradually over four years to allow businesses to adjust smoothly. Specifically, during the first two years, the minimum wage would be increased by 5¢ each month, ultimately reaching $8.25 per hour at the end of this period. This initial phase gives businesses time to evaluate and adapt their operations without significant disruption. Additionally, a modest 0.5% increase in corporate taxes on large corporations could generate significant revenue to support businesses facing higher wage expenses. To support small businesses, the plan includes temporary tax breaks, such as reducing or waiving tax payments for at least two weeks. This targeted relief helps smaller enterprises adapt to the wage increase and maintain financial stability. In the second phase, spanning the next two years, the minimum wage would continue to increase gradually until reaching the $9.25 target. By this point, businesses would have had sufficient time to implement necessary adjustments and manage their labor costs.

SECTION III: FUNDING

To fund the phased increase of the minimum wage to $9.25 per hour, Louisiana would implement a moderate increase in corporate taxes on large businesses. This change ensures that financially secure corporations contribute a fair share to the wage boost. Additionally, a slight rise in sales tax on luxury items would provide extra revenue. Small businesses would receive temporary tax breaks and grants to help them adapt without financial strain. These combined measures distribute the cost equitably and promote economic growth through increased consumer spending and job creation.

Primary Funding Sources:

Corporate Taxes: Propose a modest increase in corporate taxes, especially targeting large, profitable corporations. This helps generate substantial revenue without significantly impacting business operations.

Sales Tax Adjustments: Implement a small increase in sales tax on non-essential or luxury items. This spreads the funding responsibility more broadly without burdening essential purchases.

Supplementary Measures:

Grants and Subsidies: Allocate state funds to provide temporary grants or subsidies to small businesses to support them during the wage increase.

Phased Tax Incentives: Offer small businesses temporary tax breaks or credits during the initial implementation phase, so they can adapt without financial strain.

Economic Benefits and Reinvestment:

Increased Consumer Spending: Highlight that higher wages lead to more disposable income, which boosts local consumer spending and generates additional sales tax revenue.

Job Creation: Emphasize the potential for job growth as businesses see increased demand due to greater spending power among workers.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

For any corporation that does not adhere to the rules of this bill, a fine of $7,000 will be placed for a first time offense, an increased fine of $15,000 for a second time offense, and a removal of license or permits for a third time offense.

To ensure compliance, businesses failing to meet the new minimum wage requirements will face significant fines, scaled according to the size of the company. Repeat offenders may lose tax benefits or have their business licenses temporarily suspended. Additionally, a public list of non-compliant businesses will be maintained, promoting transparency and accountability. Workers impacted by violations will receive back pay with interest, and whistleblower protections will be reinforced to encourage reporting.

Financial Penalties:

Fines for Non-Compliance: Impose substantial fines on businesses that fail to meet the new wage standards. The penalties should be significant enough to deter non-compliance.

Progressive Penalties: Increase fines based on the duration or severity of non-compliance, such as higher fines for repeated offenses or longer periods of non-compliance.

Revenue-Based Penalties: Adjust fines based on the size and revenue of the business, ensuring large corporations face penalties that reflect their capacity.

Tax Consequences:

Loss of Tax Incentives: Revoke tax breaks or credits for businesses found non-compliant. This could include removing temporary tax relief or disqualifying them from future subsidies.

Increased Tax Rates: Apply higher tax rates to businesses that repeatedly fail to adhere to wage regulations.

Legal Actions:

Suspension of Licenses: Temporarily suspend business licenses for severe or prolonged violations until compliance is met.

Mandatory Audits: Require non-compliant businesses to undergo regular financial and wage audits at their own expense.

Public Accountability:

Public Listing of Violators: Publish a list of businesses that fail to comply with the new wage standards, impacting their reputation and consumer trust.

Transparency Reports: Mandate annual reports showing wage compliance and contributions to funding, enhancing public oversight.

Worker Protections:

Back Pay with Interest: Ensure that businesses found violating wage requirements must pay back wages owed to employees, including interest and potential damages.

Whistleblower Protections: Strengthen protections for employees who report non-compliance, preventing retaliation and encouraging reporting.

Additional Measures:

Compliance Training: Require non-compliant businesses to participate in mandatory training sessions on wage laws and regulations.

Performance Bonds: Make businesses post a bond that can be forfeited if they fail to comply with wage requirements.

SENATE BILL 193

Sofia Leo Episcopal School of Baton Rouge
Meredith Hill

TITLE: Banning Harmful Energy Drinks for People 18 and Under

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Energy drinks are promoted as a way to supercharge your mind and body by improving your focus and making you more alert. Brands like Red Bull, 5-hour ENERGY, Monster, and Celsius, attract consumers with enticing colors and flavors, causing their product to fly off the shelves. However, while they are extremely popular, these overly caffeinated and sugar-fueled drinks are detrimental to our youth. Coffee is a healthy and common source of caffeine, with a cup containing less than 100mg. This aligns with the recommendation from the American Academy of Pediatrics that ages 12-18 consume no more than 100 mg of caffeine per day. In contrast, our local hospital, the Baton Rouge General, says energy drinks can contain up to 505 mg of caffeine per serving - over five times the recommended limit for teens. Despite this, there are no regulations protecting teens from consuming these overly caffeinated beverages. We need to ban the purchase and consumption of energy drinks containing over 100mg of caffeine for people 18 and under because they are creating multiple health risks for the youth of America. Research shows that drinking caffeine from a young age can stunt brain development, lead to bone loss, worsen other health conditions the teen may already have, cause sleep deprivation or insomnia, and cause serious heart and blood vessel problems such as heart rhythm disturbances and increases in heart rate and blood pressure. Quoting the FDA, “Medical experts advise against energy drinks for children and teens because of the levels of sugar and caffeine, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics. Too much caffeine in children and teens can cause increased heart rate, heart palpitations, high blood pressure, anxiety, and lead to sleep problems, digestive problems and dehydration.” We need to protect the future of America by taking these harmful beverages away from teens and providing them with caffeine levels that are safe for their consumption. By eliminating energy drinks that have a caffeine dosage of 100mg or more, new energy drink brands can form that are targeted towards teens and are safe for them, containing an amount of caffeine equivalent to no more than a cup of coffee.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

The law will take effect on September 1, 2025. This will give citizens of Louisiana nine months to prepare for the new law. In addition, energy drink businesses will have nine months to adjust their caffeine levels or create a new product fit for teens. From September 1, 2025, and on, teens will be required to provide their drivers license as ID to prove they are above 18 in order to purchase an energy drink containing more than 100mg of caffeine. Law enforcement will be informed of the new law and will administer tickets to any offender.

SECTION III: FUNDING

No funding is required for this bill.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

A person who violates the provisions of this law by possessing an over-caffeinated energy drink shall be fined no more than fifty dollars for each violation. A person who violates the provisions of this law by selling an overage energy drink shall be fined no more than fifty dollars for each violation.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 194

Gavin Ferrand Metaire Park Country Day School

TITLE: End Mandatory Minimums For Drug Use And Possession

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

This bill aims to abolish mandatory minimums for drug possession and use in Louisiana. Louisiana has the second-highest incarceration rate in the United States, with 1,067 per 100,000 people behind bars. This makes it the highest rate in the world. While it is difficult to give an exact number of prisoners who are in prison for drug-related offenses, a high number are in prison for nonviolent drug offenses. Research has shown repeatedly that mandatory minimums do not deter crime or stop drug use. Mandatory minimums are, in fact, counterintuitive as they often lead to overcrowding in prisons, drainage of public resources, and limit the judge from making a fair sentence. It is time for Louisiana to become a rehabilitative state and not a prison state.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Effective January 1, 2025, mandatory minimums for drug possession and use offenses will be abolished. Judges will be able to consider each case's specific situation individually instead of being bonded to a mandatory minimum sentence. Additionally, existing cases will be re-sentenced over the next five years. The Louisiana Department of Corrections will oversee this process, working with local courts.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Implementation of this bill will have no cost. However, any money saved from reducing prison populations will be redirected to rehabilitation and drug treatment programs.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

There are no penalties for breaking this law as there will be no more mandatory minimum sentences for drug possession and use. Existing penalties for drug possession and use offenses will remain but will be determined by the judge's discretion.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 195

Sophie Longwitz Benjamin Franklin Highschool

TITLE: Louisiana Business Insurance Aid Program

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

This bill proposes the establishment of a Louisiana Business Insurance Aid Program (LBIAP) aimed at ensuring timely and efficient access to insurance aid for businesses that have been impacted by hurricanes, with a particular focus on those affected by Hurricane Ida. After disasters like Hurricane Ida, many businesses experience delays or denials in receiving insurance claims, which exacerbates the financial hardship they face. This bill seeks to streamline the process of receiving aid, provide accountability for insurance companies, and support the long-term recovery of small businesses.

Problem Addressed:

In the aftermath of Hurricane Ida, which struck Louisiana in August 2021, businesses faced significant challenges in accessing insurance aid. According to the Louisiana Economic Development (LED) report, Hurricane Ida caused over $15 billion in damages to the state, including the destruction of numerous commercial properties. More than 80% of Louisiana businesses in affected regions reported damage to their buildings, infrastructure, or inventory. However, despite the scale of the disaster, many businesses experienced severe delays in insurance payouts, with some businesses waiting months before receiving even partial compensation.

A National Bureau of Economic Research report found that 40% of small businesses affected by Hurricane Ida had their insurance claims denied or underpaid, which delayed recovery and led to business closures. These delays and denials not only hurt the businesses directly affected, but also harmed the local economies and led to further job losses and rising unemployment in the state.

Impact:

By creating a dedicated program to expedite and oversee insurance claims, the LBIAP will ensure businesses get the financial support they need to rebuild after a disaster. The program will provide a clear process for businesses to track their claims, reduce bureaucratic delays, and ensure fairness in the claims process. By helping businesses recover quickly, this bill will mitigate the long-term negative effects on Louisiana's economy, reduce unemployment, and provide stability for the state's commercial landscape.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Creation of the Louisiana Business Insurance Aid Program (LBIAP):

A new division within the Louisiana Department of Insurance will be established to manage the LBIAP. This division will:

Set up a hotline and website for businesses to file claims and inquire about their insurance processes.

Assign case managers to track the status of insurance claims for businesses and ensure the timely processing of claims.

Provide outreach and education on insurance policies and the claims process to businesses in hurricane-prone areas.

Collaboration with Insurance Companies:

The LBIAP will partner with private insurance companies to monitor the progress of claims from businesses. The program will hold insurers accountable to prevent unjust delays or denials of claims. The state will require insurers to provide detailed reports on the status of claims for businesses located in areas declared disaster zones.

Timeframe:

The program will be set into motion immediately following the passing of this bill, with an official launch in the year following enactment. Businesses in future declared disaster zones will be eligible to participate from that point forward.

SECTION III: FUNDING

The total cost of implementing this program will be an estimated $10 million in the first year, with ongoing costs of around $5 million annually for operational funding, training, and outreach efforts.

Funding Sources:

State Budget Allocation: The Louisiana state government will allocate funds from the existing disaster relief fund.

Federal Assistance: The program will seek federal grants through FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) and other disaster relief agencies.

Insurance Fees: A small surcharge of 0.5% on insurance premiums in Louisiana will be applied specifically to fund this program. This surcharge will not increase the financial burden on businesses, but rather will be paid by the insurers themselves.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Penalties for Non-Compliance

For Insurance Companies:

If insurance companies fail to meet the required deadlines for processing claims or do not cooperate with the LBIAP, they will face fines starting at $10,000 per violation. Persistent violations may lead to the suspension of their ability to do business in Louisiana until corrective measures are taken.

For Businesses:

Businesses will not be penalized for utilizing the services of the LBIAP or for delays outside their control in the claims process. However, businesses found providing fraudulent information during the claims process will be subject to penalties under existing Louisiana law, including fines and loss of eligibility for disaster aid.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 196

Teagan Pethe Haynes Academy

TITLE: Mobilize Our Government involvement (MOG)

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Many young voters are unsure on the steps they must take in order to register to vote. In Louisiana, you're able to register to vote at 17 years old. However, not many young citizens are aware of this fact. Louisiana's low voter turnout has been a problem in the state for recent years. In 2022, only 64.4% of voting-age residents in the state were registered to vote. That same year, only 45.8% of voting-age residents actually cast a ballot. Additionally, in November 2023, only about a third of the registered voters in the state decided the outcome of the gubernatorial election. Looking at total registered voters, there are only around 87,000 people from 18-20 who are registered to vote, which means that many 18-20 year olds who are eligible to vote aren't even registered. The youngest age group indicates the lowest voter registration, which is a problem that can be easily fixed. Louisiana must take steps to increase voter turnout and encourage young voters.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Beginning in the 2025-2026 school year, all public schools in Louisiana are required to hold a session in which all students 17 and older are shown how to register online to vote and given time to do so. The session must take place sometime between August and October, and will take less than an hour. Registration can be completed on each students' school issued laptop or chromebook. Simple instructions to register to vote online will be sent to each school by the school district, and each school will delegate either an administrator or school counselor to be present during this time to advise students that need help. This provides an opportunity for students to register to vote with the help of their school counselor or administrator, but they are not required to complete the registration if they or their parents do not wish for them to be registered.

SECTION III: FUNDING

No funding is required for this bill.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

There are no penalties for this bill.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 197

Nicoline Perrin Lafayette High School
Julie Le

TITLE: The Survivors' Care Act: Require the Presence of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) in Louisiana Hospitals

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE): A registered nurse who has received specialized training in the medical care and forensic examination of sexual assault survivors.

The purpose of this bill is to ensure that all in Louisiana provide immediate and comprehensive medical care for survivors of sexual assault by requiring the presence of trained Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) on hand. SANE nurses have specialized training in forensic examination techniques, this allows them to collect evidence accurately and ensure all evidence is recorded for future potential legal proceedings. They also are trained on Trauma-informed Care. This teaches those to provide a supportive/ compassionate environment that encourages survivors to be more open to cooperation during examination. They also have a deeper understanding with the legal process and the requirements to ensure all evidence collected can be admissible in court. Ultimately these factors allow for a more beneficial and sensitive handling of sexual assault cases improving the outcomes for survivors. Ensuring that all hospitals require the presence of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners on hand will validate all allegations for sexual assault survivors. Their role is essential in improving the outcomes for victims and in aiding the justice system. The expert care and documentation can be pivotal in legal proceedings. In addition to providing testimonies, SANEs may be asked by attorneys to provide expertise by reviewing medical records to help ensure that the evidence is presented clearly and professionally. This can significantly impact the outcome of cases, aiding in the pursuit of justice for survivors. Government can only fund public hospitals, Take the money from the Department of Health. Not only do SANE nurses provide immediate medical needs but they also provide resources for long-term recovery.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

All hospitals in Louisiana shall employ both gender or have access to both gender certified Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This ensures both gender victims are comfortable when being examined. Hospitals must ensure that SANEs are available for immediate response to sexual assault cases and that they are trained in trauma-informed care.This Act shall take effect January of 2027

1. The Louisiana Department of Health shall establish minimum training and certification standards for SANEs, including:

○ Obtain a registered nurse license

○ 1-2 year minimum of energy nursing/trauma care related field training

○ Complete the SANE training program in person (includes forensic nursing, trauma care, legal proceeding procedure) (around 3 months completion time rate)

○ Pass the SANE certification exam (score at least 70%)

○ Continue your routine education (2 years) to maintain your certification and enhance your skills.

○ It's not a super difficult process to become one- and that people can both work and take the course at the same time.

SECTION III: FUNDING

The Department of Health shall facilitate partnerships between hospitals and local sexual assault crisis centers to provide support services to survivors. Funding shall be allocated from Louisiana the department of health. This will include an estimate of 1 billion dollars taken from the 12 billion dollar fund which is only around .0083% of this budget. This will go towards compensations for the training of SANEs and the implementation of this bill. We believe it's reasonable to expect private hospitals to bear the costs associated with hiring and training the nurses because private hospitals are responsible for ensuring that their staff meet the required standards to provide quality care. However, the state could consider providing some financial assistance or incentives to help private hospitals manage these additional expenses and ensure that the healthcare system can adopt the new requirements. For example, grants and subsidies could be provided to private hospitals to assist with the expenses of training or hiring. Tax incentives could offer tax breaks to hospitals, and public-private partnerships could be established to create joint training programs, sharing the costs and resources necessary to train SANE nurses.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Hospitals must comply with the requirements of this Act within the time frame of 2 years of its enactment. Hospitals failing to meet the requirements set forth in this Act may be subject to penalties, including fines or revocation of licensure after 5 years without compliance, as determined by the Louisiana Department of Health.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 198

Nick Pecquet Catholic High School
Andrew Wilson

TITLE: F.A.N.U.M. (Feeding and Nourishing Underfed Mouths) Tax

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Louisiana is a state full of great food! After all, there are choices for everyone, from seafood, to barbeque, and food from across the globe. We down here know how to eat. However, there has been an increasing number of folks in our great state that are hungry every year. As of 2022, at 15.2%, we were one of 6 states that were significantly above the national average, which is 13.5%, for food insecurity. One way we already try to tackle this problem are the food banks located across the state. Currently, Feeding America recognizes 5 food banks across the state, but this bill would aim to add more. In the Baton Rouge food bank alone, they saw 14.4 million pounds of food distributed in 2023. In the F.A.N.U.M. Tax bill, we will add a tax to most food-related purchases in the state to set a fund to invest money into existing food banks and create new food banks. We estimate that through this tax, we will make over at least 5 million dollars each year. While the Baton Rouge food bank logged around 40,000,000 dollars in expenses ($30,000,000 in donations and $10,000,000 in grants) in 2021 on their taxes, we feel 5 million dollars would help us to being our fight to solve the food insecurity crisis.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

The F.A.N.U.M. tax will increase the current sales tax of any purchases relating to food and beverage, including purchasing such foods at the following places: grocery stores, restaurants, bars, vineyards, distilleries, gas stations, convenience stores, and all other places of business that have food or beverage for sale. This tax will not apply to the following: sales of livestock, poultry, and other farm products directly from producer to consumer; food sold for preparation and home consumption, which includes baked goods; dairy products; soft drinks; packaged foods requiring further preparation by the purchaser; and bakery products sold for consumption in the home when purchased at grocery stores, bakeries, and donut shops, regardless of whether such businesses furnish facilities for the consumption of food on the premise. This new tax will still apply to all foods not under the following exception. This tax revenue will help start the C.E.N.A.T.S. (Council Ensuring Nourishment Across the State) council and their associated fund, which will do the establishing of new food banks and funding of old food banks. This council will have discretion to spend the money generated from the new tax to build new food banks or put money into already existing food banks. They will also be allowed to save money for later use solely by the council. The council will be made up of 13 members, appointed by the state legislature. This should be made up of food bank leaders/community leaders/politicians from all around the state to help figure out where the next banks should be made, or what current banks necessitate funding. These members would be reappointed every 2 years. To name the food banks, we will have an area wide school children's naming contest, in which the board picks the "best" 5 names for the food bank, and a general vote will be put on the ballot that year to be voted on by the people.

SECTION III: FUNDING

On January 1st, 2025, an increase to the state sales tax will occur, going from a 4.45 to 4.5 percent tax on the goods listed in Section II of this bill. This increase will result in a generation of around $5,536,810.60. This increase would cost a Louisianan, on average, $1.21. However, when calculating these figures, it must be mentioned that there were no statistics on how much of the sales tax collected in the data I used was in the food sector, so this is an estimate and should be taken as such. In addition, we will set up a donation system for donations both directly to the board or to a specific food bank. If a donation is made to the board or a food bank, which must be of at least $100, then a tax credit will be granted to those who donate, at a value of half the donation, up to a maximum $10,000 in tax credits, which can be used when filing for state income taxes.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If the C.E.N.A.T.S. board members use the money in a way to not to further the purpose of the C.E.N.A.T.S. board's goal, we will kick them off the board and sue and or arrest them for the damages.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 199

Averi Truitt St. Joseph's Academy

TITLE: Add More Cameras for School Buses

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

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

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

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

SECTION III: FUNDING

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

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

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

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 200

Caroline Thomas St. Joseph's Academy
Eliza Hanner

TITLE: Improve Foreign Language Education in Grades K-8 Across State Public Schools

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Only about 17-20% of the world speaks English. Throughout the state of Louisiana, students are required to take foreign language classes in high school. Some other states have already implemented foreign language education in kindergarten through 8th grade in addition to high school programs, such as California and Texas (Global California 2030, Texas Administrative Code Title 19 Part 2 Chapter 114 Subchapter A Rule §114.4). According to the OELA and a study published to the NIH, learning and practicing a foreign language can help improve executive functions, such as mental flexibility, as well as delay the onset of cognitive decline due to aging. In addition, it has also been seen to improve academic performance among students and promote higher levels of abstract thought, reasoning, and creativity. Bilingual or multilingualism also opens more job opportunities and can increase chances of higher salaries. It can also lead to better cultural understanding and global awareness. During the early development stages of a child's life, it is much easier for them to learn and pick up languages. The conscious memory system in young children is much less developed than their adolescent counterparts, which means that most of their language learning happens though their implicit or unconscious memory system. In other words, children tend to learn languages passively through being exposed to an environment where the language is present. Studies show that conscious memory begins to develop more strongly around age 12, much before many children begin to learn languages in school. This makes the implementation of a foreign language curriculum to be much harder on students than if they began to be exposed to these programs much earlier in life (UNRIC). By implementing foreign language curriculums in K-8 grades, we hope to improve academic performance throughout the state, improve job opportunities for students in the future, and build a more globally conscious and connected generation.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

We will develop an immersive, thorough foreign language curriculum and program to implement in elementary and middle schools across the state. These programs will be in either Spanish or French, and the state will develop the curriculum and common core standards to be adopted by the schools. If the program proves to be successful, more diverse languages may be added later on. This program will be optional to the schools, but it will be incentivized with higher grants to the schools that do implement it to strongly encourage schools to adopt the program.

SECTION III: FUNDING

This bill will draw $60 Million from the Department of Education's residual funds from cancelled appropriations in FY 2023 to fund the hiring of foreign language teachers and to aid the schools in the implementation of this program, such as salaries and resources.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

There are no penalties for this bill as the program is optional (but very strongly encouraged) .

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 201

Camille Starkovich St. Joseph's Academy

TITLE: Preventing Period Poverty (PPP)

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Period Poverty is defined as a lack of access to menstrual products and an improper education about menstrual hygiene. On average, every 28 days, women, between the ages of 12 and 52, bleed for 5-7 days. The average cost of a period, per month, is $13.25. Depending on medical conditions or irregularity, the price of a monthly period will vary. Some states list menstrual products and diapers as a “luxury” item. Since luxury items receive additional taxation, women refer to the taxing as the “pink tax,” because it is a tax that only affects people who menstruate or birth children. In 2021, a tax exemption for individuals buying feminine hygiene products was to be enacted for July 1, 2022. The bill excludes businesses and other entities purchasing menstrual products. In 2021, the Federal Government passed the “Menstrual Equality Act for All,” which tries to cover free sanity products, but it only applies to certain individuals in certain areas. Offices and schools that are required to supply products tend to increase the costs in other areas to account for the budget loss. Women without access to menstrual products are at risk of many possible medical, mental, and financial issues. Medical risks include bacteria growth from the use of a menstrual product for longer than intended. Bacterial Vaginosis affects 1 in every 3 women in the United States. Toxic Shock Syndrome affects every 1 in 100,000 women and causes organ failure. Along with hormone fluctuations before, during, and after menstruation, many women experience excess depression and anxiety because of their lack of access to proper care. Finally, while women continue to struggle to provide menstrual care products for themselves and their families, lack of access to products can cause an inability to participate in the workforce and make money to provide for themselves.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Based on the number of women in a household, between the ages of 12 and 52, the household will receive financial aid for the purpose of buying period products. Any household below the poverty line will receive 159$ per year per person. Households below the poverty line will receive aid using this formula assuming Y=yearly income: [100(159/Y)] = percent of $159 covered by aid. Households with income that averages over $6000 per person are exempt from aid.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Funding will be allotted from excess revenue typically used for Capitol Outlay.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

No penalties.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 202

Loralei Robinson St. Joseph's Academy
Gabrielle Perrault

TITLE: Declassify Mifepristone and Misoprostol as Controlled Substances

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Mifepristone and Misoprostol are medications used for inducing labor, treating miscarriages, reducing the risk of serious bleeding from ulcers, and stopping postpartum hemorrhaging. These medications can also be used to terminate a pregnancy. Previously, these two drugs have been the most used and safest options for drug-induced abortions. They are typically used both at home and in hospitals. Over two decades ago, the FDA approved these medications as safe and non-habit forming. However, in May of this year, a law was passed classifying Mifepristone and Misoprostol as Controlled Substances and was put into action on October 1st. Controlled Substances are Schedule IV drugs, which have potential for abuse and dependency. It is predicted by many medical professionals that this change will greatly increase the maternal mortality rate in Louisiana. Possession of these drugs without a prescription could now lead to up to five years in prison and up to a $5,000 dollar fine. Since Mifepristone and Misoprostol are classified as Schedule IV drugs, doctors need a special license to prescribe them. This also means, law enforcement does not need a warrant to access portions of the prescribed patient’s medical records.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Declassify Mifepristone and Misoprostol as controlled substances.

SECTION III: FUNDING

This bill requires no funding.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

There are no penalties associated with this bill.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 203

Sophia Montalbano St. Joseph's Academy

TITLE: Control Concerning Concepts of a Concealed Constitutional Convention

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Over the Summer, Louisiana's governor Jeff Landry attempted to convene a Constitutional Convention. Louisiana does in fact need a Constitutional Convention as our state Constitution is among the longest in the country (three times the length of the average state constitution) often causing confusion in state tax law. However, the proposed Convention was set to last only two weeks while overlapping with the legislative session. (In contrast the most recent Constitutional Convention of 1973 lasted about a year.) Additionally, no elected delegates were set to participate in the Convention. Rather only state legislators, who were already busy with the regular session, and 27 delegates appointed by the governor were to be put in charge of our state's most important document. A future Constitutional Convention is inevitable given the size and complexity of Louisiana's Constitution. It is crucial to ensure that the process will be transparent and deliberate.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill seeks to require that any Louisiana Constitutional Convention consists of 132 delegates, one delegate elected by majority vote for each of the 105 Louisiana house districts and 27 delegates appointed by the governor. 14 delegates, one per category, must be appointed to represent each of the following: industry, labor, education, civil service, wildlife and conservation, law enforcement, the judiciary, the professions, consumers, agriculture, and youth. The remaining delegates must be selected from the public at large. Each delegate must meet Louisiana's current requirements to vote. Each candidate must file a statement of candidacy no less than two months prior to election day. Runoffs will be held should a candidate fail to garner the majority of votes. These elections (excluding runoffs) must be held on a day on which there is a state-wide or national election unless there is no such election in the six months after a convention is called. These delegates will have the job of drafting a new Louisiana Constitution. They will be paid one hundred and sixty-six dollars per day of attendance.

Private groups will be prohibited from donating any funds to finance the writing of the Constitution. Amendment votes resulting from the Convention may only be scheduled on the same days as state-wide or national elections to ensure maximum turnout.

SECTION III: FUNDING

No funding is necessary as this bill simply lays out the procedure for a convention.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

There are no penalties associated with this bill.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 204

Lauren Huguet C.E. Byrd High School
Sarah Googe

TITLE: Mandatory helmets for minors on ATVS

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

According to a report published in the Journal of the Louisiana State Medical Society, there have been numerous cases of serious injuries and fatalities after the introduction of all-terrain vehicles on the market. State statistics suggest that there have been more than 300 deaths in Louisiana since 1982 linked to all-terrain vehicle (ATV) accidents. This calls for reform in state policies regarding ATV safety. According to the ATV Safety Institute, which regulates all ATV laws for the 50 states, helmets are only required to be worn on specified public lands in Louisiana. Louisiana has some of the least restrictive ATV policies, with 41 of the other states having more helmet and road law regulations than Louisiana. The bill proposes to require minors to wear helmets at all times when riding or in operation of an ATV, instead of the current legislation which just states helmets must be worn on specified public land (very few and limited ATV trails/parks). In a study done by the National Library of Medicine, over 6 years, 52% of the 65 people in ATV accidents were minors and 48% of them experienced head injuries. Additionally, Charles A Jennissen, MD, who researches in the Department of Emergency Medicine at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine conducted a study and found that youth ATV operators have a 12 times greater risk of injury as compared with adults. In light of all of this information, this bill to require minors to wear helmets would protect Louisiana's minors and decrease ATV crash related head/spine injuries and fatalities.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Each parish shall implement this law by law enforcement regularly patrolling the areas with common ATV activity, and officers should be required to file a report if they see a minor violating this bill. Each parish should see that their law enforcement officers are enforcing this law to ensure the effectiveness of this bill.

SECTION III: FUNDING

No funding will be required for this bill. Possibly a course of education for students in middle and high school and the addition of this law in the owner's manual to make it known to the public.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Consequences for breaking this law would be a for any parent, legal guardian or person who has responsibility for a child under eighteen years of age who knows or should have known the child is operating or is a passenger on an ATV without a helmet as required by the law of the State of Louisiana is guilty of a misdemeanor and, shall, upon conviction, be subject to the following penalties:

For a first offense, a fine of $100 or 10 hours of community service. For a second offense, a fine of $250 or twenty hours of community service. For a third offense, a fine of $500 or one hundred hours of community service. Any subsequent offenses after this would result in up to $1,000 worth of fines to the State of Louisiana.

SENATE BILL 205

Aubrey Harvey St. Joseph's Academy
Haley Faucheux

TITLE: Require All Car Dealerships to Carry Amphibious Cars

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

It's no secret that Louisiana is sinking. Miles of coastline are lost every year, and global warming and heavy rainy seasons continue to make the state incredibly susceptible to floods and hurricanes. Even normal rainy days can be made dangerous by flooded roads and unsuitable conditions for driving. This could be different, however, if everyone had an accessible way to travel on both land and flooded roads. This problem could be lessened if everyone had an amphibious car. Amphibious vehicles are cars that are also boats, and function both on land and in water, making them very practical for Louisiana's common road and weather conditions. By switching to amphibious cars, Louisiana drivers will be able to continue their regular lives through times of mild flooding and will be better equipped to deal with that may arise as Louisiana continues to sink and global warming continues to affect our weather cycles.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill will require all car dealerships in Louisiana to switch to selling only amphibious cars by the year 2040. As this is a dramatic change, there will be a transition period to allow companies and dealerships to adjust. By 2026, dealerships must include at least two varieties of amphibious cars available to purchase. By 2035 at least half the cars in any given dealership must be functional both on land and in water.

SECTION III: FUNDING

This bill does not require funding.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Any dealerships not in compliance with this law by the year 2040 will be taxed 30% on the sale of non-amphibious vehicles. This tax will continue to increase 5% for each year they continue to sell regular cars.

SENATE BILL 206

Ivy Anseman Episcopal School of Acadiana

TITLE: No More Billboard Blitz Act

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Personal injury attorneys are critical to providing legal representation to individuals harmed by accidents, medical malpractice, or other forms of negligence. However, the excessive number of billboards and outdoor advertisements for personal injury attorneys in certain areas can create visual clutter, negatively impacting public aesthetics, local communities, and highway safety. The saturation of billboard advertising can lead to misleading or overly aggressive marketing practices that may not serve the public's best interests. A study done in 2019, by Science America, in Utah, found that 75% of the people they interviewed agreed with the statement, "Billboards are a total eyesore in our community and they have no redeeming value." Therefore, to ensure responsible advertising practices and maintain the aesthetic integrity of local communities, this act aims to regulate the number and content of billboards used for advertising by personal injury attorneys.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

(a) The Clear View Initiative:

A personal injury attorney, law firm, or affiliated entity may not display more than three billboards at any one time within a five-mile radius of any single location in which they provide legal services. The total number of billboards a personal injury attorney may use for advertising shall not exceed fifty billboards in the state of Louisiana, regardless of the number of locations or offices operated by the attorney or firm.

(b) Advertisement Content:

The content of advertisements on billboards must be truthful, non-deceptive, and free from sensationalist language. Billboards must not imply guarantees of financial outcomes or use excessive emotional appeals. All advertisements must include a statement of the attorney's license number and a clear disclaimer that reads: "This advertisement is for informational purposes only. Past results do not guarantee future outcomes."

SECTION III: FUNDING

The enforcement and administration of this Act shall need no funding. However, offenders of Section II (a) of this Act will have to pay a fine specified in Section IV. This fine will be distributed to fund and maintain the following objectives:

1) Ensuring compliance with the billboard limitations outlined in Section II of this Act.

2) Administering penalties for violations of this Act.

3) Finally, the Department of Professional Regulation shall work with local governments to ensure the availability of resources for monitoring billboard placement and to maintain an updated registry of authorized billboards.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Any personal injury attorney or law firm found to violate Section II (a), which sets limits on the number of billboards, shall face a fine of $2,500 per billboard over the allowable limit.

Attorneys or firms found in violation of Section II (b) related to misleading content on billboards will be subject to the following penalties:

1) A $5,000 fine for each violation of billboard placement standards or advertising content.

2) Suspension of the right to use outdoor advertising for six months for repeat offenders.

3) Attorneys found in gross violation of this Act, including continuing to engage in misleading or unlawful advertising after multiple penalties, may face the revocation of their license to practice law within the state.

A portion of the fines collected will be used to fund the objectives specified in Section III, with the remainder directed to a general fund for public safety and community development.

Effective Date:

This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2025, and all affected parties shall have until July 1, 2025, to comply with the new regulations.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 208

Ava Thevenot St. Joseph's Academy

TITLE: Expand the knowledge of students in Louisiana using language.

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Louisiana is one of the lowest ranked states in terms of education. The state of Louisiana currently holds an estimated 83% high school graduation rate. This drops when analyzing college graduation rates, which stands at about 22%. Studies done by Northwestern University have shown that learning multiple languages increases brain function and allows for better listening and comprehending skills. In an analysis of 20 studies, 90% of them proved that bilingual students perform better in academic subjects than monolingual students. Not only does the knowledge of multiple languages help increase test scores, but it also aids in necessary life skills such as communication and decision making. Currently, most Louisiana public schools only offer French or Spanish courses. Giving students the option to take language courses they have more of an interest in will increase the drive to learn. This bill aims to improve Louisiana's education rates by adding more language options to the school curriculum.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill will require public schools in Louisiana to offer language programs in addition to the basic Spanish or French classes. Schools will have the ability to choose two additional languages from a list of Latin, Mandarin, German, Korean, Portuguese or ASL. Every five years, schools will resubmit their language choices, giving them the opportunity to make changes if necessary. If teachers are difficult to find, schools can apply for state-guided 3-week sessions for already hired employees to learn the basics of these languages that any current faculty or staff member can have the opportunity to take. The application process will include any form of proof that the school has attempted to find teachers. Once the application has been submitted, the state will give a one-month period to the school as a last chance option. If no teachers become available in that month, the school will be eligible to send hired teachers to the sessions. The sessions will be in the evenings and weekends to best fit the lives of teachers without interfering with the schooldays. This will allow schools to use teachers they already have rather than going through the burdening task of hiring more. This program will start for students in 5th grade and will last until the 12th grade. If the same language is taken all years of their high school career, students will be eligible to receive the Seal of Biliteracy on their transcript. This is especially important when applying for jobs and colleges because 90% of U.S. employers claim they are more willing to hire someone who knows multiple languages.

SECTION III: FUNDING

This should not need any funding because it would be the school district's decision on the way they choose to disperse their money. This would not increase citizen taxes because school districts would be responsible for dividing funds between teachers in a proper and reasonable manner. Similarly to other the salaries of other public-school teachers in Louisiana, their paychecks would come from either government grants or local and state taxes. Although school districts have the opportunity to decide teacher salaries, it is highly recommended by this bill that teachers who have taken the necessary courses to teach more than one language automatically step up a level in the teacher salary schedule. Teacher salary schedules determine the amount of money teachers should get based off of things such as college degrees and years of experience. If a teacher is at the

maximum level limit, they will not be eligible to receive another raise.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If a school in Louisiana fails to follow the rules of this bill, administrators will be required to take a 6-week language course for the first offense. If disobedience occurs again, schools will be reviewed and could have the possibility of getting 4% of state tax money removed from the school district. The state tax cut will happen without review every offense after the second.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 209

Angelina Nguyen St. Joseph's Academy
Isabella Hammack

TITLE: Allow students of varying races to miss school for cultural celebrations and events

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

In Louisiana's public schools 90% of the student body is of varying races. That means that 90% of students in Louisiana celebrate different cultural celebrations. The Louisiana State Legislature states that a student may have an absence for faith-related reasons that do not include cultural celebrations. Some students currently are unable to celebrate their difference due to the fear of having an unexcused absence on their record. They should be able to celebrate and embrace their culture without worries. New York public schools have already recognized cultural holidays in school calendars showing that it is possible. Some improvements that have been shown with recognizing cultural holidays in the school calendar are that students are more open-minded when seeing other cultures and have less prejudice of cultures. It also prepares students for a world that is diverse and full of cultures. Students found themselves getting prouder of their culture and accepting of themselves. Their mental health improved with being more confident of who they are and gaining connections with others.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

The bill will be implemented before the school year of 2025-2026 allowing students to have excused absences from cultural celebrations. Students that already have an unexcused absence from recent years should have the absence excused. Implementing this law should influence private schools to apply the bill.

SECTION III: FUNDING

This bill does not require any funding.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

The penalty of not allowing students to miss school for cultural celebrations is being fined 1,000 plus dollars.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 210

Anurup Bhakta Haynes Academy

TITLE: POP-C (Phase-Out Pennies, Constitutionally)

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

There has never been a US coin worth as little as today's penny. The buying power of the one-cent coin has deteriorated so vastly that it's worth less than the obsolete half-cent coin. Besides, the US Mint admits that it costs over three cents to mint the one-cent, losing $400 million dollars in the past 5 years. Even that copper exterior is a lie — it's only 2.5% copper. The zinc actually used for the penny interior is at risk to be illegally melted down and sold for more than face-value. Most places or machines (vending machines, toll booths, restaurants) don't even accept pennies in bulk, let alone a few. Oftentimes, this leads to pennies dropping out of circulation and wasting away, leading to a cycle of more production and displacement. That's why more than 40% of all coins the US Mint mints is the penny.

So what's the point in America's one-cent coin? There is absolutely none, even more so in everyday cash transactions! But to regulate coinage and destroy the penny is beyond the power of the State Legislature; manipulating prices, however, is not.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

All cash transactions between retail stores and consumers in the state of Louisiana are to be rounded to the nearest nickel within three years of passed law. This is mandatory for cash transactions to discourage the usage of the penny. It is not up to the discretion of the seller or buyer as to stop unfair advantage of rounding.

Transactions ending in 1, 2, 6, and 7 cents are to be rounded down to the nearest 5-cent multiple. 3, 4, 8, and 9 cents are to be rounded up to the nearest 5-cent multiple.

However, cash transactions totalling under $5.25 will always be rounded down to the nearest 5-cent multiple. This is to ensure that, instead of disadvantaging the poor, rounding transactions are a clear advantage to both the consumer and vendor. For the consumers who disproportionately pay in cash, they save money. For the vendors who encourage cash sales, they avoid pesky electronic payment fees.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Civil servants who do issue the notices will be paid a bonus from the Consumer Protection Section of the Louisiana Attorney General's Office.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

The Bureau of Consumer Protection of the Federal Trade Commission handles investigations and suspicions involving deceptive business practices; thus, complaints and investigations against businesses that do violate this law will be handled by the FTC.

If failure for sellers to comply with nickel-rounded cash transactions is discovered:

1) A notice spelled out in pennies is sent to businesses to remedy the violation

2) Civil penalties up to $7,500 in pennies (a similar policy of the CCPA) and customer redress (compensation and refunds) will be obtained through the Penalty Offense Authority

SENATE BILL 211

Josephine LaGraize Metairie Park Country Day School
CoCo Emonet

TITLE: Improving Louisiana Through Music and Connection

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Louisiana is in the top ten poorest states in the country and according to the Louisiana Department of Health, “1 in 5 people experience a diagnosable mental disorder in any given year—for Louisiana this is an estimated 650,000 adults and 245,000 children.” These are staggering statistics that are solvable with one solution. Harvard health claims that, “Music boosts our mood and well-being, and music therapy may help during treatments for certain health conditions”, Summa Health states, “people who feel more connected to others have lower levels of anxiety and depression”, and the American Psychological Association states that people with friends are less likely to suffer with mental disorders, are more satisfied with life, and have a lower chance of dying from many natural causes. With this said, a community building oriented festival that features a mix of upbeat music such as electronic, rap, and local music, similar to the former festival known as “Voodoo Music + Art Experience”, will bring people closer, improving the poor mental health of Louisiana through friendship and music. In addition, festivals similar to this one, such as the former “Voodoo Music + Art Experience” and “New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival”, historically bring in a high revenue to the state and this new festival will do the same, in turn improving the state's economic state as a whole. According to AngelouEconomics, a consulting firm, “Voodoo festival brought $56.3 million in economic impact, created or sustained over 620 jobs, and generated $21.1 million in labor income. This results in $218.3 million in total economic output since 2017.”

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This festival will take place the Friday, Saturday, and Sunday before, of, or after Halloween. This festival will take place in city park and will include an array of popular and local artists and musicians. Once passed, this bill will be enacted within one to three years of its passing, depending on how long it takes to put the festival together. To enter this festival people must pay a fee for a ticket (which will be decided on after it has passed). There will be a state board created to oversee this festival and its finance. In addition, this festival board will hire workers and gather volunteers to set up the stages and tents as well as break them down. This board will also do a large amount of publicity for this festival to gather more tourists and in turn bring a greater revenue to the state.

SECTION III: FUNDING

According to Biz New Orleans, the former “Voodoo Music + Art Experience” brought in 180,000 festival goers in its last year, and using the tickets prices of similar festivals such as “New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival” where the tickets for a single day range from $85-$105, this means that the festival is forecasted to receive $15,300,000-$56,700,000 from ticket sales alone. In addition, we will gain sponsorships from different brands to support the festival and we will gather donations. The first year of the festival will be the toughest financially, but the majority of the tickets will be sold in advance and the money from sponsorships will make it possible. Furthermore, similar to other festivals the first year will be on a smaller scale and as the festival continues the finances will be easier and the scale of the festival will grow.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If the festival does not occur within one to three years of the bill being passed, the people on the festival board will be fired.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 212

Ava Voss Lafayette High School
Sophia Kryszewski

TITLE: Preventing Inequality in Net Consumerism (PINC)

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

What is the pink tax? The pink tax refers to the upcharge on or additional sales tax on women’s hygiene products, services, or other products marketed towards women. Louisiana has already banned “period tax,” which made period products specifically exempt from sales tax. A study in New York found that women’s products are, on average, 13% more expensive than similar men’s products, and it’s been shown that women can pay more than $1,300 annually because of the pink tax. To quote Congresswoman Jackie Speier of California, “The pink tax is blatantly discriminatory, affecting women from all walks of life from the cradle to the grave.” So, let’s take the next step for Louisiana and get rid of the Pink Tax.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

When implemented, the Commerce Committee in the Louisiana Senate will oversee any and all reports submitted against companies that are not in compliance with the bill. Noncompliance in this sense would be companies pricing the same or very similar products at different prices due solely to one being marketed towards women. It would not include prices differing because of vastly different manufacturing costs. Final discretion on whether or not a product is being marketed at a higher price because of the gender of its intended consumer will be from the Commerce Committee. A form will be created where customers can report any noncompliance. When the form is received the committee will research the company and product and they will take a vote on whether or not the company is truly not in compliance with the bill. If the company is found to be in noncompliance they will have three options of how they would like to rectify the situation. Companies can 1) mark the gendered product the same price as the other similar product of the same company, 2) mark the similar product the same price as the gendered product, or 3) the company can come up with an average price of the two products and price them the same. Each week in noncompliance after the committee has made their decision will result in the company being fined. This bill does not change state sales tax on these items, instead it aims to shut down Pink Tax from the start, at the companies.

SECTION III: FUNDING

This bill does not require funding as the committee discretion falls under the existing Commerce Committee in the Louisiana Senate.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Each week that a company is found to be selling upcharged products or services after the committee’s decision will be fined up to $1,000 (depending on severity). Fines will increase with further offenses up to $10,000. This will continue weekly until the product price is fixed or the product is not produced and sold anymore. 25% of money collected from fines will be donated to women’s shelters throughout the state.

SENATE BILL 213

James Denning Jesuit High School New Orleans

TITLE: Plastic Shopping Bag Tax

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Plastic bags are an intolerable environmental hazard. As frequently repeated, once in the environment they choke wildlife; however, they also damage soil and poison groundwater. They take centuries to biodegrade, and once they do they turn into microplastics that infiltrate the ecosystem. In addition, plastic production takes much energy, contributing 3.4% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Despite their danger, Americans use more than 100 billion plastic shopping bags each year.

Plastic bags are indeed recyclable, but only 10% are recycled. Plastic bags more often become litter or go to a landfill. Plastic bags require a special recycling machine, so typical recycling collections do not handle plastic bags. As a result, plastic bags almost always end up in the environment either as litter or in a landfill.

Plastic production and widespread use must be either regulated or stopped to prevent this widespread impact. This bill aims to take one step towards that process.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill will impose a 2% tax on any orders that use plastic bags (as opposed to a tax on each bag), thereby incentivising shoppers to use reusable bags. Stores will be required to include the tax on receipts to make buyers aware of the change.

This bill will take effect June 1st, 2025.

SECTION III: FUNDING

N/A

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

N/A

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 214

Rylee Cote Mandeville High School
Jenna Sturdevant

TITLE: Regulate and Limit the Production of Liquefied Natural Gas

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Liquefied Natural Gas is a cooled natural gas, mainly composed of methane, used as a power source which is shipped worldwide. Methane is lost through the process of ship transportation, polluting the atmosphere and affecting nearby residents with negative health issues in the forms of: cancer; reproductive, maternal, and newborn harm; and respiratory ailments. It is as physically harmful as it is environmentally. The development of new LNG plants will have further detrimental effects towards the Louisiana fishing industry, wetlands, and global warming. The locations of the proposed processing plants are located in low income and minority communities.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill will prohibit the development of new processing plants which produce Liquefied Natural Gas. All previously established corporations will be required to fortify their plants to decrease methane emissions; Once these plants expire, they will be decommissioned.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Funding is not necessary for implementation of this bill.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If methane emissions are above the annual threshold of 25,000 metric tons per company, first time offenders will be fined a minimum of $900 per extra ton and monitored for 3 months to prevent further harm, ensuring that they emit a maximum of only 6,250 tons in this 3 month period. Second time offenders will be fined a minimum of $1,800 per extra ton, and operations will be suspended for 1 month to allow for facility improvements. Third time offenders will be permanently decommissioned and fined $3,600 per extra ton.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 215

Austin Roberson Catholic High School
Peyton Trigo

TITLE: Light up Louisiana

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

We have all been there; walking or driving on a completely dark street with no streetlights in sight. Streetlights are vital to providing a sense of safety as well as visibility at night. Studies have shown that a lack streetlights accounts for 39% of fatal accidents at night, 75% of pedestrian fatalities, and increases chances of accidents with bicyclists by 36%. A lack of streetlights also has a direct correlation with an increase of home invasions, grand theft auto, and kidnappings, as well as other crimes at night. This bill plans to make the streets safer by installing more streetlights on public roads and neighborhoods.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill will require all local governments to oversee the development of new streetlights and maintaining current ones. All major roads will require at least 25ft tall streetlights separated by 60-75ft. All other roads will require at least 20ft tall streetlights separated by 50-60ft. New neighborhoods will be required to follow these guidelines and will have to maintain them as well. Only well-traveled and paved roads will be required to install streetlights to save on cost and resources. The bill will go into action January 1, 2025, and streetlights should begin to be installed within 6 months. This will not be a quick progress as installing new streetlights all over a city could take several years. After 6 months has passed, DOTD will send out drivers every 2-3 months to inspect areas with previously no streetlights to check for progress being made.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Generally, local governments are responsible for installing and maintaining streetlights, including paying for them. With many new streetlights being installed, the state will step in to help provide funds to towns and cities that do not have the funding. Local governments will apply for a grant where they will list the required amount of streetlights needed and the cost. The average streetlight cost $2000-$3000 dollars with an installation fee of around $1000 dollars. This grant money will come from the $390 million dollars set aside for road infrastructure by the state.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Local governments who refuse to install new streetlights will receive a $1500 fine every 3 weeks until signs of attempting to design or plan new streetlights are seen.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 216

Everett Kramer Jesuit High School
James Denning

TITLE: P.I.N.K. Pink Induces Non-aggressive Kars

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Pink has repeatedly been found to induce joy, decreased aggressiveness, and overall calmness. Research into the color pink began with Alexander Schauss, who noted that when faced with a piece of cardboard of a specific shade of pink, people's strength and aggression decreased. Two scientists named Baker and Miller heard this theory and applied it to their naval prison's "drunk tank," a cell for drunk people. They also reported lower aggressiveness. Prisons across multiple countries use a certain shade of pink, called Baker-Miller Pink or Drunk Tank Pink, to calm their inmates.

Why should our glorious state not take advantage of this? The time is right to utilize colors to make our roads safer by mandating pink spare tires. Similar to violent prisoners, angry drivers pose a significant threat to good law-abiding citizens. However, if they are exposed to pink, drivers will become calmer and safer. This is a quick and easy solution to an ongoing issue.

In addition, this will foster greater state-identity because all Louisiana vehicle owners will have pink tires.

Let's unite for a more exuberant Louisiana.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill mandates that all registered vehicles in Louisiana capable of carrying a spare tire adorn each with a pink rim.

Pink is defined as wavelengths of light between 620 nm-750 nm. DOTD will include on their website an image of all acceptable shades of pink which car owners can compare against their rim color.

Police officers will be issued a Color Card, about the size of a bookmark, that displays the ranges of acceptable shades of pink. Police officers will be required to check for a pink spare tire every time they inspect a car or driver.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Negligible costs of printing Color Cards for officers will be covered by Police Stations.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Those found in noncompliance with this bill will face a fine of 50$.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 217

Miriam Lovell Archbishop Hannan High School
Daniel King

TITLE: CASH

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Louisiana law states that sexual education is not a requirement but is left up to individual school boards. Though Lousiana Revised Statute 17:281, Section A (2) states that, "'sex education' shall not include religious beliefs, practices in human sexuality, nor the subjective moral and ethical judgments of the instructor or other persons.", Section A (3) states that "The major emphasis of any sex education instruction offered in the public schools of this state shall be to encourage sexual abstinence between unmarried persons." Section A (3)(a) goes on to say that schools with a sex ed program should "Emphasize abstinence from sexual activity outside of marriage as the expected standard for all school-age children." Because of this, Louisiana's current sex-ed curriculums often follow the abstinence-only model. Additionally, the existing sex ed curriculum is not required to be either medically or technically accurate, with materials only having to be reviewed by the local parish/school board and a parental committee (Section C), not medical professionals. Abstinence-only sex ed, or complete lack of sex-ed, has been proven ineffective and often harmful, as seen in Louisiana's high teen pregnancy rate, which is 3rd in the nation, per CDC data. CASH, short for Comprehensive and Accurate Sex-ed in High School, will revamp the existing AOUM (abstinence-only until marriage) curriculum used in Louisiana high schools and be integrated into schools with no sex education programs. CASH will also require all Louisiana high schools to adopt the new curriculum. CASH will result in lower rates of teenage pregnancy, lower HIV and STD rates, reduced social stigma surrounding sexual health, and more sexually literate adolescents.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Before implementing CASH, a curriculum must be crafted. A board of medically certified experts from the CDC will be tasked with the creation of this curriculum. A baseline curriculum would cover the male and female reproductive systems, the menstrual cycle, fetal development and birth, birth control methods (condoms, hormonal birth control, NFP, IUDs, etc.), medically accurate abortion and IVF education, and STDs and their transmission. Schools would use one semester of their state-mandated PE course to implement this in the first semester of current PE requirements. CASH must be completed before the sophomore year (7th-9th grade), [with exceptions made for out-of-state transfer students]. This should not be an issue as many schools already do PE early on. PE not only encompasses physical activity and exercise but also education about our bodies. Students will be taught from the CDC's provided material, and all material must be covered. Students will be assessed with quizzes/tests created by the CDC as part of the curriculum. CASH is a graduation requirement.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Funding to have the CDC develop CASH's curriculum would pull approximately $5,000 from the tax money that is already allocated to Louisiana schools. Funds to finance CASH's implementation in schools already exist, and may simply be redirected from AOUM and/or Physical Education to CASH, as it will replace a semester of the aforementioned courses.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

The completion of CASH will be a requirement to graduate from high school in Louisiana (like courses such as PE and fine arts). Students who do not complete CASH will not graduate high school in the state of Louisiana, whether they attend a public or private institution.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 218

Walker Prejean Lafayette High School

TITLE: Prevent Completions Through Youth-Involved Commissions

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Commissions are permanent bodies created by the state legislature to seek an expert or specialized opinion on legislation and policies implemented statewide. State commissions today span topics from racing to livestock to folklife, all with the common goal of creating policies surrounding the specialized topic. So far, only one specialized legislative group has been enacted to target modern mental health ailments: the Task Force African American Suicide Prevention. Since it is a Task Force, however, there is no guarantee that it will be permanent, as it will disband after completing its primary duty of gathering statistics. The lack of mental health representation calls for a structural change in the state legislature. A mental health commission would be a permanent catalyst for effective suicide prevention legislation and would mitigate stigmas surrounding the subject. According to a Healthy Minds survey, as of 2023, more than 60 percent of college students meet the criteria for at least one mental health problem, which is nearly a 50 percent increase since 2013. Also, in 2023, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that 40% of High School students had persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness, 20% of High School students considered attempting suicide, and 9% attempted suicide at some point. Louisiana has also ranked first in (highest) depression and anxiety rates in a study by Meditation and the CDC between 2020 and 2023. Conversely, a significant issue with creating solutions to mental health ailments is the age divide between students and legislatures. With congressmen often being out of touch with younger generations, amplifying youth voices when creating and analyzing solutions is essential.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Beginning January 1st, 2026, a standing task force named the "Student Suicide Prevention Commission" (SSPC) will be created to oversee, advise, and propose mental health policy for elementary through college students. Additionally, the commission will find, present, analyze, and consider statistics gathered in and out of the state regarding student and youth mental health. The commission will present its key findings and statistics regarding youth mental health to the legislature at least once each regular annual session. The Commission is to consist of nineteen members. In the case of absence, commission members are allowed to designate a substitute to represent them at the meeting but are not counted in the quorum. All members who do not depend on holding an office position serve for one year and have no term limits.

1) A chairperson appointed by the governor. This chair is encouraged to be a member of the state legislature. They are to ensure proper flow of conversation and presentation as well as appointments for the other spots.

2) A member of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education appointed by the SSPC chairperson.

3/4) Two 6th through 12th grade school counselors with proper CACREP certification and at least 6 years of experience in school counseling. These are to be appointed by the SSPC chairperson.

5) One member of the Louisiana State Board of Licensed Professional Counselors appointed by the SSPC chairperson.

6) The Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.

7/8) The chairs of the House and Senate Health and Welfare committees.

9/10) Two members of the Louisiana Academy of Medical Psychologists appointed by the SSPC chairperson.

11/12) Two university counselors with proper credentials who deal with undergraduate students appointed by the SSPC chairperson.

13) One university professor in clinical psychology appointed by the SSPC chairperson.

14/15) Two discretionary appointees from the governor (typically saved for board alumni).

16/17/18/19) Two public or private university undergraduate students in their third or fourth year and two public or private high school students in their junior or senior year. These four students will be appointed by the Department of Education. Discretion will be given to the Department of Education to set qualifications for the college seats. Still, the department must consider leadership experience, letters of recommendation, experiences surrounding mental health, and passion for the subject.

Eleven of the nineteen designated elected members must be in attendance for a meeting to meet a quorum, meaning official meetings will only take place if at least eleven official members attend. The commission will hold a minimum of four public meetings in the state capitol, which will be streamed on the state legislature's website. Outside meetings can either be digital or in person.

SECTION III: FUNDING

The Department of Education and Department of Health budgets will reimburse travel costs for in-person meetings at the state capitol.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

There are no penalties necessary for this bill.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 219

David Huang Baton Rouge Magnet High School

TITLE: Opening Doors for Today's Youths: Lowering the Alcohol Service Age to 17

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Currently in Louisiana, the legal age to procure a liquor license is 18 years old, with exceptions to 17 year olds if they do not mix or tamper with the alcohol in any way and just sell it in their boxed or bottled form. This legal age precedent prevents many employment opportunities for youths within the state, which contributes to other larger-picture issues not just in the alcohol service industry like youths being seen as less quality employees and Louisiana being one of the last states in both youth employment and youth summer employment. Without this changed alcohol service age, many youths may not see fair compensation for their work in industries like retail and food service, since they wouldn't legally be able to service liquor which serves as a huge portion of revenue at many businesses and establishments. This bill aims to allow youths to become more competitive in more workplaces and seek out new employment opportunities, along with giving more pathways for future career opportunities for them.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill will lower the legal age requirement to procure a liquor license in Louisiana to 17. This bill would not affect any other part in the process, like the training and courses required for the license or the minimum salary given to youths and all workers with liquor licenses.

SECTION III: FUNDING

This bill does not require any funding.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

There are no penalties associated with this bill.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 220

Neal Tandon Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies

TITLE: Companies Allowed to Purchase Institutional Territories And Lead to Increased Synthesis of Money (CAPITALISM)

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Louisiana's education system has long faced financial shortfalls, resulting in a lack of resources for school infrastructure, teacher salaries, and student services. According to the Louisiana Department of Education, the state allocated approximately $4.7 billion to K-12 education for the 2025 fiscal year budget. However, Louisiana continues to rank near the bottom nationwide, placing 46th in education and 43rd in average teacher salary, with an annual average of $52,660. Furthermore, teacher retention remains a significant concern, with approximately 7,000 teachers leaving the profession annually due to low salaries, limited resources, and insufficient support. To bridge these funding gaps and empower Louisiana's educational institutions, this bill proposes a model allowing corporate entities to provide direct financial sponsorship to school districts or specific schools. These partnerships would enable schools to generate additional revenue through corporate branding opportunities, creating a sustainable funding stream for improving resources, teacher salaries, and overall educational quality.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill will establish a framework through which corporate entities can sponsor Louisiana public schools and districts by providing financial contributions. The Louisiana Department of Education will establish a Sponsorship Review Board to oversee and approve all corporate sponsorships, ensuring they align with educational standards and the public interest. Sponsorship contracts will be reviewed biannually, with an option for renewal or termination based on compliance with the terms and impact on school resources.

Corporations can apply to sponsor a school district or individual school. Once approved, they may contribute a specified amount of funding based on district or school needs, as assessed by the Louisiana Department of Education. Sponsored schools may publicly display the corporate entity's name within the school's branding (e.g., "[Company Name] High School"), depending on the choice of the sponsoring company aligning with guidelines set by the Department of Education. Additionally, sponsored schools are permitted to display the corporate sponsor's logo and name in designated areas, including but not limited to school signage, gymnasiums, stadiums, event programs, and school uniforms. Corporate sponsors may receive recognition at school-sponsored events, such as athletic competitions, academic events, and graduation ceremonies.

A minimum of 70% of corporate sponsorship funds must be allocated to school improvement initiatives, including but not limited to infrastructure updates, campus safety standards, classroom technology, and academic resources. A minimum of 20% of sponsorship funds must be directed towards teacher salary enhancements, with the intention of improving teacher retention and supporting competitive wages. Remaining funds may be used for student support services, such as mental health resources, after-school tutoring programs, and school-based health centers.

SECTION III: FUNDING

While corporate sponsorships will provide a substantial new revenue source for schools, administrative costs related to the implementation and oversight of this program will be funded by the Louisiana Department of Education's existing budget. This includes costs associated with the establishment of the Sponsorship Review Board and the enforcement of sponsorship guidelines.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

In the event a school or district doesn't uphold the agreement and fails to use sponsorship funds in accordance with the required allocations will face suspension of corporate sponsorship rights until compliance is restored. Any misappropriated funds must be reimbursed to the Sponsorship Review Board, to be redistributed to compliant schools or districts.

Corporations failing to honor their financial agreements or engaging in actions deemed detrimental to the school environment will have their sponsorship privileges revoked. In such cases, the Sponsorship Review Board will facilitate a reallocation of funds to maintain educational support for the impacted schools.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

SENATE BILL 221

Aiswarya Nair Baton Rouge Magnet High School
Abigail Qi

TITLE: Louisiana Health Workforce Expansion and Cancer Alley Prevention Initiative

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

"Cancer Alley" is an 85-mile industrial corridor along the Mississippi River in Louisiana, where over 150 petrochemical plants and refineries contribute to one of the highest cancer rates in the United States. Studies have linked elevated cancer rates in this area to exposure to industrial pollutants. Due to the shortage of healthcare professionals trained in environmental health and cancer prevention in Louisiana, this problem continues to worsen.

This bill seeks to address this gap by creating incentives to attract healthcare professionals, particularly those with expertise in cancer care and environmental health, to work in Cancer Alley. By increasing healthcare job opportunities and developing specialized training programs for local students, the bill aims to improve health outcomes and access to essential care in this high-need region.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Establish a statewide program offering financial incentives, including loan forgiveness and salary bonuses, to healthcare workers who commit to working in Cancer Alley and other high-need areas for at least three years.

Expand CTE (career and technical development) programs that target key roles such as environmental health specialists, cancer treatment specialists, public health educators, and epidemiologists. This includes creating certification programs in partnership with local universities and health centers.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Funding will come from a combination of state allocations, federal grants for healthcare workforce development, and partnerships with healthcare institutions. Additional funding could be allocated from fines levied on companies exceeding pollution limits in Cancer Alley.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Healthcare workers receiving incentives who do not fulfill their required service period will repay incentives received. Penalties for healthcare institutions failing to provide appropriate resources to incentivized workers will include fines or disqualification from participation in the program.

Companies found to be actively polluting Cancer Alley regions at levels exceeding regulatory limits will face increased penalties, a portion of which will be allocated to support this bill's initiatives.

HOUSE BILLS

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 318

Avalyn Gardner University Laboratory School

Luke Moser

TITLE: The "No Suprises Act" Inclusion for Ambulance Rides.

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

The “No Surprises Act”, which went into effect in 2022, ensures protection of patients receiving surprise billing from services done out of network from their insurance. Whilst this saved many citizens from unexpected costly bills, the act fails to cover ambulance rides. This means the average two million five hundred fifty thousand patients a year who unknowingly received out of network ambulance rides had to pay an unforeseen $1000 dollars out of pocket. This leads to the 23% of Americans saying that during a medical emergency in which they needed immediate transportation they purposely did not call an ambulance due to the cost. No amount of money is worth a human life. The real cost of ambulance rides is lives.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

If passed the “No Surprises Act” will be refined to include this on January 1, 2025

SECTION III: FUNDING

The government does not need to apply additional funding to enforce this inclusion as the original act only required the private health plans to cover these out-of-network claims and apply in-network cost sharing.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

As this will just be an inclusion to an already passed act, the penalties will be the same as the preexisting penalties. The preexisting penalties are as follows: Healthcare providers that violate the No Surprises Act are subject to civil monetary penalties of up to $10,000.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 319

London Joseph University Laboratory High School

Victoria Brooks

TITLE: Requirement of Behavioral Health Training Certification from Police Officers

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

All police officers need to be required to complete behavioral health training (BHT) before officially becoming an officer. BHT trains police officers to know how to recognize and respond to different behavioral and mental health issues the subject may be present with. According to the Bureau of Justice Assistance U.S. Department of Justice, at least one in four individuals were fatally shot by police had a serious mental illness. The risk of being killed while being approached or stopped by law enforcement in the community is 16 times higher for individuals with serious mental illness than other civilians.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

While behavioral health training is already a class available to police officers, it is not mandatory. For this bill to take effect it has to be mandatory for all officers.Out of the total number of weeks police officers train, 1/7 of those weeks will be dedicated to BHT.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Determining an exact cost is difficult for this bill, but there will be minimal costs. Each officer will pay for their own time into the class.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If you break this law, you will not have the certification for being a police officer completed. Therefore you will not be approved to be an officer.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 320

Hannah Poynter Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies

TITLE: Reform Louisiana Swimming Gender Classification Policies

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Not everyone feels like they belong in the gender binary, and some people choose to receive gender-affirming care to appear how they feel inside. However, gender identity becomes negligible when it affects the results of competitions that women spend their lives training and preparing for. Currently, Louisiana Swimming holds the stance that, in order to swim in female events, transgender women need to fill out a Self-Identification Verification only 30 days prior to a swim meet and demonstrate testosterone levels less than 5 nmol/L continuously for at least 36 months prior to the date of application. If there appears to be a competitive advantage a panel is convened but they are NOT allowed to request any prohibited testing or gynecological exams. The regulations for swimming in the female category are not all-encompassing of the differences between male and female athletes and provide an unfair advantage over biological females. After the onset of puberty, males develop muscles that have a greater power output and overall mass than females. Males also have an average 12% more hemoglobin in their blood than females, which is directly responsible for carrying oxygen throughout the body. Females have more restrictive lungs than males which leads to diaphragmatic fatigue at a faster rate. There is proof that respiratory muscles in females command a greater fraction of whole-body ventilations and cardiac output during high-intensity exercise, which leaves less energy for skeletal muscles to expend. There are many apparent physiological advantages that males possess over their female competitors that should be taken into account when considering gender classification in Louisiana Swimming.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill requires that athletes compete in the category of their gender assigned at birth. In select cases, such as Disorders of Sex Development(DSD) where one exact sex is unclear, athletes may compete in the female category if they can provide suitable satisfaction that they have not experienced any part of male puberty beyond Tanner Stage 2 (the first signs of secondary sex characteristics). Athletes who wish to swim under the female category must continuously maintain testosterone levels under 2.5 nmol/L--because biological females have testosterone levels between 0.5 and 2.4 nmol/L. Every athlete, regardless of sex or gender identity, will be required to obtain a physical examination from their physician and turn it into Louisiana Swimming upon registration for a swim meet. An updated physical needs to be submitted at least once a year. This is to ensure there is a holistic knowledge of the swimmer and prove they have no competitive advantage as a result of their sex.

SECTION III: FUNDING

No funding is necessary.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If it is found that an athlete is competing under the incorrect category then the athlete is forced to register under the appropriate category of competition. If they refuse, they are not allowed to compete in the meet. If a coach registers a swimmer under the incorrect gender there will be no immediate punishment for the coach– the swimmer will simply be forced to register under the appropriate category of competition. If it is a repeated occurrence, the coach will be removed from the swim meet. Current Louisiana Swimming Rules state that swimmers must always be supervised by a USA Swimming member Coach, so in the event that the coach is removed from the meet, swimmers are no longer allowed to compete or they must find a different coach.

HOUSE BILL 321

Ayiana Canoe Pineville High School
Kendall Friis

TITLE: To: Legalize the Use of Psychological Evaluations in Abuse Cases

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

According to Louisiana law, abuse is defined as “the infliction of physical ornamental injury, or actions which may reasonably be expected to inflict physical injury, on an adult by other parties.” This is most recognized as domestic abuse, sexual abuse, abandonment, isolation, exploitation, and extortion. Humans learn from their mistakes; as much as society hates to admit, offenders learn the same way. This is why when the offense is repeated, it often becomes more discrete and cases are dismissed. It has been proven that psychological abuse rarely happens in isolation from other forms. From a national perspective, the rate of nonfatal domestic violence is declining. This gives the impression that abuse has evolved into something less somatic and more intellectual. That thought process has been supported by the confirmation that both victims and abusers tend to refrain from seeking help. This raises the question “Can psychological abuse be used to prove physical abuse?” If the court could prove signs of psychological abuse, this could be used to form a case around the unsubstantial evidence of physical abuse.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Cases of abuse with little physical evidence will be subject to a lengthy court-ordered psychological evaluation to be used as evidence. This evaluation will include questions of safety for the patient, family, or other involved persons, and any past or current treatments that could affect the patient. A psychological evaluation will also be performed on the accused and other involved parties to determine the severity.

SECTION III: FUNDING

No funding will be required for this bill.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Any parties who decline the aforementioned psychological evaluation will be held in contempt of court and follow the standard denied psychological evaluation procedures.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 322

Kaitlyn Yates Central High School

TITLE: Homeless Healthcare

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

As of right now, a little over 60 percent of homeless people do not have access to healthcare. Why is this important you may ask? Providing healthcare to the homeless is not just a compassionate choice, it's also a practical choice that can benefit both individuals and society as a whole. We think of homeless people as lazy or dirty just because they live on the street. While this may be true, some of these people have disabilities that do not allow them to get a job. Not having a job leads them to become homeless because with no stable income, they are not able to afford housing much less hospital bills. Hospital bills on average cost a person almost 3,000 dollars and can get up into the millions depending on the procedure done. Homeless people are not able to pay these bills, therefore do not get the help they need.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Jobs that are easier for the homeless to work at will be created this way they are able to make money to save for a house and stable living. By having a job, they are able to get the healthcare they need and slowly pay off their hospital bills. Taxes would be lowered for the homeless until they have a more stable way of living. By having low taxes, they can save more money to create a stable living for themselves.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Funding is needed to create these jobs to get these homeless people on their feet. There would only be money needed to create these jobs. Also, the tax for the homeless would go form 19.71 percent to around 3 percent until they have a more stable income.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If a person would presume themself to be homeless to get free healthcare, on the first offense they would have to pay their hospital bill out of pocket. On the second offense, they would pay their medical bills out of pocket as well as paying a fine of 500 dollars. On the third offense, they would pay their hospital bill, pay a fine of 1000 dollars, and face incarceration of as little as 2 years.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 323

Regan Pizza Lafayette High School

TITLE: Implement and Regulate Solar Panel Usage Within the State of Louisiana

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

With regards to the fact that Louisiana has a prominently distinguished environment, the air and water quality of the state continuously deteriorates as a result of deforestation, construction, carbon emissions from mobile sources, agricultural waste, and urban runoff. Subsequently, almost 99 percent of Louisiana's air pollution from total emission is caused by the combustion of fossil fuels. The air quality within Louisiana has plummeted so evidently, that there are an approximate 85 additional cancer cases throughout particular areas of the state per year. Solar panels are distinctive alternatives to the burning of fossil fuels, as they are durable devices, lasting 25 to 30 years, that utilize renewable energy from the conversion of sunlight to electrical energy. As they are dearth in the generative greenhouse gasses that fossil fuels output, they avoid and prevent further environmental damage associated with the sought for fossil fuels via mining or drilling, as well as the additional output of carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels. Particular areas and buildings within a myriad of Louisiana towns go without utilization, or more commonly, abandoned and uninhabited buildings littered across the state go without refurbishment. The state of Louisiana is also ranked second for the most vacant housing across the nation. Therefore, in place of furthering negative effects on the air quality of Louisiana with deforestation to lay solar panels, the rehabilitation of many abandoned buildings, apartment complexes, etc. would be primary platforms for the implementation of solar panels – in a way that not only allows for less greenhouse gas emissions, but also the utilization of desolate areas throughout the state, the preservation of greenery and forests, and the stray away from interference with rainfall, drainage, and habitats. During energy production, solar panels can also alleviate waste and contamination within water sources, as the effects of thermal power plants and other energy sources are mitigated in the presence of solar panels. The implementation and regulation of solar panels within the state of Louisiana would ultimately be a profound progression towards a cleaner environment, financial savings, and the health of citizens.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Solar panels will be easily accessible and beneficial for citizens in a number of ways. For one, providing tax incentives will mitigate the seemingly expensive costs for implementing solar panels, thus increasing the accessibility and encouragement towards solar panel usage. As for residential establishments, citizens will be informed of the benefits of varying solar panels, either ground-mounted or installed upon the roofs of such buildings within the area of one's possession. Partnering with utility companies to provide net metering will allow for offset of electricity usage, therefore saving money in areas with installed solar panels, and allowing for low-income regions to have access to installation. Net metering will be beneficial for business establishments as well, as they will significantly decrease their monthly electricity consumption followed by expansive billing. Actively engaging with communities via PSAs and community meetings to educate citizens on the benefits and mechanisms of solar panels will further allow implementation, understanding, and a sense of encouragement for communities to regard solar energy as beneficial alternatives for fossil fuels. Target community programs and activities will be utilized for the spread of solar energy awareness. The rehabilitation of abandoned or disregarded buildings will be the lead for a primary platform for solar panels in regards to the fact that they remain scattered and unused across the state. This is intended to be implemented within the next three years, as solar panels become carbon neutral after such time.

SECTION III: FUNDING

The average residential cost of the installed solar panel in Louisiana is just over $32,000 before incentives. The average cost per watt is $2.75/W, with the most efficient solar panels being around 370-445 solar watts, therefore costing someone an average of around $1120 for one solar panel alone. The federal government offers a Solar Investment Tax Credit to all citizens, allowing for up to 30% of the deduction for all solar installations directly funded by one's federal taxes. A possible source of funding would be a federal grant in support of a solar panel project within the state of Louisiana, foreseeing the significant 30% decrease in costs across the state for solar energy. Although solar panels may be deemed expansive financial decisions, the usage of solar energy is often presumed to save around $50,000 after 25 years of a one time installation – thus, budgets of many Louisiana taxpayers would likely not be altered.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

There will be no penalties if one does not wish to install solar panels upon a property.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 324

Caden McAllister Prairieville High School

TITLE: Louisiana AI Committee for Oversight and Education (LAICOE)

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

The measure known as the Louisiana AI Committee for Oversight (LAICO) deals with the growing impact of artificial intelligence (AI) in fields such as banking, healthcare, and law enforcement. There is a pressing need for ethical monitoring of AI and its training mainly because, according to Grand View Research, the global AI market is expected to grow from $62.35 billion in 2020 to over $1 trillion by 2028. Currently there are major worries regarding algorithmic prejudice and data privacy, which are backed by the following evidence:

-Data Privacy: According to a Pew Research Center survey, 70% of Americans are concerned about how AI systems may exploit their data, underscoring the need for robust safeguards.

-Algorithmic Bias: According to a Nature sponsored research group, such hiring algorithms have the worrying potential to unfairly discriminate when selecting who to hire

-Expert Opinions: With renowned AI Ethicist Dr. Kate Crawford emphasizing that AI could pose a serious risk in many institutions, reinforcing the need for regulation

LAICO's primary focus will be on promoting AI education and development in Louisiana, with the following objectives:

-Expanding AI curriculum in public universities and high schools.

-Fostering partnerships between educational institutions and the tech industry.

-Supporting the growth of ethical AI startups in the state.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill will take effect on August 1, 2025. The governor will appoint a seven-member committee with expertise in AI, ethics, and education to oversee the following initiatives:

-Curriculum Development: Within 60 days of the bill's passage, the committee will work with educational institutions to expand AI courses in universities and integrate AI units into high school computer science classes, required by the 2026-2027 academic year.

-Grant Programs: The committee will establish grants for public schools and universities to support AI curriculum development, promoting collaboration with local tech companies.

-Public Feedback: A preliminary report on ethical AI practices will be released by March 1, 2025, with public feedback sessions to ensure community input.

-Final Guidelines: Final ethical AI guidelines will be published before August 1, 2025. The committee will hold quarterly meetings and issue annual public reports, starting January 15, 2026.

-Ongoing Monitoring: The committee will monitor compliance and evaluate AI integration in education, making adjustments as needed based on feedback.

SECTION III: FUNDING

The bill will reallocate existing state funds from the general fund for educational initiatives. Specifically, funding will be drawn from:

-General Fund for Educational Initiatives: Any unspent funds within the state's general educational initiatives budget that have not been fully utilized in previous fiscal years will be reassigned to support AI curriculum development and resources.

-Educational Technology Grants: If necessary, unutilized funds from grants aimed at enhancing classroom technology may be repurposed to support the development of AI-related educational resources.

Tax credits will be available for companies that meet the committee's ethical guidelines, further promoting responsible AI development.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Organizations that violate the ethical guidelines established by LAICO will face several penalties to ensure compliance:

-Monetary Fines:

$10,000 for the first offense

$25,000 for the second offense

$50,000 for subsequent violations

-Compliance Training: Organizations may be required to undergo mandatory training on AI regulations at their own expense.

-Public Disclosure: Violators must publicly disclose any violations and explain the corrective actions taken, which could impact their reputation.

-Suspension of Operations: In severe cases of non-compliance, specific AI tools and systems may be temporarily suspended until compliance is achieved.

-Loss of Incentives: Organizations may lose state incentives for AI development if found non-compliant.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 325

Reese Geraci Prairieville High School

TITLE: Free Lunch and Breakfast for Public School Students

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

In Ascension Parish, the cost of a high school lunch is $2.95, and the cost of breakfast is $1.45. For a high school student with no reduced or free meals, to get breakfast and lunch from school everyday, it would cost up to $796 per year, which is assuming the student would not purchase any extra food the whole year. School lunch has reached a very high price and, while there are programs in place for students to have free or reduced lunch, families that do not meet the minimum income standards for these programs may still struggle to provide the money for these lunches.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

If passed, this bill will go into effect at the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year. This bill proposes that all public schools in Louisiana will provide a free first breakfast and lunch to all students, regardless of their income. This bill applies to all public schools in the state of Louisiana. This bill does not apply to private or charter schools. The cost of a second breakfast or lunch may be determined by the individual school boards, and the school board may also set the price of any extra items sold separately from lunch.

SECTION III: FUNDING

The Louisiana Department of Education has over $8 billion dollars in funds, according to the Louisiana House of Representatives. To further add to this fund, the tax on consumable vapor products in Louisiana will be raised from $0.15 per milliliter of consumable nicotine liquid solution to $0.25 per milliliter of consumable nicotine liquid solution, and these taxes will be used to fund the production of school meals. This will create about $400 million for the fund per year.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If a public school is caught not giving a free first breakfast and lunch to all students, the school's funding for athletics and extracurricular activities will be cut 10% for the first offense, 15% for the second offense, and 25% for all offenses following.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 326

Eleanor Whitman Dutchtown High School

Penelope Whitman

TITLE: Unfair teenage employment in the state of Louisiana

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Have you ever wanted to buy something, but didn't have enough money? For many teens, a job would be the perfect way to earn extra cash. However, in Louisiana, youth are not allowed to work until the age of 16, limiting opportunities for younger teens to gain work experience and develop essential life skills.

The current law, which restricts teens from working until age 16, not only limits their opportunities for career exploration but also denies them the chance to develop crucial skills like time management, responsibility, and teamwork. By starting jobs at a younger age, teens can build a strong foundation for future success. They could understand the importance of time management, they could earn extra money which allows for financial responsibility, they could create bonds with staff and others employed, and some could even find their passions which leads to career opportunities down the road.

A 2021 WalletHub study found that Louisiana has the highest risk for youth compared to other states. The study assessed 15 factors, including disconnected youth, aged from 16- to 24-year-olds with only a high school diploma who aren't working or in school. Louisiana ranks among the top five states for the highest percentages of disconnected youth, youth without a high school diploma, and overweight or obese youth. From this study, they determined about one in nine people between these ages were without work and education. It's clear that we need to find better ways to engage young people and provide them with opportunities to succeed.

If we could get younger teens, such as 14 or 15-year-olds, to work, they could earn these economic and personal benefits that come with a job. Rather than older teens working, younger teens could establish good habits and skills, proving those statistics incorrect.

States like Texas and California have established clear guidelines for teen employment, including strict limits on hours and the types of work that are allowed. These states have found a balance between work and school, which allows teens to gain valuable experience without interfering with their education. Louisiana could benefit from adopting similar guidelines and regulations to improve their youth employment rates.

Economically, Texas is ranked #2 while Louisiana is ranked #49, would it not make sense to follow other states with better youth employment rates? Still not convinced? According to The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, The national youth unemployment rate was 9.8% percent in July 2024, higher than the rate in July 2023 which was 8.7%. What better way to battle this statistic than to get more people working? Let's make it easier for teens to work jobs in Louisiana and fill some of the 100K open positions in the state.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Age restrictions and work permits will be created for teens between the ages of 14-15 to work. The permit application will include information about the teen's age, the proposed job, and hours of work. The limitations on work hours will also be enforced. During the school year teens under the age of 16 will not be able to work

more than 15 hours per week, no more than 3 hours per day during school days. No work after 7:00 PM on school nights, and no more than 18 hours per week during school breaks. During the summer or holiday breaks, 40 hours a week is the maximum a teen from 14-15 is permitted to work. Teens can work longer hours in certain industries, like entertainment or family-owned businesses, if specific guidelines are met.

A passing grade in each class is also necessary to work. If the employee cannot prove their academic success, they will not be permitted to work due to conflicts with education and work.

SECTION III: FUNDING

State budgeting will pay for this.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Employers who violate the terms of the law, such as exceeding work hour limits or employing teens in unsafe jobs will be faced with a fine of $500. Teens who do not meet work permit terms will be faced with a minimum of a 3-month suspension from their job or potentially losing their job depending on how serious it is.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 327

Ada Bourgeois Dutchtown Highschool
Jamison Dove

TITLE: Employee Breaks

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

In Louisiana, Employers are not obligated to provide breaks during an 8-hour shift for adult employees. This law applies to people over the age of 16 years old. On average, Adult employees that work full time, work about 8 hours a day. Adults get tired through the day, especially if they have a family at home. They can work all day, and still have to work at home to run their house and take care of their family. So, making it a requirement for employers to give their employees at least a 30 minute break, during their shifts. This would help with burnout employees, and make them work harder because they are able to have breaks during the day. Other states in the US have already implemented laws like this one and it has greatly affected their employees. For example, California has implemented a similar law that states non-exempt employees are entitled to one unpaid 30-minute break, and two paid 10-minute rest breaks, during a typical 8 hour shift. This has improved the way that employers in California work, because they are able to take multiple breaks and not be so burnt out.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Once passed, employers will be required to provide paid, 10 minute breaks for every four hours worked by employees, Then if the shift extends past 5-hours, then they are required to provide a 30 minute lunch break that would be unpaid, unless the employee works through their lunch break, which then the employer must pay them.

SECTION III: FUNDING

The funding from this bill would come from the employer.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

The penalty will be that the employer will not be able to renew their general business license. The department of labor will have to do an inspection of the business to make sure they are obeying the law, if they are obeying it, then they can get their license renewed. If the employer continues to disregard the law, then they will be fined 1000.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 328

Valencia Thierry Dutchtown High School

Cole Carmouche

TITLE: Making Sports Betting Illegal

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Have you ever gotten lucky any time in your life, and instead of quitting maybe you continued to risk it for some prize? What do you think happens when this newfound desire grows and you keep going back for more?

This is called an addiction, and it can affect you and even your mental state. This process occurs most with gamblers. This is because once you or a gambler wins something that you desire, such as money, this causes a tick in your neurons called dopamine, (according to scientific studies) which chooses to flood the hunger for the prize, 10 times more than a natural reward.

Yes, it is fun to get what you want and get rewarded for your “job well done”, but think about the consequences as we speak. Currently, America has an unemployment rate of 4.2%, which yes isn’t much to be concerned about, but it isn’t a laughing matter and should be spoken about. The main cause of unemployment in America is depressions, technological improvements, and gambling. Unemployment has also been linked to gambling in some studies, but gambling can reduce work performance, cause withdrawal from work, and even be a reason for job loss.

This negatively impacts our country since it decreases our economy by a small percentage, which can still affect the US economy by increasing taxes, gas prices, and even inflation. Let’s also not forget that gambling can stimulate the brain's reward system much like drugs or alcohol can, leading to addiction.

People who have a problem with compulsive gambling, may continually chase bets that lead to losses, use up savings, and create debt, like their own children's future college funds, money for bills, or car notes. They may hide their behavior and even turn to theft or fraud to support their addiction. Besides that, we shouldn’t prevent people from having fun in ways to express themselves, but to improve our country step by step correctly, we need to bring awareness about the danger of gambling.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Once passed in the necessary time, the bill will accordingly shut down online and sports betting gambling organizations

SECTION III: FUNDING

There is no necessary funding for this bill.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Anyone who competitively gambles with their system will be fined $250 and will be issued a type of rehabilitation treatment to overcome their arising addiction if their lesson is not learned.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 329

Michael Juneau Baton Rouge Magnet High School

TITLE: An Act to Reform Timekeeping Practices by Adopting Permanent Standard Time

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Sticking to standard time helps establish routines for every level of society. The biannual shift between standard time and daylight saving time (DST) has been linked to disruptions in sleep and circadian rhythms. Studies have shown that the transition to DST can lead to sleep deprivation, which can negatively affect overall health, mood, and productivity. Permanently adopting standard time could reduce these health risks by eliminating the need for time changes. In addition, Standard time would create consistency across the workweek, reducing confusion about work schedules and making it easier for businesses to coordinate across time zones, particularly with other states and regions that might also consider adopting permanent standard time. Louisiana is located farther south, which means the state already experiences long daylight hours in the summer. With standard time, residents could benefit from more natural daylight in the morning hours year-round, rather than having it artificially shifted to later in the evening when it may not be as needed or as productive.Furthermore The constant switching between daylight saving time and standard time can cause confusion in people's daily routines, affecting everything from travel schedules to school start times. Keeping one consistent time year-round would alleviate these disruptions and help people adjust more easily.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

A directive to permanently adopt Central Standard Time (CST) is the time zone Louisiana currently uses during standard time—language about no longer participating in daylight saving time (DST).

SECTION III: FUNDING

This bill requires no funding.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If a business fails to adhere to the mandated time system (for example, continuing to observe daylight saving time after the law is in effect), they could face fines of up to $500 each day if there is a violation. These could also be assessed per violation (e.g., failing to operate at the correct time for a particular event, transaction, or operation).

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 330

Kevin Lu Dutchtown High School
Leo Xiao

TITLE: Prison Access to Rehabilitation and Opportunity for Lasting Empowerment Act (Parole Act)

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Earlier this year, Governor Landry signed and passed Acts 6 and 7, laws significantly reduce access to discretionary parole for the majority of those convicted in this state after August 1 as part of a crackdown on crime. However, Louisiana's prison conditions are deplorable and the prison population is projected to double from 28,387 to 55,803 from 2024-2034. Two state-owned prisons are at full capacity-B.B. Rayburn , Allen- and least 5 prisons are more than 91% in capacity. The estimated cost to construct new prisons for the growing prison population is 2 billion. Louisiana spent about 700 millions on adult correction and sending them all to incarceration isn't the move. The recent laws have, instead of trying to improve the parole system, severely limited discretionary parole based on good behavior and the ability of the incarcerated to access it. Louisiana has a 35.1% recidivism rate and only 4 reentry programs. The purpose of sentencing should not be punishment but rather rehabilitation to return better people to society. Making it easier for prisoners who are well-behaved to diminute prison sentences and transition to parole and other reentry programs will allow individuals to redeem themselves and have a chance at returning to normal life. Those who have access to parole include only 1/9 of the incarcerated. Reentry programs on average decrease recidivism rates by 8%, so it is essential to reduce the incarcerated population to lessen the strain on prisons that are facing overpopulation and unsafe conditions.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Acts 6 and 7 will be repealed. Anyone convicted after August 1, 2024, will be reconsidered for discretionary parole. Convicts who are juvenile should never be sentenced to life without parole. Those with medical infirmities or advanced age should also be considered for parole. Parole boards should automatically consider those who have served 25% of their sentences and decide on parole weighing charges and behavior. Existing parole structures will be improved on a local basis with shifted funding and more parole officers. This bill should be implemented on March 1, 2025.

SECTION III: FUNDING

There will be a shift of 25% of the current prison budget to parole programs, boards, salaries, and supervisors.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

There are no penalties involved.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 331

Lily Thompson Baton Rouge Magnet High School
Brianna Warren

TITLE: The Louisiana Nutrition Reformation Act (LNRA)

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

According to the Louisiana Department of Health, Louisiana has an obesity rate of 19.1% in children ages 10 to 17. This bill aims to target major corporations part in the obesity crisis by regulating the use of high fructose corn syrup and advertisements towards children, and improving consumer understanding of the nutritional value of their food.

Consumption of high fructose corn syrup has increased in Louisiana since 1980, because it is cheaper and easier for corporations to purchase and use. Studies done by the Center for Science in the Public Interest show that large amounts of high fructose corn syrup promote tooth decay and increase the risk of heart disease.

According to the Center for Science in the Public Interest, sugar sweetened beverages (SSBs) are consumed by a vast majority of youth. Research has linked SSB consumption to increased risk of dental problems, cardiometabolic risk factors, weight gain, and obesity. Intake of SSBs other than soda is rising, because parents view certain sugary beverages as healthier options than soda. In a study conducted in 2015, parents were significantly more likely to report allowing their child to drink fruit drinks, sweetened teas, 100% juice, and other low calorie drinks, but significantly less likely to allow their child to drink soda.

Comprehension of food labels among young adults is low. In a study conducted by the Research Journal of Appetite, nutritionists demonstrated that young adults thought they understood food labels better than they actually did; 43.9% stated that they understood them very well, whereas only 27.2% achieved high scores. The study showed that food labels are not adequately understood by many consumers.

Junk food marketing to kids is a $2 billion per year industry. A study conducted in 2013 showed a positive interrelationship between children's exposure to child-targeted fast food ads and consuming food from those restaurants, most notably McDonald's. Advertisements for unhealthy food are shown to contribute to childhood obesity. Products with harmful qualities, e.g. fast food; processed foods high in sugar, salt, and fat; and sugary beverages, are heavily marketed to children, and advertising of unhealthy food products disproportionately targets children from ethnic minority backgrounds and low-income families

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill aims to target major food corporations part in the obesity crisis by regulating the use of high fructose corn syrup and advertisements towards children, and improving consumer understanding of the nutritional value of their food. Implementation will include:

Requiring that the use of high fructose corn syrup in food products be substituted with healthier alternatives; producers must transition to the use of healthier sugar alternatives by 2030; alternatives include maple syrup, golden syrup, tapioca syrup or others that are low in fructose and free from artificial ingredients.

Placing mandatory, front of package warning labels on sweetened, sugary beverages INCLUDING but not limited to, sodas, sports drinks, teas, fruit drinks, 100% juices, and low calorie drinks IF the total sugar is > 5.0g per 100 ml. These labels must be clear and visible and may not be partially or completely covered by any other element. They must cover 25% of the front of the package.

Simplifying and standardizing nutrition labels on food products to more accurately show the amount of sugar, salt, and fat in a food product.

Banning any form of advertising towards children regarding food or drink products that contain more than the cutoff requirements for total sugars, total saturated fat, and total sodium. The cutoffs are:

a.) Total sugar(s)

Solids: > 10.0g per 100 g

Liquids: > 5.0g per 100 ml

b.) Total Saturated fatty acids

Solids: > 4.0g per 100 g

Liquids: > 3.0g per 100 ml

c.) Total Sodium

Solids: > 400mg per 100 g

Liquids: > 100mg per 100 ml

Any food or drink product, including fast food products that contain more than the above cutoffs are effectively prohibited from advertising their products to children in any form, including, but not limited to, TV advertisements, front-of-package images that appeal to/target children, and social media/mobile phone ads. A similar standard applies for any item that uses artificial sweeteners.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Corporations will be expected to cover the costs associated with this bill on their own.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Any corporation or producer that does not comply with this bill will be subject to litigation and fines.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 332

Rania Abbas Haynes Academy For Advanced Studies

Zainab Majid

TITLE: B.R.U.D.A (Banning Red 40 and Using other Dye as Alternative)

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Farmers have been struggling for decades, not receiving fair wages for their produce, even though they work hard to provide for the whole country. This year alone, the profit loss faced in farming reached $27.7 billion, which is a 10% decline since 2022, and is predicted to get worse moving past 2024. Farmers are paying the highest costs on record for labor, interest, and taxes. Additionally, red 40 compounds, like the toxin benzene, have been known to harm the immune system and cause cancer cells in the human body in numerous instances. Several studies have also proven that the dye itself has a major impact on children's behavior by increasing their risk of ADHD. It even has links to aggression and several other mental disorders that are similar to ADHD. In order to prevent this, beetroot dye is healthy, beneficial, and a natural compound that does not negatively affect the human body and red 40 should be banned in edible products.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

To initiate the ban of red 40, farmers who join an organization that requires them to grow beets along with their main crops is where government funding will go, preventing funding from going to the wrong places/people. Joining the organization allows them to grow beets and send them off to labs that check for food safety and the general agricultural testing requirements, along with turning them into natural dyes. The labs will process the beets into a natural dye, and once companies start using this dye, there will be a major decrease in the usage of the synthetic and harmful red dye. The labs will send the dye to food companies, making them implement the natural dye as a replacement for red 40 in their edible products. Edible products that use red 40 will be removed from stock in grocery stores and the red 40 that was in the process of being produced will be sent off to cosmetic or pharmaceutical companies to benefit their products. Therefore, companies producing red 40 will not be affected. The government will be in charge of funding farmers through the money collected from taxpayers that buy the products consisting of beetroot dye.

SECTION III: FUNDING

The government will be funding this bill. The government will increase farmers' pay by 40%, which is only $25 more per typical household in taxes and will effectively boost profits for farmers. The median wage of a farmer is $52,000. A 40% increase will effectively boost wages to a minimum of $72,800.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Companies that do not abide by using beetroot dye as the replacement for red 40 will have to pay fines up to $10,000 dollars, depending on the product's quantity of red 40. Those products will not be eligible for resale according to the FDA.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 333

caitlyn lasseigne dutchtown high
Addison Boudreaux

TITLE: Medical help for athletes

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Imagine your friend gets hurt really badly at a football game and the closest ambulance is 10 minutes out. Would your friend have 10 minutes or not? It all depends. Our bill will ensure that all high school sporting events have ambulances at their games. There have been many instances where athletes were hurt badly and there was no way for them to receive the help they needed quickly. In the Epidemiology of Sports Injuries Among High School Athletes in the United States: Data From 2015 to 2019, it says that “Approximately 90% of student-athletes report sustaining an injury while participating in sports.” Having this bill will make sure that athletes can get the medical attention they need when hurt. Athletes that are in high school should get the same medical reassurance that athletes in college get so this bill would help reassure them that they are safe to play these sports.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill will make sure that all high school contact sporting games will have an ambulance on hand to ensure everyone's safety and these ambulances will be required. This will make sure that if something really serious happens that there is an ambulance on campus.

SECTION III: FUNDING

To fund this bill we would get with Parish leaders to get an EMS millage on everyone’s parish ballot. This millage would consist of 1/10 of a penny depending on the cost to have medical services.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If this bill is passed, high schools that don’t follow the clear instructions of supplying an ambulance at every sports game, the school will first get a written warning. Then if they don’t have an ambulance at the games following their written warning then they will be fined $2,500. After the fine and warning if the school still doesn’t oblige to the law then the school will get their privilege to have contact sports taken away for that school year. The only exception to this would be if there is a shortage of ambulances in the area.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 334

Marielle Robertson Dutchtown High School

TITLE: Act for the Establishment of French Language Centres in Louisiana

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

One thing that makes Louisiana distinct from the rest of the United States is its unique French culture and traditions. These influences can be attributed to Creole and Acadian settlers from France and Canada who brought with them many local customs such as cuisine and music that created a new heritage. One part of this heritage was the use of the French language. Up until the 20th century many louisianians only spoke French and were not even fluent in English. Novels and poetry by Louisiana authors were often written in the French language and contributed to the rich and distinctive culture of our state. This is why it is important that the French language be preserved. It was estimated by the United States Census’ American Community Survey in 2007 that only 3.5% of Louisianians over the age of 5 spoke either French or a French-based creole at home. What caused such a drastic decrease? In 1921, it was against the law for public schools to have instruction in French. Children were punished at school simply for using their native language and many of them were forced to learn English and assimilate into Anglophone culture. Due to this, usage of French has continuously declined over time and if the trend ensues, Louisiana French could become a thing of the past. Organisations such as CODOFIL (Council for the Development of French in Louisiana) have been attempting to revive French for quite a while but still have not made a major impact. A large reason for this is that to many people French is inaccessible. Many locations do not offer resources and instruction for people to learn the language even if they wanted to.This bill proposes that at least 1 French language centre will be available in select parishes in Louisiana. This will guarantee that all those in Louisiana who are passionate about preserving our unique heritage will have the opportunity to do so.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This program would initially establish French language centres in the following parishes, which have been selected for their significant French-speaking populations, strong cultural ties, and community interest in language preservation: Lafayette Parish, Calcasieu Parish, St. Martin Parish, Iberia Parish, Jefferson Parish, Orleans Parish, Rapides Parish, Caddo Parish, Ouachita Parish, St. Tammany Parish, East Baton Rouge Parish, and Ascension Parish. Some of these locations have also been selected based on geographic location and population to ensure access to a wide variety of Louisianians across all regions. Additional parishes will also be able to request a language centre after the initial launch and students can register at a language centre outside of their parish.

This bill will also be made even more accessible by being affordable for all Louisianians. Regardless of income or funds, those who wish to participate will be able to. Individual centres will decide on lesson rates and pricing but all centres are required to offer need-based assistance to those who meet certain qualifications. Acceptance for need-based scholarships will be determined both by income and each family’s individual circumstances, ensuring that all those who are eager to learn shall be given the opportunity.

If passed, this bill will be implemented no later than April 2026.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Estimated funding for this program will be $120,000 from CODOFIL’s money towards scholarships. There will be

no need to construct any buildings for this bill. Existing public libraries and school buildings will be used to house language centres.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If a language centre is not in operation or does not follow the conditions of this bill within the implementation date, funding will be revoked and redirected to another parish.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 335

Elizabeth Monier Dutchtown High School

TITLE: F.E.I.N. (Forsake Exclusionary Impost Negatives)

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

On January 1, 2024, California implemented Assembly Bill 1287. Chapter 555 of the bill prohibits a person, firm, partnership, company, corporation, or business from charging a different price for substantially similar goods that are priced differently based on the gender the product is targeted to. The bill was created because products targeted to females typically have higher prices. This bill aims to enforce the same law in the state of Louisiana. Items will be qualified as substantially similar if there are no notable differences in the materials used to make the items, the intended use of the items, the functional design of the items, and the features of the items are the same. In addition to that, if the items' brand or corporate entity is the same they will also be classified as substantially similar. Goods may include razors, deodorants, toys such as bicycles, and accessories. This law, however, does not prohibit charging different prices for gender-neutral items based on; the amount of time, difficulty, labor, cost incurred, or materials used to manufacture the goods.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill will go into full effect on January 1, 2025. Businesses and organizations will have a three-month grace period to adjust prices accordingly.

SECTION III: FUNDING

No funding is initially required for this bill, as the government is not predicted to lose a significant amount of money. After a one-year period if there is a noticeable decrease in the state funding believed to be caused by this bill, then there will be a 1% increase in the state's 6% gambling winnings tax.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

After the grace period if a business is found violating this bill, the Attorney General can order a company to fix their pricing. After notice the defendant has one week (7 days) to correct their pricing. If pricing is not fixed, they will be penalized a fee not exceeding $10,000 for the first violation and a civil penalty not exceeding $1,000 for each violation following. The total civil penalty shall not exceed $100,000.

A court may also impose additional civil penalties exceeding $100,000 if the defendant continuously violates the bill and further action is required.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 336

Maria Zepeda Dutchtown High School
Vivian Hall

TITLE: Plummet Period Poverty (PPP)

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Many women and girls ages 12 to 44 live below the poverty line, facing significant challenges in accessing essential hygiene products like menstrual supplies. Some families must make difficult choices between purchasing food and menstrual products. The lack of access to feminine hygiene items can lead to students missing school, which negatively impacts their education. One in four menstruating students miss crucial learning opportunities due to a lack of period supplies.

Period products are a basic necessity, similar to toilet paper. Providing these essentials improves the educational experience for many students by preventing them from missing important learning opportunities due to inadequate hygiene resources. Reports indicate that 86% of women have started their period in public without the necessary supplies, which includes students as well.

There is a direct link between student academic success and the availability of hygiene products in schools. When students know they can access hygiene products at school, they do not experience anxiety or fear about when or where they will find the supplies they need. As a result, they can focus better, improve their performance, and reduce disruptions, thus increasing the time spent in class.

Offering period products would also help students maintain good hygiene, particularly for those who cannot afford them, thereby reducing instances of infections and other health complications. Access to these products is not a choice but a necessity, leading to the question: if toilet paper is offered for free, why are feminine hygiene products not?

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Education providers are authorized to utilize program funding for the purchase of menstrual hygiene products, including sanitary napkins, tampons, and pantiliners, as well as for the installation of dispensers in schools. The State Department of Education will manage the allocation of these funds to ensure compliance with relevant regulations. The initiative aims to make menstrual products accessible in all school districts, particularly in those with higher poverty rates. Furthermore, the Department of Education will take responsibility for restocking these supplies as needed.

Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, public high schools in impoverished districts will receive priority funding, ensuring that at least one dispenser is installed in each female bathroom. If successful, the initiative may be expanded to include middle schools in the future.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Louisiana public schools will access $1,000,000 in state funding to provide students with menstrual products. This funding will create a Menstrual Product Accessibility grant program, which allows schools to receive reimbursement for costs related to providing these essential products. Grants totaling approximately $1,000,000 will be awarded annually by the Department of Education. Additionally, public schools can apply for other financial assistance, including the Pads For Schools Grant and the Feminine Hygiene Products Grant Program. Schools may also receive donations from organizations like Auntflow, depending on the policies of the school district.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Schools that fail to comply will face fines, deductions from their funding, and increased monitoring based on the severity of the penalties. There will be a 3 to 6-month period between each offense to allow the school time to address behavior.

- On the first offense, the school will receive a warning

- Upon the second offense, the school will incur a fine of $500.

- If a third offense occurs, the fine will increase to $1,000.

If compliance issues persist, the school will face further penalties, which include an additional $1,500 fine, and mandatory training on menstrual health

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 337

Will Triplett Haynes Academy

TITLE: To Bring Back Direct Democracy

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

All people are incredibly different from each other.. They look different, they sound different, they act differently, and they all have different opinions. If this is true, how can a small group of people truly represent the opinions of every single person? Why are people expected to choose between two wildly different political parties, and agree with all of their values? In the republican government currently in place in Louisiana, the people have little say in the government once they elect representatives. They can lobby or petition, but the government doesn't necessarily have to act in their interest. In practice, this creates a system where many representatives are creating laws and acting in order to win reelection, rather than actually trying to represent the people. However, referendums, which allow people to vote on certain legislation on election days, have been implemented at varying levels in many states, and give people much more of an active voice and vote in their nation or state than electing a representative does. In order to give the people a much larger voice in the way the state is run, this bill will expand referendums to be held for every law, while still maintaining the roles of elected officials in the government. A true direct democracy would be unfeasible because any state needs experts to effectively run it and carry out its laws, but the current power of these officials makes it very difficult for the voice of the people to be heard, so this bill hopes to make a compromise that benefits the state and its people. In Federalist No. 10, an essay in which James Madison supported the current form of republican government and criticized a more direct democracy, Madison claimed that direct democracy would allow for large factions to control the country with voting blocs. Madison is correct in asserting that factions have a negative effect on the nation, but in this current form of government, people arguably vote by faction even more than they would in a direct democracy. In the two-party system, people are largely elected simply because of their association with a certain party, displaying that factions still have a huge influence on our nation and state in a republican government. Under this bill's system of referendums, people may think more about the effects of their vote, because they are directly voting on laws, rather than people attached to political parties. If the people are truly the heart of the state, they should have a much larger voice than they currently do.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Effective no later than January 1, 2026, a petition-style referendum system will be introduced in Louisiana. If a citizen has an idea for a law, they must get 15,000 signatures on a petition in order to send it to the Louisiana legislature. Then, a bipartisan committee must draft a law in line with that petition, utilizing their expertise to refine it as necessary. Once the law is drafted, it will be voted on by the Louisiana public, needing a 2/3 majority to be ratified into law. Citizens are allowed to abstain from any specific proposal, and the 2/3 majority requirement will only count the people who actually voted on it. If a petition wants to create legislation that contradicts current Louisiana law, it will not be accepted. However, a petition can be created to get rid of an already existing law, but it must receive 50,000 signatures rather than 15,000. Any petition that has already been voted on cannot be voted on again for 5 years, unless the governor and senate majority leader agree to make an exception. Also, State Supreme Court justices are still appointed by the governor, but the people must vote to confirm their role. Elections will occur bimonthly while Congress is in session to vote on any legislation that has been written after the previous election. Due to the more involved nature of these elections, each election will be held over a 3-day period, with people having the choice to vote on any one of those days. Also, polling locations will not be required to be open on each of the 3 days, as long as there is at least one polling location open in each voting precinct for each of the 3 days.

SECTION III: FUNDING

No funds will be necessary, as the elections will be held in the same polling locations as they are currently. Members of the legislature will be responsible for reviewing any petitions sent in.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

No penalties needed as this is a change to governmental processes, so it will be followed.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 338

Autumn Miller Lafayette High School

TITLE: “Warn the Public of the Danger of Titanium Dioxide

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

“Titanium dioxide is a color additive used in food that can potentially accumulate in our bodies. It is associated with health risks such as DNA damage and immune system toxicity. “ as stated by the Center for Science in the Public Interest. Titanium dioxide(TIO2), in addition to being a food coloring additive, is also used in cosmetics, sunscreen, and toothpaste. Yes, the same white powder used in your bag of Skittles is also used in your sunscreen. As crazy as this may sound, titanium dioxide use is widespread among many industries and under the laws we currently have can be labeled under vague terms such as “color added” which is problematic for consumers trying to avoid this substance because of its potentially negative effects on your health. In fact the EFSA has already banned this substance in Europe. In addition, The International Agency for Research on Cancer and the New Jersey Department of Health recognizes titanium dioxide as a carcinogenic substance, a substance which can cause cancer. To prevent the deterioration of public health, I propose mandating that companies using titanium dioxide clearly state that the substance is used in the product and provide a warning label that states that this substance could have negative effects on your health. Louisianians have a right to know what they are ingesting and its effects on their health. Your support of this bill would be a first step in making Louisiana a healthier state.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

All companies with products containing titanium dioxide must clearly state on the packaging of said product that their product contains titanium dioxide and a warning that it is a potentially carcinogenic substance by the year 2026 to give compliance time. Warning label must not be smaller than 3 inch by 2 inch and the words“ titanium dioxide” and “potentially carcinogenic ” must be the main focus of the label and typed in a minimum of a 12 point font.

SECTION III: FUNDING

No funding is needed for this bill

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Any company found not in compliance with this bill on first offense will be given a warning, second offense will be fined up to 20,000, after those offenses, companies not in compliance will be fined up to 50,000 dollars each time they disobey this bill. A judge will decide the amount specific to each situation.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 339

Tiana Bergeron Central High School

TITLE: Furry Fridays

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Tension, stress and troubles come to many Louisianians every day and this is a furry solution! To combat these every day problems the citizens will be called to be a furry every Friday. The fuzz will soften our hearts and the whiskers will make us purr. All fursonas are welcome with obvious restraint depending on them. Many are mainly hybrids of 2 or more species but the most common types are, wolves, foxes, dogs, red pandas, marsupials, big cats, and dragons. A fur-suit is the best option but a tail and ears are allowed if your job or school calls for a more low-key fur-suit. This is very necessary for all people especially when tensions are so high all the time a small laugh and a common tradition will lift spirits and unite the masses. Inclusion and belonging are central themes in the furry fandom and they should be included in our society so that we have a furry treat every Friday. If anyone had a furry allergy then the people must use synthetic hairs and they must have a hairless fursona. Naked Mole Rats unite.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Every Friday citizens must wear fur-suits, a tail or kitten ears.

SECTION III: FUNDING

No funding needed unless the citizen puts in their own funding i.e. gofundme for a fur-suit.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If the citizen is pulled over or questioned on a Friday for not having their furry costume they must show proof of their Fursona ID as identification and if they don't have it they must show the cop a picture of them with the furry attire on. If they don't have that then they will be sent to a furry convention to fully appreciate the law.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 340

Andrew Kocen Baton Rouge Magnet High School

TITLE: Phones Down Eyes Up

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

According to the LSU Center for Analytics & Research in Transportation Safety, distracted driving accounted for 6,879 automobile crashes, with 205 of these being fatal. These crashes caused 371 fatalities and injured 9,709 people. Distracted driving encompasses a wide range of actions, including eating, texting, talking, changing the radio station, and anything that might distract a driver from the road. Phones specifically, are a major distractor in the modern age and just five seconds of texting at 55 mph equates to approximately one football field's worth of distance traveled, all without adequate care or safety measures being taken. Still, texting while driving remains prevalent on Louisiana roads, with the maximum fine of first and subsequent violations for phone usage being only $500 and $1,000 respectively. It only takes one of these violations to kill, and Louisianan lives are certainly worth more than $500.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Starting January 1, 2025, an increase in severity of punishments for distracted driving will go into effect. Additionally, all distracted behavior will be treated the same with the same fines encompassing all distracted behavior. All current judicial procedures regarding traffic violation sentencing will remain in place. A campaign in promotion of safe driving will also be implemented, featuring billboards and PSAs broadcast on radio and television. Additional signage informing motorists of such fines will also be implemented on major Louisiana roads, including interstate highways and state routes.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Fines accrued by Louisiana drivers under this law will go towards the funding of a statewide campaign against distracted driving, with an additional $8.5 million in federal funding requested in support of this campaign

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Drivers found in violation of distracted driving law will receive a first time fine between $250 and $750. The next two offenses will accrue fines between $750 and $1,500 and any subsequent violations are punishable by jail time of up to 14 days.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 341

Makenzie King Dutchtown High School

Allie Nichols

TITLE: T.A.P. (Transparent and Accountable Pay)

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

In Louisiana, no laws currently require businesses to disclose compensation information, which is essential for promoting equity and minimizing wage disparities based on gender, race, and ethnicity. The absence of such laws leaves it to each employer to determine their level of transparency, often leading to inequitable pay practices and distrust among employees and potential applicants.

Currently, 10 states have enacted pay transparency laws to enhance fairness and transparency in hiring practices. And many others have proposed transparent pay laws. Research indicates that over 80% of workers prefer job postings that include salary ranges, with many companies reporting increased application rates and improved candidate quality as a result. Implementing similar legislation in Louisiana aims to foster equitable pay practices, build trust, and empower employees with information regarding their compensation and career advancement.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill will take effect 1 month following its passage. Employers with 10 or more employees who engage in business in Louisiana or recruit for jobs that could be filled by Louisiana -based employees must comply. Employers must pay all employees equally for substantially similar work, regardless of gender, race, or ethnicity. Companies are prohibited from asking about an applicant’s pay history or using it to set wages, and they cannot discriminate or retaliate against anyone for not disclosing their pay history. Additionally, employers cannot restrict employees from discussing their pay or require them to sign agreements that prevent such discussions, under the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA).

In terms of job transparency, employers must provide compensation information in all job postings and internal notices, such as salary ranges, benefits, and details about any additional compensation, such as bonuses or stock options. They must also provide clear application and selection procedures, announce promotions to all employees on the same day, and disclose available job opportunities and the names of selected candidates. Furthermore, employers should explain the criteria for career progression to help employees understand how they can advance.

SECTION III: FUNDING

No state funding is required to implement this bill. Compliance will be the responsibility of individual employers, with no associated costs to the state.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Employers violating the pay transparency requirements will be penalized $1,000 for each job listing that fails to meet the transparency criteria. Additionally, employers may be subject to enhanced oversight and compliance monitoring by the Louisiana Department of Labor. Additionally, if the employer's actions have negatively affected employees, then Employees may bring a civil action against employers within a 2-year period, beginning with this bill's passage.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 342

Georgia Palmisano Metairie Park Country Day School

TITLE: Save birds from colliding with windows

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

As many as 1 billion birds die every year due to colliding with windows. This is because birds do not see glass in the same way humans do. They do not see glass as an obstacle they need to avoid, and because of this, birds often run into the glass and can be seriously injured or killed. Partially due to growing bird collisions, there has been a 25% decline of birds in the last 50 years.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Starting at the beginning of 2025, all new commercial construction will need to use bird-safe glass (fritted glass, angled glass, UV-reflective glass, etc.) for any windows exposed to the outdoors. This would not affect any buildings already under construction or already constructed buildings.

SECTION III: FUNDING

All funding for bird-safe glass will be the responsibility of the organization responsible for constructing the building.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If a new commercial building is constructed using non-bird-safe glass, the organization responsible for its construction will be given a one-time fine of $500 for each exterior-facing window built with non-bird-safe glass. For each additional offense, another $500 will be added to the fine.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 343

Sam Giles Haynes Academy

Rhys France

TITLE: SKIBIDI- Students Keeping it Balanced in Daily Instruction

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

According to UTNO (United T eachers of New Orleans), Louisiana is ranked 47th out of all 50 states strictly on academic scores and chance of success with an average grade of “D+” . Many bills have been introduced for the purpose of reforming Louisiana’s education system. However , these efforts have proven futile with very incremental improvements in student performance. An advance that Louisiana legislature is yet to make though, includes implementation of a study hall period into regular school days. A January 2024 poll from Norwin high school, Pennsylvania, a state ranked 9th in academics states that 90% of students say that study hall helps them destress and that without a study hall, stress from homework would overwhelm students. Additionally, a study done by the ACSA (Association of California School Administrators) states that about 49% of students located in the US stated that they have feelings of significant stress due to packed schedules and extracurriculars. Allowing time for study hall to be included in daily schedules would create opportunities to allow students to “catch their breath” with academics leading to overall better rankings and more success among students.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Schools will be required at least 2 days of the school week to include a study hall period with the duration of each school’s typical class period. During this time, students are allowed to select what they want to do as long as they are on task. This independent work session will happen in the classroom that students are in previous to it beginning. One teacher must always be in the room to supervise students.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Funding is not required for this bill.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If schools do not add a study hall period into all schools across Louisiana. There will be a yearly fine of $7,500 that will be imposed on each school that does not follow this policy. Every year that the policy is not followed, 500$ will be added to the total payment fine.

HOUSE BILL 344

Payton McCready Dutchtown High School
Lyric Lafrance

TITLE: Strengthening Protocols to Prevent Drink Spiking and Sexual Assault

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Imagine: It's a Saturday night, and you're at a concert that you have been waiting all year to go to. You're surrounded by all of your friends, having the time of your life. But suddenly, you start to feel dizzy. You can't see straight, and you start vomiting. But, looking down at your cup, you've only drunk half of your drink. The next morning, you wake up in someone else's room, in someone else's clothes, with no memory of the night before. But you could assume what happened, based on the look the stranger beside you is giving you. This has been a reality for so many, and victims are consistently underreported and overlooked. Every 68 seconds, another person in the United States is sexually assaulted. Yet, 75% of sexual assault goes unreported. In a study performed by University of South Carolina's women's studies professor, Suzanne Swan, it was found that out of 6,000 students across three U.S universities, 7.8% have had their drink spiked before. Of these, 12.1% reported that they experienced what study authors term "forced sexual intercourse", otherwise known as rape.

The amount of drink spiking occurring in the U.S is only increasing, and it has a direct correlation with sexual violence. About 1 in every 6 women have been a victim of an attempted or completed rape in their lifetime, according to the Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network. In order to decrease these numbers, we believe that mandating clubs, bars, and concerts/music festivals to provide drink covers for their attendees would make it incredibly difficult to spike a drink, thus causing much sexual violence to decrease.

Drink covers consist of stickers, lids, sleeves, or wraps that fit over the top of cups. They make it incredibly difficult for a drink to be spiked. Most covers either have a small opening for a straw to go through, or you take the sleeve off each time to take a sip. It is much harder to spike a drink when trying to fit the drug being used to spike it through a straw, or having a shorter time to in between sips.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Starting October 1, 2025, public bars, clubs, and music festivals (?) will be required to provide all attendees with drink covers. They must provide all attendees with the cover either upon arrival or when served a drink. The type of cover must be one approved by the FDA to effectively cover drinks. Bars, clubs, and music venues must provide their own drink covers. Examples of covers include but are not limited to sleeves, stickers or lids. This bill will become part of the Louisiana Public Health code. Therefore, during the venues' biannual health and safety inspection, clubs, bars and music festivals will be checked to see if they are following this bill.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Funding for the drink covers will come from the venues themselves. They will not have any government funding. Venues may have the drink covers sponsored by another company or advertise their own on the cover.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If a venue is found to be not providing drink covers, or providing drink covers that are not approved by the FDA, for the first offense they will be given 30 days to correct the issue, as typical for public health violations. Depending on the severity of the situation, they may not be penalized for the smaller violations, but it will be recorded. If the issue is not resolved after 30 days, depending on the severity if the situation they may be fined up to $5,000.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 345

Bhavisha Mavadia Haynes Academy

TITLE: Pout It Out: A Bill for Blemish-Free Childhoods

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

The rising trend of children using cosmetics, often starting as young as four, presents significant health risks that must be addressed. A 2023 report by EarthJustice found that 70% of children younger than 12 have used makeup products regularly. The National Library of Medicine has also found that many beauty products contain toxic ingredients like lead, cadmium, and chromium, which can lead to allergic reactions, clogged pores, and long-term skin damage in young, developing bodies. Additionally, early exposure to makeup fosters insecurities and pressures children to conform to unrealistic beauty standards, negatively impacting their self-esteem. As a community, we must take action to protect our youth by implementing age restrictions on cosmetic products, promoting healthy self-image, and encouraging confidence in their natural beauty.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

The minimum age for purchasing any cosmetic product will be set at 12 years. Customers must present valid identification, such as TIP cards, permits, or school IDs, which will be verified at the point of sale. Companies producing these products are required to include clear labels indicating age restrictions and potential health risks. Additionally, staff will receive training to politely refuse sales to children under the minimum age and to educate them about the dangers associated with harmful cosmetic products.

SECTION III: FUNDING

This bill requires no funding to implement, but certain organizations apart from the government can create their own educational programs and campaigns to raise awareness.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Penalties will apply solely to stores supplying these products. For the first offense, fines will range from $250 to $500. A second offense will increase fines to $1,000, with subsequent violations leading to higher fines, mandatory staff training, and possible temporary suspensions on selling such products. All fine revenue will be allocated to programs supporting children facing health complications from these products.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 346

Charles Andrews Benjamin Franklin High School

TITLE: Get More Doctors…Get More Healthcare…Get More Life

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Louisiana is in the bottom half of states for primary care and physician availability, and 73% of residents live in an area with a shortage of healthcare, and many of them are elderly, a minority or live below the poverty line. One of the primary reasons that there aren't more doctors in Louisiana is due to people not wanting the debt associated with being a doctor. Additionally, many students cite the cost as a reason for not attending medical school. Thus, in order to attract more doctors to Louisiana, Louisiana needs to somehow lower costs for doctors coming into their state.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Louisiana should assume control of federal student loan programs for medical school in Louisiana itself at a lower interest rate for any applicants who are willing to stay in Louisiana for a certain amount of time in this profession. Any applicants for this program who are in medical school or who have gotten in would have to stay in Louisiana for a certain amount of time past their education if they were going to a medical school in the state (based on the interest rate). If they are going to medical school out-of-state, then any remaining medical debt they have would be able to apply as a worker in the state for a certain amount of time depending on the interest rate deduction. For each interest rate point deduction, they'd have to stay in Louisiana and practice here for 1 year. This would apply at the beginning of the school year in 2026, with the student debt programs being offered then.

SECTION III: FUNDING

There are two options for the payment of this. For one thing, Louisiana could borrow from the US government at a lower interest rate in order to pay off the principal amount of the loan, before turning around and lending it out to the medical school students at a lower interest rate. This would result in Louisiana losing no money whatsoever, and actually making a small amount of money due to an increase in interest rate relative to the lended money.

If this isn't an option, then another thing Louisiana could do would be to simply pay for the debt that the federal government owns. This would be a large amount of initial investment in this program that would eventually be paid off. In order to do this, Louisiana could either a). Go into debt, which would basically just be taking out a loan from another option than the US government, or b). Pay for all the up-front costs out-of-pocket. This money would likely come out of the Louisiana budget, which did run a $325 million dollar surplus last budget cycle as of January 17th, 2024. Once again, this money would presumably be paid off, and even if a few applicants default on their debt, what the end result would be is that Louisiana has paid a relatively small amount of money to attract thousands of doctors to the state.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Not applicable due to the nature of the statute.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 347

Charlotte Gomes Benjamin Franklin High School

Tatum Roniger

TITLE: School-Based Interventions to Reduce Disciplinary Suspension

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Louisiana suspends more than 62,000 students per year, which is 130% higher than the Country average. It has been repeatedly proven that suspensions are correlated with student dropout rates, and from 2017-2021 Louisiana averaged a very high dropout rate of 7.36. According to Act 337 of the Louisiana Legislature, which went into effect for the 2024-25 school year, "Any student who has been suspended on three occasions for committing any of the offenses... during the same school year shall, upon committing the fourth such offense, be expelled from all of the public schools of the city, parish, or other local public school system wherein he resided until the beginning of the next regular school year." A 2021 study by the American Institutes for Research found that in-school and out-of-school suspensions not only are ineffective for students in middle and high school but also have negative effects on academic outcomes, attendance, and future behavior. The School-Based Interventions to Reduce Disciplinary Suspension Act provides school-based counseling services for students who return from school suspension. The counseling services will focus on anger management skills training, conflict resolution strategies, and/or social communication strategies. Following each school suspension, students must receive a minimum of 4-6 hours of school counseling services spread out across no more than two weeks. According to a National Library of Medicine study, "School-based interventions cause a small and significant drop in exclusion rates during the first six months after intervention (on average), but this effect is not sustained. Interventions seemed to be more effective at reducing some types of exclusion such as expulsion and in-school exclusion." The School-Based Interventions to Reduce Disciplinary Suspension Act aims to reduce dropout rates by providing in-school counseling and help to suspended students.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Each school district in Louisiana must create a plan to ensure that students who return from school suspension receive a minimum of 4-6 hours of school counseling services spread out across no more than two weeks. The plan must include documentation of services provided inclusive of the focus of the interventions.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Since all schools in Louisiana are legally obliged to have one school counselor for every four hundred students, they are all adequately equipped to provide the counseling services required by the School-Based Interventions to Reduce Disciplinary Suspension. There will be no funding required.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Districts and/or schools who do not comply will be placed under corrective action, and must submit an amended plan for compliance.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 348

Griffin Conner Benjamin Franklin High School

TITLE: Health Insurance Affordability Act

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Health insurance in Louisiana is about $666 per month on average. This makes up about 25% of the average income for average Louisiana residents. 6.8% of Louisianaians are uninsured and about ⅔ of Louisiana residents say they have experienced difficulty paying for healthcare. The Health Insurance Affordability Act will help make insurance prices cheaper for individuals and households who are struggling to pay for it. Individuals making less than $25,000 and families making less than $50,000 will be provided financial aid.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

In order for this bill to take effect, Louisiana will need to work together to work with insurance companies to create cheaper plans. Louisiana will also need to work out an easy system for people to apply for these benefits. There should be easy ways to apply in-person and online

SECTION III: FUNDING

This bill will cost about one billion dollars a year. This money can come from a tax increase on insurance companies.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If insurance companies break the rules or unjustly refuse to pay their clients, then they will be fined upwards of $100 million dollars.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 349

Persephone Everpax Benjamin Franklin High School

TITLE: Fixed Medicinal Prices Bill

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Louisiana has the 10th most expensive healthcare in the country. 67% of Louisiana adults struggled to pay for healthcare in the past year, and 78% say they worry about paying for healthcare in the future. Respondents who are poor, black, or have a household member with a disability experience more anxiety about paying for healthcare. People of color also said that they go longer without doctor's appointments and often have to ration medicine. This bill will implement affordable, fixed prices for prescriptions. Companies and hospitals cannot markup the prices of medicine, such as insulin, over 200%.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

The government will review prices for prescriptions and decide on a fixed price that is reasonably affordable for most citizens. Insurance companies will also need to have upfront prices for their customers. This will go into effect in January of 2027.

SECTION III: FUNDING

This bill will need about $100 million. About half of the money for this bill will come from a 0.5% increase of income tax on wealthy citizens. The rest of the cost will pay for itself because it is focused on forcing companies to lower prices, not on giving out money.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Companies or hospitals that refuse to follow these rules will be fined equal to the amount of illegal profits they are making, and they will be forced to compensate the customers that were overcharged.

HOUSE BILL 350

Lillian Rousseau Benjamin Franklin High School

TITLE: State Prison Medical System Reform Committee

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Louisiana now has one of the highest imprisonment rates in the United States, with 1,094 people per 100,000 incarcerated. Along with the high levels of incarceration, there is also a concerning amount of problems with the system. Numbers provided by The Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections (DOC) show nearly a 44 percent increase in deaths across its eight prisons, rising from 94 in 2019 to 135 in 2021. Inmates have reported being denied basic medical care and screenings and having their medical needs ignored or misdiagnosed. For example, one inmate was denied medical attention four times during a stroke, which left him blind and paralyzed. Disabled prisoners are especially affected by inadequate care, with some being denied canes for years. Inmates with serious illnesses, such as throat cancer, have been denied access to specialists for years. Inmates have been punished for seeking medical care, including being placed in isolation rooms. This bill will aim to improve the prison medical system by creating the Louisiana Prison Medical Reform Committee, a high-level, authoritative coordinating committee to oversee and reform the Louisiana prison medical system.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Representatives should be selected from the Louisiana Department of Public Safety & Corrections, the Louisiana Department of Health, external medical and behavioral health providers, experts in public health and incarceration law and policy, and currently and formerly incarcerated patients to form the Louisiana Prison Medical Reform (LPMR) Committee. All members of the LPMR Committee should be selected and assigned a focus project by January 1, 2026, with the goal of making improvements over the next decade. They will be granted the authority to develop, implement, and monitor standardized healthcare policies and practices across all state and local prisons, as well as develop, implement, and regularly monitor healthcare staffing plans at each facility to ensure availability of appropriate, credentialed healthcare providers to meet patient needs.

SECTION III: FUNDING

The LPMR Committee will be allocated a portion of the current medical and healthcare budget for Louisiana prisons from the Louisiana Department of Public Safety & Corrections as well as some funding from the Louisiana Department of Health.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If the committee fails to make improvements after 5 years, it will be restructured, with members removed and new members appointed. If after 10 years, there are still no improvements, the committee will not be renewed.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 351

Jack Giles Haynes Academy For Advanced Studies
Sumaiyya Baig

TITLE: SUBLIME: Supporting Unity and Building Lasting Investment in Music Education

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

In the state of Louisiana, many students struggle to prosper in their underfunded high school music programs. Despite the state's rich musical heritage, budget cuts have resulted in declining program quality, leaving students discouraged from pursuing music education. Due to these budget cuts, high school music programs receive significantly less funding compared to athletic programs. Limited Title IV funding, which is intended to support a well-rounded education, is often not sufficient to bridge this gap, leaving music programs unable to meet their full potential. This gap between Louisiana's celebrated musical history and the lack of school resources threatens the growth of the next generation of musicians. According to the National Association for Music Education (NAfME), students in music programs generally show better academic performance, higher graduation rates, and improved social skills. In contrast, schools that prioritize athletics often see students struggle to balance their education with their sport. Despite these benefits, a staggering $167 million was allocated to high school athletics across the state in a recent year, highlighting our state education department's unethical focus on revenue over the enrichment of its students. While sports can be an important part of school culture, and may generate revenue at the collegiate and professional levels, only a small percentage—about 6%—of high school athletes go on to play in college. This brings into question whether the state's investment in athletics is effectively benefiting the majority of high school students. The importance of music education lies in the significant benefits it offers students, and it is just as vital as sports programs.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill would require all public schools in Louisiana to have the necessary funding to allow both programs to have proper facilities and equipment. The intent of this bill is to ensure that music and athletic programs receive equitable funding, recognizing the unique enrichment each brings to student development. A majority of the financial support for this bill would be redirected from excessive funding of sports teams towards the improvement of music programs and band programs in public high schools in order to equip students with the supplies they need in order to be successful and to acquire the best music education they can receive; therefore, they will be going directly to public high schools. This would be implemented in the upcoming 2025-2026 school year.

SECTION III: FUNDING

This bill proposes that a larger portion of school funding be reallocated to music education rather than athletics; redirecting 15-20% of the $170 million allocated to athletics, approximately $25 million, to music education annually.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) will monitor the use of the redirected funds to ensure they are spent exclusively on music and band programs. If a public school district does not implement this bill in their district, then a warning will be issued, and if they continue not to comply after the first 3 months, the LDOE will

fine the school district $1,000 dollars per month of the school year that they continue to fail to comply. Then, the fine would be deposited into the overall education budget of the state of Louisiana.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 352

Ujesh Chakravarty Haynes Academy
Luca Cardinale

TITLE: Solve Speeding and Save Souls (SSSS)

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

According to the World Health Organization and the National Safety Council, approximately 1.19 million people die each year as a result of traffic accidents. Speeding was a factor of 29% of all traffic fatalities in 2022, an average of over 33 people passing away per day. With the current laws and terms in place, people just aren't listening to the speed limit, carelessly amping up their speed and risking someone else's life. In order to fix this, we must think inside the box and do the only logical thing that will guarantee an end to speeding: adjusting the max speed a commercial car can go. This will not only make it impossible for a civilian to speed, but will also greatly decrease the number of accidents and fatalities, saving money and people. This greatly applies to Louisiana because, according to the Louisiana Transportation Research Center, "speeding is associated with 20 percent of urban road fatalities and 31 percent of rural road fatalities." Initializing this bill will guarantee thousands of lives, at least, to be saved in Louisiana, especially in the highways.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill will require all commercial car manufacturers in Louisiana to manufacture cars with maximum speeds capped to 80 miles per hour. This bill does not apply to professional race cars or emergency vehicles such as police cars and ambulances, as they need their speed to go to places quickly, and cars made outside of Louisiana. If passed, this bill would be implemented in 2026, when manufacturer companies didn't already make their models. All cars older than the year of 2026 with speeds capped to over 80 miles per hour are allowed for use; this bill's impact is gradual over time. If a car with a manufacturing date of at least 2026 with a max speed of over 80 miles per hour is found, the car will be turned in to the State, making Louisiana money as they can sell the car for parts.

SECTION III: FUNDING

This bill needs no funding to be implemented.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If a car made in Louisiana with the manufacturing date being at least the year of 2026 (when cars cannot be made with max speeds over 80 miles per hour) is found with a maximum speed of over 80 miles per hour, the manufacturer will be subject to a fine of $10,000, with the car also being turned in to the State. If any commercial car is found speeding, they will have to pay a fine of $1000. This fine is a good way to target owners who may have modified their car to go over the capped speed limit as well.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 353

Angel Ma Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies

TITLE: Caffeine Overdose Forestallment Fee (C.O.F.Fee)

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Caffeine is naturally present in various sources, including coffee, tea, chocolate, and cola nut extract, which is commonly found in cola-type beverages. However, energy drinks have been designed with bright colors and bold marketing strategies specifically aimed at attracting younger generations. Excessive caffeine intake can have devastating effects on the health and well being of developing adolescents. Large amounts of caffeine may cause serious heart and blood vessel problems, such as heart rhythm disturbances and increased heart rate and blood pressure. As addiction to caffeine becomes more prevalent, correlation to heart issues also rise. A study conducted by the University of Florida found that as many as 28% of participants exhibited signs of caffeine addiction. According to the NIH, next to multivitamins, energy drinks are the most popular dietary supplement consumed by American teens and young adults, with almost a third of teens drinking them regularly. Coffee, while not containing as much caffeine as energy drinks, is still a significant source of caffeine intake for many. Roughly two-thirds of American adults have coffee daily. Most Americans do not know how much caffeine they are intaking each day as the FDA does not require listing of the precise amount of caffeine present in a product. This could be deadly, as demonstrated by the two casualties caused by the Charged Lemonade from Panera. The implementation of this bill is not intended to eliminate caffeine consumption altogether, but rather to regulate the amount of caffeine that individuals consume; it hopes to reduce the likelihood of caffeine addiction among the youth

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Manufacturers and distributors are required to label caffeinated products with the accurate caffeine content per serving. The label should be proportional to the dimensions of the packaging: 2% of the area of the largest face, the label should be placed on said face. The label needs to be on both individual units and bulk. Restaurants and cafes must put caffeine amounts on their menus; amounts must be closely approximated, taking into account of the average caffeine in the ingredients. Each amount of caffeine is separated into brackets with the corresponding sales tax. This bill shall take effect January 1, 2026, allowing for a transition period of 1 year for businesses to comply with labeling and reporting requirements.

Caffeine amount per 12 fluid oz

0 mg - 30 mg: 0% tax

31 mg - 79 mg: 2% tax

80 mg - 199 mg: 5% tax

200 mg - 389 mg: 11% tax

390+ mg: 100% tax

Any product containing 390 mg or more of caffeine must have a required warning on the container. The warning must be highly discernible, legible (in English), and prominent.

This collection of tax will be enforced through mandated business reports. Establish a new task force within the Louisiana Department of Health to manage the labeling and distribution of these caffeinated products. A system will be implemented for consumers to report non-compliant products. The consumers can send an image of the non compliant product to their state department.

SECTION III: FUNDING

No funding is required for this bill

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Companies who do not properly label will be charged with false advertising and labeling, and be fined, with a maximum being $100,000.

Distributors who do not enforce the tax will be charged with tax evasion. A new branch of tax evasion for caffeine will be created similar to tobacco and nicotine tax evasion.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 354

Maya Pattam Haynes Academy

TITLE: An Act To "M.A.Y.A" (Mindful Activities for Young Assemblages)

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Over the past decade, electronic use in school systems has dramatically increased and caused society to switch over to a more online approach to education. A National Center for Education Statistics experiment reveals that 98% of schools use computers in classrooms and students spend at least 50% of their class period on their devices. Numbers for children between the ages of two and seventeen that require glasses, especially for near-sightedness, are rapidly growing to almost 40% of children in the United States. Increased technology use isn't lessening these numbers. People between the ages of ten to seventeen have also had an increased exposure to social media, which has led to increased rates of depression and anxiety. Children start to lose their creativity and develop a lack for mindfulness as social skills learned outside of their device continue to worsen. So, introducing a mandatory time period to completely step away from devices and anything related to social media is being implemented into school life. Shown in the article by the National Library of Medicine, students' anxiety and stress scores decreased significantly while their total mindfulness increased significantly with decreased technology use. They also saw increased percentages in both acting with awareness and no students were in the high category for anxiety or stress after intervention. As someone that is active and has started recently doing yoga, the positive impacts are noticeable. I'm able to sleep better at night, focus more, feel relaxed, and able to process information clearly. According to Harvard's article on yoga's impact on mental health, your brain has the ability to develop new cognitive connections and improve skills such as memory, attention, awareness, learning, thought, and language. Studies also reveal that people that participate in yoga regularly have a thicker cerebral cortex, which is the area of the brain responsible for information processing, and hippocampus, the area of the brain responsible for learning and memory. Yoga and meditation can also improve eyesight as it can be focused on any part of the body. For example, acute eye exercises and simulation can be done during yoga to improve eye strength and eyesight. It's important to help students retain their eyesight and awareness to be able to be successful. Although there is no specific law already passed in Louisiana focusing on this, under RS 17:271.1, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (mainly secondary focused) shall increase the emphasis on the mental health component of health education in order to enhance student understanding, attitudes, and behaviors that promote overall health and well-being. This bill will introduce the idea and benefits of exercises such as yoga, meditation, and journaling in the Louisiana education system.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Enforcing limits on electronic use and instead integrating mindful activities will allow students to broaden their perspectives, achieve reduced anxiety and depression, improve cognitive skills, and overall benefit their mental and physical wellbeing. Mandatory sessions will allow students to step away from computers and schoolwork, giving both their eyes and mind the time to reset. During the educational day, students will take ten minutes out of their morning, mid-day, and ending class periods to participate in various activities. The beginning of the day will start with meditation, in which a full set of playlists will be made available for teachers to choose from to follow. During the mid-day period, students will experiment with yoga and its various benefits for both flexibility and strength. In the final class period, journals will be provided to each student, to which they hold personal responsibility over, and will be given their ten minutes to write whatever needed. This schedule will only take place twice a week (Tuesday and Thursday) to allow teachers to make the most of their teaching time without disrupting efforts being made toward this. Although, two weeks before exams, this schedule will occur three times a week (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday) because, as previously stated, these activities help build a persistent and sharper mind for students that continue to stay consistent with them. Before being fully integrated into secondary schools, a slideshow explanation will demonstrate all the steps that are necessary for students to know to prevent confusion over changed schedules. Teachers may decide when to include their activity into their class period, but are required to, under the bill, to still provide it to students. This bill will be in by the school year 2026-2027 eventually as an instructional period, similar to study hall as it sums up as a 30 minute class.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Providing a 100-page Composition notebook and a fitness yoga mat for each of the 805,627 (~806,000) students enrolled in public schools in Louisiana would cost, without taxes, around $15.3 million dollars. Out of the $4.2 billion dollars Louisiana gets from the federal government, at least 24% of that would need to go towards this program, which is approximately $1 billion dollars. This money will be obtained through funding for curriculum development as the materials needed are "instructional materials." If more funding is required, funds can be paid through raised Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) funding. As much as $90 million dollars can be made through additional sales taxes. As for the actual yoga and meditation aspects, an online yoga and meditation class can range anywhere from $25 to $75. According to these calculations, Louisiana needs to spend, at minimum, $2500 for professional instruction videos. As for ensuring the correct usage of the money, the Louisiana Coordinated School Health program, a section of the Louisiana State Board, will ensure that the money goes towards improving children's health and learning capacity by supporting their collaboration with families, communities, and schools. Collaborations with NASPA (National Association of Student Personnel Administrators) will improve chances of support for programs like M.A.Y.A on both a regional and eventually, national level.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

With schedules provided to each school, it's up to the school to decide punishment if a student were to, for example, use this scheduled time as a reason to skip class without permission out of the list as follows:

First offense: Email to a parent/guardian explaining their child's actions

Second offense: Detention and an email to a parental figure

Third offense: Minor referral, to be scheduled by a student's disciplinary proctor

Fourth offense: Major referral, scheduled by a student's disciplinary proctor

Fifth offense: ISS (In School Suspension), to be scheduled by a student's disciplinary proctor

Sixth offense: OSS (Out of School Suspension), length of suspension scheduled by a student's disciplinary proctor

If offenses Four (d), Five (e.), or Six (f.) are given three times to a student in their education life for this specific offense, expulsion will be considered for any grade level.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 355

Cortlan Katz Metairie Park Country Day School
Paul Curry

TITLE: An Act To Preserve the Wetlands Along the Gulf Coast

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

In the last 20 years, Louisiana has lost 1200 square miles of wetlands roughly the same size as Delaware. Louisiana's wetlands have rapidly disappeared due to coastal erosion, rising sea levels, oil and gas extraction, and storm damage. These wetlands comprise a crucial part of the ecosystem and provide vital functions such as protecting coastlines from storms, filtering water, and supporting biodiversity. The loss of these wetlands threatens wildlife and increases coastal communities' vulnerability to flooding and hurricanes. Preserving them is essential for environmental protection, disaster mitigation, and sustaining local industries like fishing and tourism.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

The Environmental Protection Agency shall have the power to carry out this act and prescribe related rules and regulations. Furthermore, the Environmental Protection Agency will be responsible for establishing project prioritization, engaging local stakeholders, project monitoring, and maintenance, including emergency maintenance.

Various project types will be implemented, such as: Water and Sediment Diversion, Outfall Management, Hydrologic Restoration, Dredged Material Marsh Creation, Sediment and Nutrient Trapping, Vegetative Planting, and any future projects not yet discovered or implemented.

SECTION III: FUNDING

This Act mandates at least $150 million in yearly funding, specifically for restoring and preserving wetlands in the Gulf Coast. The NOAA and Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund will support funds.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

No consequences or penalties apply

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 356

Dev Tandon Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies
Muhammad Khan

TITLE: M.A.M.A (Money and Mental Awareness)

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

We can’t avoid dealing with money in the future, but we can avoid letting it take a toll on our mental health. As of June 2023, a law signed by former governor John Bel Edwards has been implemented in all public high schools that those in or below the class of 2028 must take a course on personal finance and Financial Literacy to graduate. The aim of this law is to fill gaps in our students' education. Currently, young Americans are facing more than $1 trillion in debt, and over 70% of Americans are living paycheck to paycheck. Approximately 32% of teens still don’t know the difference between a credit card and a debit card. The importance of financial literacy is starting to become more apparent to Americans, with many realizing that the choices we make with our money as young adults can affect us for a lifetime. Financial literacy in the US has hovered around 50% for eight consecutive years, with a 2% drop in the past two years. Additionally, the effects of inflation are heavy on American minds, as 84% of workers and 67% of retirees are concerned that the increasing cost of living will make it harder for them to save money.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill proposes incorporating the following into the new Financial Literacy curriculum: standards that address how our emotions and stress can lead to poor financial decisions and how to manage these issues. These topics would be introduced as a precursor before the pre existing curriculum would start, so that those taking the class will have a clearer understanding of what they taught moving forward into the course.. This bill will be implemented in the 2025 - 2026 school year. The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) will review and approve instructional materials for financial literacy to make sure they meet the new curriculum standards. The LDOE will also develop roadmap, outlining which financial literacy standards should be taught and when. Once the curriculum is finalized, the LDOE will guide school districts on how to implement it. Additionally, the bill requires the LDOE to offer professional development opportunities to help teachers effectively deliver the new content. However, during the course, in partnership with BESE (The Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education), teachers will be audited to make sure that the course work is being properly administered. Currently there are no requirements needed to become a financial literacy teacher besides being certified to teach in Louisiana. In the case lapses in the curriculum or its instruction are discovered, we will create a two week instructional course, free of charge, that is required for those wanting to teach financial literacy. The first set of those taking the course will be instructed by The Board of Education in partnership with BESE. After which, teachers who pass the certification will be offered compensation to teach the next set of instructors.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Funding for the creation of the new curriculum would be through the Support Education in Louisiana First Fund, which in 2024 received 100.2 million dollars of funding from the Louisiana Department of Education. For the auditing of the updated classes, we would obtain funding through the Louisiana Quality Education Support Fund 8(g), run by BESE, which allocated around 33 million dollars towards its efforts in 2024. In the case of the required certification being implemented, the funding would be allocated from the “Title II – Improving Teacher Quality funds used to provide professional development to teachers in the core academic subjects.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

There are no penalties necessary.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 357

Anjana Manoj Kumar Haynes Academy
Pearlin Shathiyakkumar

TITLE: Fake Food/ Hormonal Chemical Prevention

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

The FDA has approved a certain number of steroids that are allowed to be put into meats that they say have no effect on human health. On other hand, it's proven that steroids can cause health issues that include: acne, breast development, liver problems, heart attacks, and strokes. These steroids are given to the animals through specific stages in the animal's growth and are available over the counter. Statistics have shown that the more steroids males have been eating, the less healthy their sperm has been. A person's diet, not one meal, determines how foods can unbalance hormonal levels. Different foods have various hormones in them that mimic hormones that the body produces by itself, causing the brain to malfunction and not supply enough of the hormone that is needed for development. The hormones released in a woman's body during pregnancy maintain the health, growth rate, and labor processes. This means that hormonal imbalance can result in problems including gestational diabetes, preeclampsia, high or low birth weight, or even miscarriage.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

In this age of development, people have come up with various replacements that have the same side effects as these banned chemicals. The only way to abolish these intense chemicals is to not ban specific chemicals, but rather ban the entire class of these chemicals that create dangers for consumers. Some countries increased tax on "unnecessary foods". This taxation is proven to decrease the average purchase of these products. The FDA can create much more stricter rules that companies are required to abide by. To create these strict rules the FDA needs more time to research the chemicals to approve or deny the usage. Additional funding set aside for food safety is also required to accurately research the various chemicals used. The FDA can require food/chemical inspection on a more consistent basis and require each company to report their usage and the levels they are using. The government can also encourage local sources of food rather than using international corporations for cheaper prices due to bulk order. Even with stricter policies, the consumption of these chemicals also depends on citizens, so it's important for the government to inform consumers of what they are buying, eating, and how they can prevent themselves and their families from these dangers. This can be done by setting up rallies and other various campaign ideas to keep the people informed. Enforcements should put a limit on how many animals should be allowed to be butchered per day, so animals would be able to grow and reproduce instead of dying at an exponential rate.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Companies would not need any money to buy land, because they could use the money that they spent on steroids and put it in large stocks of animals and land for the animals to graze on. If any additional funding is needed, they can invest in a business loan with the bank and make prices of the meats more expensive. Also, enforcements should put a limit on how many animals should be allowed to be butchered per day. The remainder of the money that the companies would have spent for butchering can now be used to purchase or take care of the growth / reproduction of more animals. For the people that lost their jobs after the steroid companies' profit went down, they would be paid retirement money until they find a new job. Most of this would be supplied by the government (FERS - Federal Employees Retirement System), and some of it would be supplied by the FDA.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Currently the maximum punishment for companies that break the Food and Drug Safety Act is a one year prison sentence, or a maximum fine of $100,000 depending on the violation. The chemicals slowly kill multiple people, so it's important that the penalties of such crimes is equally just to the people that suffered from these products. If customers have been physically harmed then the sentence given to a person who has committed the same crime should be used, 10 years of imprisonment for the supervisor and a fine for the company. If these chemicals used in products were proved to kill someone then the sentence for killing someone should be given, "life in prison without parole". If no one is harmed but the company is proved to be selling products that do not meet the requirements set in place by FDA then a suspension of their company should be placed. The company should not be able to manufacture or sell any of their products for a period of time. These punishments are much more intense and fair to the people that suffer from the chemicals.

HOUSE BILL 358

Mia Roman Lafayette High School
Emmie Allen

TITLE: F.A.I.R. (Fatal Accountability in Reckless Driving)

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Drunk driving is classified as “gross vehicular manslaughter.” Take note of the term manslaughter used in that classification. Manslaughter, by definition, refers to the crime of killing a human being without malice aforethought or put simply: the act of killing another human being unintentionally. Drunk driving is the same: killing another human being unintentionally. However, the maximum sentence for manslaughter in Louisiana is 40 years, while the vehicular manslaughter counterpart is only 30 years. According to Louisiana State Police and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, an estimated total of 47,500 crashes in Louisiana involving alcohol. Additionally, research by the Louisiana Transportation Research Center showed that individuals aged 18-35 are the most commonly involved in these accidents. This demographic, even when sentenced to the current maximum, may leave prison with significant time to resume their lives. This is fundamentally unjust; those who recklessly take a life should not have the opportunity to return to their own lives so quickly. By increasing the maximum sentencing for alcohol-related crashes, our bill aims to hold reckless, drunk drivers accountable for their devastating actions to the same level as manslaughter.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This law will be implemented starting July 1, 2024. It will establish the maximum punishment for gross vehicular manslaughter at 40 years, matching the maximum punishment for manslaughter. The judiciary will be responsible for sentencing based on the severity of each case, ensuring that the penalties reflect the gravity of the offense. The Louisiana Sentencing Commission will oversee the implementation of this law, ensuring that judges receive clear guidelines and training on the new sentencing parameters. To keep the government informed of the implementation of this law, details of the law’s impact and execution will be included in the commission’s biennial reports.

SECTION III: FUNDING

This bill requires funding that can be satisfied with minimal reallocation from the surplus and increased fines for DUI offenses. Although longer sentences will result in higher costs associated with housing inmates, this only applies to cases where the offender receives the maximum sentence, which is relatively rare, as the average sentence for vehicular manslaughter is around 10 years. The average annual cost to incarcerate an inmate in Louisiana is approximately $20,000. If the bill raises the maximum sentence from 30 to 40 years, this could lead to an additional $200,000 per inmate for those receiving a full sentence under the new law. DUI fines reach up to $1,000 and in 2023, there were 13,113 DUI cases, potentially raising $13,113,000 from fines alone. This revenue, along with any necessary assistance from the state surplus, would easily cover the costs for the few inmates likely to receive the maximum sentence.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

There are no penalties as the bill applies to the government.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 359

Sadie Heim Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies
Juwayria Khan

TITLE: “T.S.A.” - Teacher-Student Assessments

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Reviewing teachers once a semester is not enough. Teachers change the entire function of their classroom to look good for a review. Administration is not getting the full story. It is imperative to talk to the people who are meant to be educated by these lessons and who listen to them on a daily basis. By the time a student gets to high school, complaining about teachers isn’t just for the fun of it. While teachers are a limited resource, it is important, now more than ever, that students are getting an education that is actually accessible to them. Teachers often adopt a certain “style” of teaching that works for some and not others. While this is not the fault of the teacher, it is important to cater to students as they are in school to learn. It is necessary that while in school students have access to learning, and not lectures that lead them nowhere. A 2020 Yale experiment reports almost 75% of high school students are unhappy in school. It is hard to be happy in school with class after class that you cannot understand. While this is not a very surprising statistic and not easily remedied, digestible classes and teachers listening to their students would surely boost emotions.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

It would work by randomly assigning a student in each class an assessment of their teacher at the end of every week. Each teacher will be assessed on how they teach each individual class. A copy of the completed assessment would be given to both the principal and the teacher being reviewed with the student remaining anonymous to the teacher. Teachers are expected to read and consider reviews on their own and make adjustments where they deem necessary. Principals are expected to quickly review assessments at the end of each semester to weed out common issues and overwhelming problems. This would be implemented in the 2025-2026 school year on a school level. This legislation extends to all public schools in Louisiana, and will be implemented on school levels and enforced by the state. The assessment template will be made by the state. It is to be put into place by the principal who assigns and keeps files of assessments. The bill will be reassessed every year for the first five years to determine if positive change has been made to school environments. After that period, it will be reassessed every 5 years.

SECTION III: FUNDING

No funding necessary.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

This bill establishes penalties on the school level after each semester the system is not implemented. The penalties are as follows:

a) First Semester Violation: 2% of funding cut, and Principal Evaluation by District

b) Second Semester Violation: 4% funding cut and Administration Evaluation by District

c) All Following Violations: Additional 2% funding cut per violation and restructuring of School Administration based on Evaluations

HOUSE BILL 360

Amelia Thompson Baton Rouge High
Travis Denson

TITLE: LA-ROW: Solar Panels on the Right-of-Way

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Louisiana's extensive interstate highways receive ample sunlight, making them ideal locations for solar panels and solar harvesting. Installing solar panels on the land 80 feet from interstate highways, called the right-of-way land, can produce about 50,000 megawatts of solar energy for the state to use. This will replicate a right-of-way solar project installed in Massachusetts in 2018 that installed panels on 2,000 acres of the Massachusetts Turnpike (I–90). As of August 2018, the sites in MA produced 10,750 megawatt-hours of electricity in one month, which is the equivalent of powering 1,000 households for a year, and it saved the Massachusetts DOTD more than $1 million in energy costs. The US Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration stated that in many cases, solar power is cost-competitive or even cheaper than fossil fuel sources of electricity, with one megawatt of electricity costing between $40-60 for solar and $50-70 for fossil fuels. By sourcing part of the state's electricity from clean sources, we would not only reduce the states' carbon footprint, but also reduce the amount taxpayers have to pay to the government of Louisiana to power its facilities.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

The solar highway initiative will be coordinated by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) in conjunction with private energy companies from January 2025 to July 2026. These companies will supply and maintain the solar panels. They will be installed on the right-of-way land 80 feet from interstate highways from 11 am - 3 pm to minimize traffic disruption and ensure driver safety. The state will lease 10,000 acres of land to begin with. The electricity harvested will be bought by the state and used to power transportation infrastructure, including but not limited to stoplights, electric buses, government machinery, and various state-owned facilities.

SECTION III: FUNDING

The funding model for this project will mirror the power purchase agreements in Massachusetts. Louisiana will lease the land to energy developers for 20 years, granting them the rights to install solar panels in exchange for the guaranteed purchase of electricity by the LADOTD. The guaranteed sale of electricity, as well as the federal tax incentives for renewable energy production (such as the Business Energy Investment Tax Credit and the Renewable Energy Production Tax Credit), will encourage energy companies to participate. Revenue from land leases will be reinvested into purchasing the solar-generated electricity, at a cheaper rate than fossil fuel-based electricity.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

There will be no penalties.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 361

Preston Lambeth Prairieville High School
Connor Petersen

TITLE: Funding Research and Publicization of Postpartum Depression

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Out of the 75% of mothers who experience Baby Blues after delivery, an average of 15% of those women ended up developing postpartum depression. In certain countries, this number can be as high as 38%. Postpartum depression is a type of depression that can occur after childbirth, significantly more intense and serious than the "Baby Blues" that most mothers experience. It can entail extreme mood swings, irrational thinking, insomnia, loss of appetite, difficulty bonding with the baby, major depression later in life, and in some extreme cases, can even result in a mother ending her own life and/or the life of her baby.

While this condition alone is already dangerous, the two biggest problems that are bolstering it are that a surprising amount of mothers do not know of its existence which causes them to not seek help, and that most antidepressants interfere with breast milk production.

This bill proposes to raise funding for an ad campaign to raise awareness of the condition, create a charity for the condition where donations can contribute to funding for research, and fund a research team to develop more efficient antidepressants that do not interfere with breast milk production.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

If passed this bill would go into effect January 1st, 2025. From this date, a period of four months will be allotted for the creation of the charity and ad campaign, with both the ad campaign and charity going public on May 1st, 2025. Simultaneously, a period of six months will be allotted for the preparation of a working environment, purchasing of any necessary equipment, and hiring of employees with necessary roles. The research period will begin on July 1st, 2025.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Funding will be an initial $3,000,000 from the NIH, $1,000,000 of which will be used for the creation of an ad campaign talking about the symptoms of postpartum depression and $2 million of which will be initial funding for the charity and the start of the research. From there, the money donated to the charity will be used as continual funding for the research.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

N/A

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 362

Clara Campbell Central High School

TITLE: No more Life Without Parole

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

According to The sentencing project,"Louisiana's share of people serving life without parole (LWOP) ranks highest per capita nationally and in the world. More than 4,000 Louisianans are serving sentences of life without the possibility of parole, amounting to 15% of this state's prison population." 15% of people in prison are stuck there without hopes of ever leaving. Studies show that the majority of the people who were sentenced to life without parole were sentenced between the ages of 26-28. According to the bureau of mental health it states that,"The male brain finishes developing and maturing in the mid-to-late 20s." Which supports that even though the age of adulthood in America is 18 male's brains aren't fully developed which means they are doing stupid things in their 20s that will now affect the rest of their life no matter how sorry they are for their crimes.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

On January 1st 2025 this bill will go into effect taking away judges rights to sentence people to life without parole. And allows for current prisoners sentenced to life without parole to gain parole.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Funding will consist of a 0.3% income tax to pay for extra parole officers needed to monitor the prisoners.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Any judge that is caught offending the bill will be investigated on the grounds of malpractice and furthermore if found guilty will be stripped of their position. Any prison that is caught offending will be searched on the grounds of inhumane treatment and will be overseed by a higher government power until conditions improve

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 363

Claire Huang LSU Laboratory School

TITLE: This bill is entitled to expand the access of healthcare to all across Louisiana under the law of Healthcare Access.

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Healthcare, defined as "the organized provision of medical care to individuals or to a community," is a fundamental right and necessity for the well-being of our state. The words "medical care" and "community" underscore the importance of providing comprehensive healthcare services to all Louisianians. Currently, many residents in larger cities like Baton Rouge or New Orleans benefit from local healthcare access. However, rural areas are often left without nearby facilities, making it difficult for residents to receive the care they need.

According to the Louisiana Health Insurance Status Report from 2021, 8.5% of Louisianians remain uninsured. While this percentage may appear modest, it highlights an urgent need for action to prevent further increases in uninsured residents and ensure that healthcare is accessible to everyone. Expanding healthcare access will not only improve the health outcomes across our state but also bridge the gap in healthcare quality between urban and rural areas. This proposed bill aligns with healthcare access law, which aims to guarantee that all individuals—regardless of geographic location—have fair and equal access to medical care.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

To implement this act, we must secure additional funding to establish more healthcare facilities across Louisiana. This funding will allow us to construct new clinics, urgent care centers, and hospitals, especially in rural areas that currently lack these resources. Once our financial objectives are met and the bill is formally enacted, this law will take effect on January 1, 2025.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Our aim is to establish approximately 40-50 small healthcare clinics, 15-20 mid-sized hospitals, and 5 large regional hospitals. The estimated cost for this ambitious project is around $2.06 billion. Achieving this goal will require a combination of funding sources, including state and federal government support, private investment, low-interest loans, possible minor tax adjustments, and community fundraising initiatives. By fulfilling this funding plan, we can meet the requirements outlined by healthcare access law, promoting a healthier Louisiana for all residents.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

There will be no penalties to this bill.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 364

Field Barba Metairie Park Country Day School
Porter Sinnott

TITLE: A Nutria a Day Keeps Erosion Away

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Nutria overpopulation has been a coastal issue in Louisiana for many decades. They are an invasive species overrunning the marshes and swamps of southern Louisiana. Nutria damage important crops, including sugar cane and rice. As well, nutria threaten the coastal wetlands by tearing up grasses by the root, and damaging levees and roadways with their tunnels. Nutria also serve as hosts for tuberculosis and septicemia, which are threats to humans, livestock, and pets. In Louisiana, Nutria are the third biggest cause of wetland loss.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries will expand the season for legal hunting of nutria from September 1st - March 31st to the entire year. This bill will go into effect on January 1st, 2025.

SECTION III: FUNDING

No additional funding will be required from the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

There are no penalties associated with this bill.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 365

Mia St. Germain Metairie Park Country Day
Rachel Naghi

TITLE: implement mid-day breaks during the school/workday

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

This bill will implement a new school and work schedule for all divisions but will focus more on schools and education. School schedules on average last around seven and a half hours and offer little downtime. Most students participate in extracurricular activities like sports, jobs, and volunteering. With this bill, students will be more in tune with their circadian rhythms with the pushback of the schedule and be more productive in their studies.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

School schedules will be pushed back by 1-2 hours. School will start at 9:00am with siesta at 2:00pm until 4:00pm. The second part of the day will end at 6:00pm. Jobs and extracurriculars will occur after those hours. Streets and sidewalks will still be open to the public but asked to keep the volume and population in the streets to a minimum.

SECTION III: FUNDING

No funding needed

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If a noise complaint is filed against you three times, you will get a fine of $50

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 366

Charlie Benoit Benjamin Franklin High School

TITLE: Get Lower Insurance Rates…. Get Higher Life Assurance Rates

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Louisiana has a problem with the costs of its health insurance. Rising obesity and diabetes rates contribute to this, along with inequality in the healthcare system. Because of this, there is a need for lower health insurance rates in Louisiana as not to place undue stress on families' wallets. Insurance companies place this high rate on families because of informational asymmetries - that is, people generally know more about their own health than the health insurance companies do. Therefore, if we reduce the informational asymmetry - if we give the insurance companies more information about our bodies, they are more able to offer lower rates because they know the risk that insuring someone poses to them.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill would mandate insurance companies to extend the option to consumers to undertake more screenings than usual. This would allow insurance companies to more accurately set their insurance rates. If someone is healthier, they pay less insurance. If someone is sicker, they pay more insurance. It is an option extended to consumers, not a requirement, so if a consumer feels that they are more unhealthy, then they do not need to get screened. However, those who felt healthy could get screened and therefore could lower their insurance premiums. Those who turn out not to be healthy, however, would have their rates increase. Basically, this would give consumers the chance to get a more accurate reading on their health insurance.

SECTION III: FUNDING

No costs would come out of the state budget.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Insurance companies who refused to comply with this dictum would have to pay penalties to the consumer who they unduly harmed with their insurance rates in the amount of their insurance policy for the next financial year.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 367

Alice Velez Benjamin Franklin Highschool

TITLE: Turning Back Time: Eliminating Daylight Savings

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Daylight savings clock changes have been shown to increase traffic deaths, cause heart problems, and decrease productivity. Also, we no longer need the change because of modern lighting. Following the path of Arizona, we propose to get rid of daylight savings time and run on standard time all year.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

We will issue an order to not change the clocks back spring 2025

SECTION III: FUNDING

No money, we just expect everyone to do it.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

You'll be late, but none by law.

HOUSE BILL 368

Charlie Benoit Benjamin Franklin High School

TITLE: Get Lower Insurance Rates…. Get Higher Life Assurance Rates

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Louisiana has a problem with the costs of its health insurance. Rising obesity and diabetes rates contribute to this, along with inequality in the healthcare system. Because of this, there is a need for lower health insurance rates in Louisiana as not to place undue stress on families' wallets. Insurance companies place this high rate on families because of informational asymmetries - that is, people generally know more about their own health than the health insurance companies do. Therefore, if we reduce the informational asymmetry - if we give the insurance companies more information about our bodies, they are more able to offer lower rates because they know the risk that insuring someone poses to them.

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SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Insurance companies who refused to comply with this dictum would have to pay penalties to the consumer who they unduly harmed with their insurance rates in the amount of their insurance policy for the next financial year.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 369

Cecelia Strain Benjamin Franklin Highschool

TITLE: Restore the Coast and Swamps of Louisiana

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Coastal erosion has been a large issue in Louisiana for a long time, and has only worsened since climate change's progression. According to readynola.gov, Louisiana has the highest rates of wetland loss in the country, and the state accounts for 80% of the nation's coastal wetland loss. In total, the state has lost approximately 1,900 square miles of coast since 1932. There are many causes of these land losses, including sediment supply, wetland plant health, water quality, global mean sea level change, subsidence, and many other factors. In order to approach this issue, the bill, titled, "Restore the Coast and Swamps of Louisiana", will aim to limit the effects of coastal erosion through hydrologic restoration. Hydrologic restoration, according to mississippiriverdelta.org, uses man-made channels, gates, or other structures to restore fresh water flows and prevent the harmful intrusion of saltwater. This process aims to prevent important freshwater plants from dying and causing further erosion and destruction of swamps and marshes. While it does not restore a large amount of land, it can prevent further erosion from occuring.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

In order for this bill to take effect, there would be required usage of hydrologic restoration in Louisiana coasts and wetlands, which involves planting trees and the creation of wetlands through means of direct seeding (plants being seeded on the surface due to needing light to germinate), planting oyster reefs, and planting various other plants that aid marshes. This bill would take into effect January 1st, 2025, as it is an urgent issue.

SECTION III: FUNDING

An estimate of about 230 million dollars is needed to implement this bill, and the money to support this law would come from the Coastal Protection and Restoration Fund (CPRA), which contributes a significant amount of funding to Louisiana. Louisiana receives about 260.4 million dollars under the Direct Component over the course of 15 years, which would be enough funding for the bill to take effect. The CPRA is also known to give many grants to Louisiana, and would be a great source of funding for this bill.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If passed, the consequences for breaking this law would be a fine of about 100-500 dollars for destroying the newly-built and restored wetlands, and there would be a possibility of jail time of up to 90 days depending on the severity of the crime.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 370

Mariah Dogan Benjamin Franklin High School

TITLE: Move Prisons Forward

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Louisiana has the highest incarceration rate of all states in the USA and has been described as the “murder capital”. Despite incarcerating 1,067 per 100,000 people, Louisiana still has the fourth-highest rate of violent crime. This is because there is a financial incentive to keep more people imprisoned rather than correcting them, with Louisiana outsourcing prisoners to private companies and paying inmates as little as 2 cents an hour for their labor. Louisiana wants to move forward now and stop being the state known for high crime, starting by abolishing all private prisons and unpaid inmate labor.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Private prisons in Louisiana have until 2028 to either transfer their holdings to public ownership or be shut down and have their inmates be transferred to state prisons. Louisiana hereby bans opening any more private prisons. Outsourcing prisoners to work for private companies is also banned, unless the prisoners are paid the minimum hourly wage of $7.25 as all other Louisiana workers are entitled to. The 6 federal prisons and prison camps in Louisiana have until 2028 to cease their operations so this power can be given back to the state. We will join 14 other states with no federal prisons. If a person is convicted of a federal law, they should be shipped to a federal prison outside the state. We will not continue to let them run on our soil.

SECTION III: FUNDING

The cost of paying these prisoners will be assumed by the companies they are outsourced to. If the prisoners work for state-owned businesses, their pay will come from taxpayer money, although only 6.5% of prisoners do work for state-owned businesses, so the amount paid per prisoner will not increase drastically. Raising their pay would take less than $38 million, or $11 per taxpayer, per year. The decrease in incarceration rates will be worth it, as states that spend more per prisoner have lower incarceration rates and are more rehabilitative than retributive.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If companies are found paying prisoners sub-minimum wages, they will be fined and/or never allowed to hire inmates ever again depending on severity.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 371

Addison Parrott Dutchtown High

Jodi Harris

TITLE: Death With Dignity: Allowing the Terminally Ill Physician-Assisted Death

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Death with Dignity allows the terminally ill the option of physician-assisted death. Physician-assisted death is when a physician provides a patient who requests aid-in-dying a prescription that the patient can self-administer to end his or her life in a peaceful, humane, and dignified manner. Caring for and living with a terminal illness is a long and rigorous process that takes an emotional and physical toll on both the individual and their family. When terminally ill cancer patients, the most common terminal illness that requests aid-in-dying, are in their last 6 months of life, they may experience physical decline, increasing pain, fatigue, loss of appetite, and withdrawal from activities, according to the National Cancer Institute. In Oregon in 2023, aid-in-dying recipients reported the most common end-of-life concerns: losing autonomy (91.6%), less able to engage in activities (88.3%), loss of dignity (63.8%), losing control of bodily functions (46.6%), burden on family (43.3%), inadequate pain control (34.3%), and financial implications of treatment (8.2%). The combination of these struggles makes for a prolonged and difficult death. Death With Dignity will help mitigate the struggle that the last 6 months of life provide terminally ill patients.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

-Once passed, the option will be accessible to anyone eligible. This is a choice, not a requirement.

-In order to be eligible you must be:

- an adult resident of Louisiana (18 years or older) where such a law is in Louisiana;

- capable of making and communicating your own healthcare decisions (must be deemed mentally competent by a psychiatrist)

- diagnosed with a terminal illness that will lead to death within six months, as confirmed by qualified healthcare providers

- capable of self-administering and ingesting medications without assistance.

-Overview of the steps for Death With Dignity:

- You request the aid-in-dying drug from your doctor on two separate occasions, at least 48 hours apart. You also make a third written request. In the presence of two witnesses, the request shall be signed and dated by the individual seeking aid-in-dying. An oral request documented in an individual’s medical record shall not be disregarded by an attending physician solely because it was received by a prior attending physician or an attending physician who chose not to participate.

- Your doctor writes the prescription for the aid-in-dying drug and you sign a consent form for the prescription to be sent to the pharmacy.

- You (or a caregiver or loved one) retrieve the drug from the pharmacy.

- You ingest the aid-in-dying drug according to the instructions. You must be notified of the importance of taking the drug in a private place and with another person with you. Drugs cannot be consumed anywhere that conflicts with a facility's already-standing policies.

- Your caregiver or loved ones dispose of any remaining aid-in-dying drug according to the directions.

-Physicians must inform the patient of all of the following:

- The individual's medical diagnosis and prognosis.

- The potential risks associated with taking the drug to be prescribed.

- The probable result of taking the drug to be prescribed.

The possibility that the individual may choose not to obtain the drug or may obtain the drug but may decide not to ingest it.

- The feasible alternatives or additional treatment opportunities, including, but not limited to, comfort care, hospice care, palliative care, and pain control.

-Healthcare workers/facilities can opt out of providing the drug

-Physicians who prescribe the aid-in-dying drug are not subject to legal liability, or professional sanction if they follow all the steps outlined in the law.

-If medication is not used, it must be properly disposed of. The best option would be to find a facility that accepts medications or has a take-back program

-Participation in the Death With Dignity Act and death from ingesting aid-in-dying medication cannot affect any life insurance or impact any will. Patients cannot be denied health insurance, life insurance, or annuities because they are pursuing medical aid in dying

SECTION III: FUNDING

Individual insurers determine whether the procedure is covered under their policies, just as they do with any other medical procedure. If an insurance company does not cover the cost, the patient pays for it if they still want to participate. DDMA and DDMP2, the most common drug combinations, cost around $700, plus delivery fees.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

For misuse of prescribed drugs: 0-5 years in jail with the possibility of additional fines. Also, physicians who fail to comply with proper protocol are suspended for the first offense and their license removed for the second offense. No longer able to work in any sort of medical facility.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 372

Riley Gray Lafayette High School

TITLE: Quit Glazing the Rich

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

As Americans, we are all told that we're 'innocent until proven guilty'. But is this really the truth? Today, in Louisiana, this seems to be far from reality. Instead, it seems as though we're all "guilty until proven wealthy" thanks to our Cash Bail system. "Between 1970 and 2011, the pretrial jail population increased by 433 percent, primarily due to judges relying more and more on cash bail and setting it at amounts people could not afford". "On any given day, nearly half a million people languish in jail cells across the country waiting for their cases to move forward." People detained pretrial now make up more than two-thirds of America's jail population, which is more than 60%. The concept of cash bail corrupts the legal system and negatively impacts us all. With the current cash bail system in Louisiana set how it is, huge issues such as classism, mass incarceration, and racism are constantly growing more and more prevalent in our state courts.

In Louisiana, classism and racism are deeply intertwined due to our long history of systemic inequality, where economic barriers often overlap with racial lines. The cash bail system disproportionately impacts low-income individuals, trapping them in a cycle of poverty simply because they cannot afford their freedom. Since minorities in Louisiana are more likely to live in poverty due to systemic racism, they are also more likely to remain in jail pretrial. This system re-cycles racial, economic, and social inequality, as only the wealthy get to walk away from imprisonment without having to spend a dime while the less wealthy are forced into debts with bail bonds.

This bill addresses these growing issues by eliminating bail as an option entirely. For those charged, pretrial jailing is no longer an option and they will be released post-arraignment. By ending cash bail altogether, the system will become more fair and safe, as it reduces unjust jailing based solely on financial status ensuring a more equal Louisiana.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

With the passage of this bill, bail from pretrial jailing will be eliminated entirely as an option, and all arrested individuals will be released from jail after being brought before a judge (within but not exceeding 72 hours after being arrested). Bail will no longer be an option in this or any other scenario.

This new bail-less system will be implemented 1 year after this bill's initial passage.

Prior to the implementation of this bill, any pre-set bail sentences will remain in place until the defendants' trials. This will only be if their pretrial jailing does not exceed one year in jail after this bill has been implemented. If their pretrial-jailing exceeds this length, their bail and case will be reviewed, and changed to fit under the criteria of this bill.

If deemed necessary by the judge, the defendant may be monitored by other means (ex: House arrest, GPS/electonic monitoring, regular check-ins, etc.) from their jail release up until their trial date. This decision will be at the judge's discretion.

SECTION III: FUNDING

This bill aims to transition Louisiana courts to a non-cash bail system, ultimately saving our state money. This bill will need no immediate funding. Any funding lost from the elimination of our bail system will be

reaccumulated gradually through savings generated by reducing pretrial jailing expenses through the enactment of this new system.

Currently, pretrial jailing costs Louisiana approximately $60-$100 per day per detainee. By releasing individuals from pretrial jailing, and ridding the bail system that forces them to be kept there, the state could save an estimated ~$245.28 million per year. These savings would more than cover the cost of any funding lost with the elimination of a bail system. Any potential surplus will be reinvested into our jail/prison system, spent improving jail conditions, community programs, or other state priorities.

No funds will be reallocated from the state budget because of this, and all funding will be paid for by the bill itself--recycling an existing budget that is currently used and wasted on the excess of detainees forced into our jails by our current cash bail system.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Any judge or otherwise law/judicial official who enforces the unlawful long-term jailing of an arrested individual, or who grants/sets a bail for the defendant illegally after this bill's implementation may have their license/career position reviewed or suspended.

HOUSE BILL 373

Mary Grace Wilson Archbishop Hannan High School
Laney Sharp

TITLE: F.U.N. (Fulling Uninspired Non-Adults)

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

The Disney show, Phineas and Ferb, is an educational show that teaches children creativity, teamwork, and problem solving skills. Phineas and Ferb also broadens kids vocabulary such as their episode dedicated to the aglet. It inspires children to look into jobs like the FBI through their pet Perry the Platypus or engineering because of the projects Phineas and Ferb create. Some kids were deprived of a childhood without seeing the show. The kids who were kept from watching this show are now set on unequal footing in life due to the lack of creativity and inspiration in their lives. In an effort to keep the future of our state from being filled completely with children who did not have a full childhood education, this bill presents the mandatory one episode a day of Phineas and Ferb being added to every school week.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This program will start at the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year. Since there are a total of 189 episodes and a mandatory 35.4 weeks of school in Louisiana, this program will start in 3rd grade and students will be projected to finish by eighth grade. The students that are currently between 3rd-8th grade will begin the program from episode 1 and continue until they reach the end of 8th grade, meaning they will sadly not be able to finish the entirety of the show within the program. Over the 2025 summer, the necessary supplies that need to be purchased/installed (such as projectors/interactive white boards and Disney Plus accounts) will be handled.

SECTION III: FUNDING

The funding for a Disney Plus account will come from the Louisiana Department of Education and schools without projectors or interactive white boards/promethean boards, that have the ability to project from a device, will be provided with those for all classrooms that the show will be shown in.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If this is not added to the curriculum of the school, or a school is reported to not be showing an episode per week, the state will reduce the funding a school gets by 20% until the school fixes the infraction.

HOUSE BILL 374

Blake Unglesby Metairie Park Country Day

TITLE: Legalize Online Casinos

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Casino revenue has been a tried and true practice for a majority of American history. Online gambling is a popular pastime for many people around the world. The industry is expected to grow steadily. The U.S market value currently sits at $6.29 billion in 2024, expecting growth around $10.11 billion by 2029, with average increase of 9.96% yearly. According to Forbes. Online gaming has shown consistent growth. In August, online casino revenue was shown to increase 35% percent year over year, with a $705.8 million average generated across seven active states (Not including tax revenue) in 2023. According to the American Gaming Association or AGA. The International market value sits at 97.15 billion with a growth rate of 6.47% leading to an international market value reaching $132.50 billion by 2029. Louisiana can be the first southern state to implement online casinos, joining New Jersey, Delaware, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Connecticut and Rhode Island. Louisiana has shown not be hesitant when it comes to implementing Sports betting, a sub-sector of the greater igaming industry. The tax revenue generated from online casinos has impacted state economies massively. Pennsylvania tax revenue generated $841,658,212 million in 2023, nearly accounting for 56% of the total $1.5 billion in yearly revenue, according to the Pennsylvania gaming control board. Legalizing online casinos has drawn significant investments from foreign and domestic businesses, and combined with the rapid investment in sports betting. Louisiana can attract more sponsors into a rapidly growing industry. The convenience of online gambling sites remains the pinnacle of gambling. Players can access all manner of games using their devices from the comfort of their own homes. This eliminates the need to travel to a physical casino, therefore saving both time and money. More restrictions can be opposed to users without issue, and a functioning spending limit counter prevents further gambling, rather than a forcible removal from a casino. Players would need to provide legal age or date of birth in order to gamble.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

The Louisiana Gaming control board (LGCB) would take responsibility for restrictions and implementations of each online casino. The Louisiana Gaming control board (LGCB) would provide monthly and yearly revenue data available to the public. The state legislature would become responsible for collecting the casinos tax percentage of yearly revenue. Each online casino would be owned as a separate entity. The Louisiana department of health regulates the online casinos ability to provide advertisement. The Louisiana Problem Gamblers hotline would be attached to every site, or advertisement. Established Louisiana casinos would receive priority over international and national casinos. The income tax of each online casino would be set at 15%, and a 10% tax of all Louisiana winnings would also be implemented. These restrictions and implementations would go into effect on the date January 1, 2025. Along with the establishment of Online casinos taking effect the same day.

SECTION III: FUNDING

No state funding would be provided. Gambling entities can receive a state government loan, however it would be reviewed. Then authorized or rejected. A 20% increase in principle would be attached.

[Principal] - the original sum of money that's borrowed in a loan or placed into an investment.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

The penalties attached to online casinos would coincide with the Federal Illegal Gambling Businesses Laws. State authorities would discuss and make a final decision accordingly. Set penalties act according to the same sanctions affecting tribal casinos, traditional casinos, riverboat casinos, and casino boats.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 375

Tia Segura Archbishop Hannan High School
Noora Abi Rafeh

TITLE: Ban the Sale of Cybertrucks in the State of Louisiana - Truck Cyberyucks!

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

The Tesla cyber truck is unappealing to the eye and has many dangerous factors in the state of a collision. The rigid structure of stainless steel makes the car more durable but also takes away impact from the vehicle transferring the force to other vehicles and passengers. Pedestrians and cyclists are particularly at risk because of the Cybertruck's design. A cybertruck has a large weight and size. There are a greater number of blindspots because of its shape and high ground clearance. Cybertrucks also contain lithium-ion batteries that not only have a higher risk of catching fire when damaged but also are resistant to conventional firefighting methods. The sale of cyber trucks should be stopped in Louisiana.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

State legislation will enforce that cybertrucks will no longer be sold in Louisiana. Owners of cyber trucks can keep their vehicle but it will be flagged because they cannot buy a new cybertruck.

SECTION III: FUNDING

No additional funds required.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If cyber trucks are sold by a dealership, they forfeit any profit made from the sale. The individual who attempted to buy the vehicle from the dealership will be fined $5,000. If an individual attempts to sell a cyber truck independently, they and the person who attempted to buy the vehicle will both be fined $5,000.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 376

Drew LaCroix Prairieville High School

TITLE: Sayonara, Styrofoam! (Switching to biodegradable trays in Louisiana)

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

According to a 2019 article written by the Society of Environmental Journalists about styrofoam facts, styrofoam takes up about 30% of landfill space, and is a material that is not biodegradable. Styrofoam contains polystyrene, which contains a unique molecular structure that causes the material to be hard to break down, taking upwards of 750 years for styrofoam to fully decompose. Not only this, but styrofoam is considered a toxin due to its chemical agent styrene, which is linked to nausea, impaired memory, and possibly even cancer. While it is important to note that just because it's possible doesn't mean that there's a danger, it's still classified as a potential threat.

The mean size of a Louisiana high school is 700 students, and the average American lunch tray is made of styrofoam. That's 700 students possibly exposed to styrene, and a LOT of styrofoam ending up in landfills, polluting the Earth. Let's put this into perspective:

Each styrofoam tray weighs a total of 0.012 lbs- not that much alone. This comes out to 8.4 lbs a day and a whopping 1500 lbs each school year, from one high school alone- imagine that with the hundreds of schools in Louisiana, and the thousands of schools in the U.S. As recorded from the NIH, the National Institutes of health, an average of 14,500 tons of garbage is wasted every single day, simply from public schools alone. This bill is aimed to stop the unnecessary waste of garbage, while also improving the health of several children who have been affected by chemicals included in styrene.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

If passed, the switch to biodegradable trays from styrofoam will be enacted in the 2025-2026 school year and on forward. To make it easier to transition, styrofoam plates can still be used for lunch meals until the quantity to meet the schools needs is met, however breakfast plates shall be strictly biodegradable from here on out, or as soon as possible.

SECTION III: FUNDING

The funding for this bill will come from an increase in tax on cigarettes, raising the tax from five and four-tenths cents per cigarette to six and two-tenths cents per cigarette, providing an average of 100-105 million dollars towards the nutrition support division of the Louisiana Department of Education and Food and Nutrition Service, annually. This money will go towards supporting schools in the switch to biodegradable trays and maintaining the stock until school and district funds can take over.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

It is important to note that no money will be included in penalties, as this will slowen the rate at which the cafeteria makes the switch. Penalties will not be severe, however school cafeterias who have been found to violate the switching towards biodegradable trays will follow these consequences listed:

1st offense: Warning against violation, given 2 months to order/make stock of biodegradable trays

2nd offense: Mandatory training and meeting, discussing consequences for future infractions

3rd offense: Cafeteria division reform, including the mandatory ordering of biodegradable plates

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 377

Cooper Dearie Archbishop Hannan High School
Ian Gremillion

TITLE: Non-Citizen Voter Act

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

On April 18th, 2024, the Department of Homeland Security released a twenty-page document detailing the estimated number of unauthorized immigrants currently residing in the United States of America. Their best estimate placed the number at around eleven million currently residing in the United States on January 1st, 2022. Title 18 US Code Section 611 prohibits non-citizens from participating in elections held to elect a candidate for President, Vice President, Presidential elector, Member of the Senate, Member of the House of Representatives, Delegate from the District of Columbia, or Resident Commissioner. Despite this, non-citizens continue registering to vote and participating in elections with little to no repercussions. Voting is a right of United States citizens, and people illegally living in the United States should not get to enjoy the same rights as United States citizens. Eleven million potential votes could have a major impact on United States Elections which are often decided by a few thousand votes. More concerningly, the votes of the unauthorized immigrants may not be in the best interest of the United States of America and instead could be used to push an agenda of a foreign adversary. Just this year in the battleground state of Michigan, a Chinese national studying at the University of Michigan illegally identified himself as a US citizen and cast an irretrievable ballot. He used his University ID to register to vote. Despite known examples like this, many are seemingly making an effort to allow non-citizens to vote. For example, on October 30th, 2024, the Supreme Court blocked a decision from a lower court attempting to allow fifteen hundred suspected non-citizens in the state of Virginia to vote in the 2024 United States presidential election. Despite the numerous known instances of noncitizens voting even though it's illegal, many can due to most states requiring at most a driver's license to register to vote. This bill expands Title 18 US Code Section 611 to prohibit non-citizens from participating in all elections and requires one to prove their citizenship when registering to vote and renewing voter registration. If passed, this bill will further protect the integrity of United States elections, deter unauthorized immigrants from participating in elections, and allow the government a stronger method to enforce previous laws dealing with noncitizen voting and illegal residence in our country.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

The bill would take effect on January 1st, 2026. This is approximately eleven months before the 2026 US Congressional Elections. All people currently registered to vote in the state of Louisiana until January 1st, 2026 to “renew” their registration by verifying they are indeed a United States Citizen. In order to verify you are a United States Citizen, one must present one of the following documents (in addition to any normally required by the state of Louisiana) in person at your local election office:

United States Passport (expired passports ARE accepted)

Certificate of Naturalization

Certificate of Citizenship

United States Birth Certificate (must present the physical original document)

If one wishes to validate their voter registration and for whatever reason is unable to travel to their local election office due to physical condition, disability, etc., one can fill out a form online requesting a verification-by-visit. In those cases, a state official will travel to your current area of residence where one must present any of the previously listed documents.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Forty million dollars will be allocated to expand ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) facilities and operations in Louisiana to help in the location and detention of any offender avoiding arrest/fines after illegally attempting to vote.

An additional twenty million will be divided up among the parishes of Louisiana and used to expand the capabilities of state officials in verifying citizenship, as well as election officials’ ability to help people verify their citizenship.

A two percent excise tax increase shall be implemented on the following items to fund this bill:

Bottled Alcoholic Beverages

Soft Drinks

Car Sales Exceeding $150,000

Tobacco Products

Jars

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

After January 1st, 2026, any voter registrations that have not yet been verified as belonging to United States Citizens will be declared invalid (note that after this date these registrations may still be renewed).

Any voter attempting to cast a ballot post January 1st, 2026 who has not yet renewed their registration will have their ballot declared invalid. They will then be notified by the state. After this, the person has thirty days to either provide one of the mentioned documents or prove that they are eligible to apply for one of the listed documents. If found eligible, the state will then cover the cost of getting the necessary paperwork and the state will determine a reasonable timeline for the person to get the documentation. If the offender refuses or cannot prove they are eligible for said documentation, they must pay a minimum fine of five hundred dollars.

If a person who has not renewed their voter registration attempts to cast a ballot on two or more occasions, said person will be incarcerated for a minimum of six months and up to five years, and face a minimum fine of three thousand dollars. If said offender is found to be a non-citizen, they will be detained and prosecuted in immigration court.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 378

Lincoln Trumps Lafayette High School

TITLE: Safeguard Medical Conscience

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

The Hippocratic Oath requires a physician to swear to “do no harm”. For many doctors however, they face the risk of being penalized for attempting to live up to that standard. Louisiana state law currently lacks sufficient protections for the conscience of physicians and insurance providers who believe performing certain procedures risks harm to the patient. This bill seeks to prohibit penalties applied to a physician or insurance provider on the basis of their conscience hereby defined as: a sincere religious conviction or philosophical objection to performing a procedure. On the federal level similar laws have been passed protecting physicians and healthcare providers against penalties for refusal to perform surgical sterilization or promote abortion. The Church Amendments (1979), Coates-Snowe Amendment (1996), and the Weldon Amendment (2005) have consistently been upheld in federal court as constitutional, providing protection for the conscience of medical providers. This bill seeks to pass state level legislation to expand the scope and supplement the protections provided by federal law to both insurance providers and physicians. A physician cannot be expected to sacrifice his/her firmly held religious and philosophical beliefs in order to avoid legal penalties. A physician also cannot be expected to provide the same level of care while administering a procedure he/she finds morally repugnant. This bill seeks to address both of these concerns.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Physicians and Insurance providers will have the right to refuse to administer or pay for any ELECTIVE procedure that goes against their sincere religious or philosophical convictions. No organization which receives state funding will be permitted to dismiss a physician on the bases of these convictions and no legal penalties may be imposed on a physician who refuses an elective procedure on these grounds. A physician may be dismissed on these grounds only if the organization they are employed by has the primary purpose of performing a procedure the physician objects to. In the case of an insurance company, they must clearly state in their policies what is covered and any items that are not covered. No insurance company will be permitted to rescind coverage/not cover a procedure without ensuring that the policyholder is aware. Any laws in conflict with this proposal are declared null and void.

SECTION III: FUNDING

This bill requires no additional state funding.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Any organization which receives state funding and violates the provisions of this law will forfeit their right to any further state funding.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 379

Ellie Pennison Archbishop Hannan High School
Alexis Ferlita

TITLE: Working minors will not be taxed on their income due to lack of representation through votes in government- No Taxation Without Representation

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Working minors will not be taxed on their income due to their lack of any representation through votes in government. This allows fundamental voting and taxing rights to be kept. Since working minors are typically still in school and are not making large wages due to a small amount of available working hours, this money will not be taken from them by the government without being able to have any decision on where it's going. This basic right is included in the Declaration of Independence.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Taxes formerly taken from minors’ wages will be redistributed to the top 1% highest earners in the state’s income tax.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Taxes need to be redistributed to the top 1% highest earners in the state’s income tax but no taxes need to be added/taken away.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

No one can collect money off of a wage from minors claiming it is income tax and if it is done, the corporation can be sued.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 380

Ellie Pennison Archbishop Hannan High School
Alexis Ferlita

TITLE: No Taxation Without Representation.

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

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LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 381

Paige Davis Parkview Baptist
Amelia Grace Johnson

TITLE: Snack Smarter Act

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

According to the CDC, 40.3% of adults in the United States are obese, however, 47.9% of Louisiana citizens are obese. "Ultra-processed foods" are a major contributing factor to the United States obesity issues, causing heart disease, diabetes, and other chronic illnesses. The National Library of Medicine and The National Institutes of Health say that we should get no more than 25% to 30% of our daily calories from fats, and limit saturated fat to less than 10% of our daily calories. For a 2,000-calorie diet, that is 200 calories or 22 grams of saturated fats a day. For comparison, just 1 tablespoon of butter contains 7g of saturated fat (almost a third of your daily allowance). A popular snack, the Reese's Peanut Butter Cup, contains 10 grams of fat and 2 grams of saturated fats, making the two-bite snack over a fifth of your daily fat intake per package. To make citizens more aware of what they are putting into their bodies, this bill will require a clear warning label on all high in fat foods. This is because many consumers do not read the fine print on packaging, and if they do, they do not know what the nutrition facts mean.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

To be considered high in fat, an item must contain more than 5 grams of saturated fat per 100 grams of food. Manufacturers will need to print new labels for every high in fat item they make. The label must be 1 by 1 inches tall, with clear bold lettering, saying that the item is high in fats. This bill, if passed, must go into effect by December 7th, 2025.

SECTION III: FUNDING

No funding will be necessary as companies will pay out-of-pocket for labels.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Any company that does not implement this law will be fined $15,000 every month the label does not go on their packaging.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 382

Trevor Wilfong Parkview Baptist

TITLE: Artificial Food Dye Prevention

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Four out of every ten American citizens will develop cancer in their life according to the National Cancer Institute. The leading cause of this, which is backed by data, is harmful food coloring dyes in processed food and drink. According to CDC and npr.org what makes up 60% of Americans diet, is processed junk food and these harmful dyes are in almost all of this junk food we consume. We need to save our people from these cancer-causing dyes we consume every single day

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Prepared and pre-packaged foods containing Red 40, Yellow 5, and Yellow 6 cannot be sold by whole sales, retail, Convenient or other establishments licensed to sell packaged foods in Louisiana. This will go into effect January 1, 2030.

SECTION III: FUNDING

No Funding Necessary as companies will pay out of pocket for the replacement and removal of dyes from recipes.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Licensed retailers and wholesale companies who violate the provisions of this law shall be subject to a fine of 10 dollars per unit sale.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 383

Sydney Alltmont Metairie Park Country Day

Bea Schwarz

TITLE: BAN DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Daylight Savings Time (DST) is an outdated and disruptive practice that negatively impacts public health, productivity, and overall well-being. The biannual time change disrupts sleep patterns, leading to widespread sleep deprivation, decreased productivity, and an estimated $1.7 billion in lost economic opportunity. Studies show that eliminating DST would contribute to improved safety, as longer daylight hours have been linked to reduced car accidents and a 27% decrease in evening crime rates. Additionally, extended daylight hours boost economic activity by encouraging shopping and outdoor leisure, benefiting local businesses and encouraging more active lifestyles. For these reasons, it is in the public's best interest to permanently end the practice of Daylight Savings Time and adopt a year-round standard time.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

At the end of this next rotation of daylight savings (November 2nd, 2025), instead of falling back, time will stay the same. Once implemented, Louisiana citizens and businesses will receive a notice through local news outlets and a reminder every second of the month until it changes.

SECTION III: FUNDING

There is no funding necessary for this bill.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

There are no punishments necessary for this bill.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 384

Sia Mirpuri Parkview Baptist
Peyton Hutchinson

TITLE: Lower the Number of Deaths Caused by Drunk Drivers

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

This bill's job is to reduce the deaths caused by intoxicated drivers. There are 261 deaths a day due to drunk driving and the numbers constantly rise in Louisiana alone. To prevent these deaths we plan to add a breathalyzer machine into motor vehicles. Breathalyzer Ignition Interlock Device (IID): A breath alcohol testing device installed in a vehicle's ignition system that requires the driver to provide a breath sample before starting the vehicle. If the breath sample registers a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) above a predetermined limit, the ignition will be locked.

High-Risk Driver: A driver with a history of driving under the influence (DUI) convictions or similar offenses that increase the risk of impaired driving.

The number of deaths per year attributable to driving under the influence is around 4.7%. The amount of car crashes due to alcohol is around 32%. Every state in the United States of America has laws regarding driving under the influence and ignition interlock devices (iid).

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Effective January 1, 2025, all new vehicles sold or registered in Louisiana must be equipped with a certified breathalyzer ignition interlock device. Beginning January 1,2026, all vehicles registered in the state of Louisiana will be required to have a certified breathalyzer ignition interlock device installed. A grace period for retrofitting existing vehicles shall extend until December 31, 2026. Vehicle owners are responsible for the cost of device installation and maintenance. However, financial assistance programs may be established for low-income individuals. As of January 1, 2025, all high-risk drivers, as determined by prior DUI convictions or similar offenses, will be required to install a breathalyzer ignition interlock device as a condition of driving privileges in Louisiana. The Louisiana Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), in coordination with the Department of Public Safety, shall establish standards and certify approved breathalyzer ignition interlock devices. Certified devices must be inspected annually to ensure functionality. Compliance checks will be part of Louisiana's annual vehicle inspection process. Compliance with the breathalyzer ignition interlock requirement shall be verified as part of the annual vehicle

inspection conducted by licensed inspection stations across Louisiana. The Department of Public Safety shall implement a statewide public awareness campaign on the dangers of drunk driving and the importance of the new interlock requirement prior to the effective date of this bill.

SECTION III: FUNDING

For the 1.3 million cars in the state of Louisiana, it would cost around $350 million. The state will have partnerships with vehicle manufacturers to offset the costs associated with this program. A subsidy program for low-income individuals required to install an IID will be established, funded through grants.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Non-Compliance: Any vehicle owner failing to comply with the device installation requirements outlined in this bill shall face a fine of up to $500, along with potential vehicle registration suspension until compliance is achieved.

Tampering: Tampering with or disabling an ignition interlock device is prohibited. Violators may be fined up to $1,000 and face license suspension for up to six months.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 385

William McClain Mandeville High School
Cooper Finney

TITLE: The Louisiana Ranked-Choice Voting Act

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

In recent years, several states have begun the process of adopting an alternative voting system to more fairly and accurately reflect the views of their constituents in both national and gubernatorial elections. Ranked-choice voting, used in Maine, has emerged among these competing systems as the most fair and equitable. To make good on our eternal promise to the American people, that the government will be a benevolent and truly representative institution, it is only logical that we take inspiration from our northern peers.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill would introduce three rounds of counting to determine the distribution of Louisiana's electoral votes. Citizens rank their candidates in order of 1 to 3, with 1 being most favorable and 3 being somewhat favorable. In the first round, the vote will be narrowed to 10 candidates based on who has the highest number of rank 1 votes. The second round counts both rank 1 and rank 2 votes to eliminate five of the 10 candidates. The third round counts rank 1, rank 2, and rank 3 votes and distributes electoral votes to each candidate proportionally.

SECTION III: FUNDING

This bill requires no additional funding.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If any polling office/official refuses to comply with this regulation, the votes of its constituents will be voided.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 386

Alayna Bruno Haynes Academy
Fatima Al-Miahi

TITLE: An Act To Require Mental Health Intervention Training for Law Enforcement

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

The purpose of this Act is to require all law enforcement officers within the state of Louisiana to receive specialized training in mental health crisis intervention, in order to ensure that officers are equipped with the skills and knowledge to effectively and safely respond to situations involving individuals experiencing mental health crises. The mental health crisis intervention training program must include, but is not limited to, identification of common mental health disorders and symptoms, de-escalation techniques specifically tailored to individuals, safe and appropriate use of force, procedures for referring individuals to appropriate mental health services, and strategies for collaborating with mental health professionals and crisis intervention teams.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

All newly hired law enforcement officers must complete a minimum of 40 hours of certified mental health crisis intervention training within their first year of service. Law enforcement agencies are encouraged to partner with local mental health organizations, hospitals, and crisis centers to develop and deliver training programs. Law enforcement officers will be required to undergo a minimum of 8 hours of mental health crisis intervention training refresher training every three years. Existing law enforcement officers must complete the required training within two years of the enactment of this legislation.

SECTION III: FUNDING

The Louisiana government will allocate an annual budget of $500 million for a period of five years to state and local law enforcement agencies. This money will come from the reallocation of previously instated law enforcement grants, community development funds, and current public safety initiatives from the federal government that focus mainly on law enforcement rather than community engagement, all of which are outdated or not being used correctly. These funds will be used to create the training program as well as mental health professionals. The funds will also support the creation and expansion of co-responder programs, and the development of behavioral health units within police departments, including mobile crisis response teams. Additionally, the funds will provide for community outreach and education programs to increase awareness of mental health resources and foster relationships between law enforcement and mental health providers The Department of Justice (DOJ), in collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), will establish a grant program to distribute these funds. The DOJ and the DHHS will oversee the spending of the money given to agencies to ensure it is used correctly. Local and state law agencies, in partnership with mental health organizations, may apply for grants to cover the cost of training, salaries for mental health professionals, necessary equipment, and resources for crisis response units, as well as the development and evaluation of new or existing crisis response protocols.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Penalties for individual officers:

Any new law enforcement officer who fails to complete the mandatory 40 hours training within one year of employment will be ineligible for promotion or reassignment to any new or specialized positions within the department until the training requirements are met.
Existing officers who do not complete the required training within the specified timeframe will face suspension without pay. The suspension will remain in effect until the officer completes the mandated training.
Persistent failure to comply with the training requirements over a period of two years or more may result in termination from the law enforcement agency. An officer's refusal to participate or complete mental health crisis training will be considered a breach of departmental standards and lead to dismissal proceedings.
Penalties for Law Enforcement Agencies Refusing to Provide Training
Loss of up to 10% of federal grants provided through the Department of Justice for public safety and community policing initiatives.
State-level sanctions, including a reduction in funds allocated for law enforcement operations and community outreach programs.
Agencies that do not comply with this act will be ineligible for future grants related to public safety, mental health, or community-oriented policing until they meet the training requirements.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 387

Atticus Owens Baton Rouge Magnet High School
Adia Prudhomme

TITLE: Prison Electricity and Temperature Regulation Act

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Louisiana prisons have inadequate air conditioning and heating, which makes for miserable and dangerous conditions for both inmates and staff members alike. The heat index can rise above 120°F in the summer due to rising temperatures, humidity, and the conditions within concrete buildings without AC. Exposure to extreme temperatures exacerbates violence and mental health issues, increases adverse health outcomes for inmates as well as employees, and can even be deadly. The lack of temperature regulation in prisons contributes to difficulty in retaining staff and amounts to cruel and unusual punishment for the inmates detained there. Increasingly extreme temperature fluctuations resulting from climate change also strain financial resources through the rising cost of electricity.

This bill seeks to solve the problems outlined above by creating a new standard requiring all Louisiana state correctional facilities to regulate temperatures between 65 and 85 degrees Fahrenheit. This will be accomplished by installing solar arrays and updated heating and cooling systems in all nine correctional facilities. Off-grid, solar-powered temperature control systems will improve conditions within the facilities while saving taxpayer money by reducing reliance on private electrical providers and increasing safety by ensuring that vital systems never lose power due to more frequent and stronger storms that affect our state.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Upon passage, necessary funds will be allocated in the next fiscal year. Following fund allocation, the Department of Corrections will initiate and complete a construction bidding process within the first year of receiving funds. Construction of solar arrays at all prisons will begin within 24 months, starting with Angola, the facility that houses the largest number of inmates in the state. The project will be completed at all facilities no later than 48 months after the initial allocation of funds.

SECTION III: FUNDING

No new taxes are needed to cover the costs of this legislation. Costs associated with this legislation will be met through a one-time general fund allocation of $20 million to be added to the Department of Corrections annual budget that will cover the costs of materials and construction of solar arrays to provide electricity for nine state correctional facilities, and any necessary upgrades to the existing heating and cooling system as needed. Although an initial fund allocation is necessary, this bill is budget-neutral over time. Solar arrays will reduce correctional system electric costs by 75% and those savings will be paid back to the general fund over time to recoup the initial $20 million general fund investment fully.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

No penalties are needed for this bill.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 388

Sadie Richard Lafayette High School

TITLE: Medically-Accurate Sex Education Act

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

The Medically-Accurate Sex Education Act requires the teachings in the Public Middle Schools of Louisiana to insure age appropriate, comprehensive, and religiously neutral sexuality education to protect the health and safety of young people. Louisiana is ranked number 17 in the U.S with the Highest rate of teen pregnancies with the birth rate of 37.5 per 1,000 teens from 15-19. There was also a survey in the school year of 2015-16 that only 11% of secondary schools taught all 19 critical sexual health education topics through grades 6-8. If taught accurately it will help reduce teen pregnancies, lower percentages of diseases sexually, and endure practices of safe sex. Not only will students learn about their sexual health but will also be informed about Saying no in harsh situations and learning about the growth they will be experiencing in their early ages of puberty. It will also ensure that parents know that their child is being more educated on their physical and mental needs. The Louisiana Public Health Institute revealed that 84% of parents believe Sex Education is an important part of school curriculum's that would help build maturity.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

With the Passage of this bill it will Require all Public Middle School districts of Louisiana to have Sex Education as a mandated elective in which schools will be required to have a minimum of two nurses per class Starting from 6th to 8th grade. If student(s) are not taught all four years, they are required to at least take Sex Ed for 1 of their four years of middle school in order to go to high school. If Parents do not want their children to be affiliated with the knowledge of Sex ed due to religious beliefs then the school is required to inform the parents on what they can do to make sure their child still passes middle school. This bill will begin being implemented during the school year of 26-27 but will start being enforced during school year 28-29 to provide public middle schools time for transition.

SECTION III: FUNDING

To help support this bill financially, the money will come from The Louisiana Department of Education to support all public middle schools across the state to insure each school has an Accurate Sex education class elective. $40 million will be put into a budget every year that will go towards Sex education in public middle schools. The money will be put towards the pay for Nurses that are advanced in the knowledge of Sex Education as well any materials they may need such as replicas of condoms, plan B, scientific images of diseases, etc. Which will make sure every Sex ed class is medically accurate with today's society.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If these classes are not put into all public middle schools across Louisiana, the School Board of that district will have the minimum of one warning (60 days) to correct and insure their public middle schools have an accurate sex ed class as an elective. The School districts of Public Middle Schools will also need to provide data on the curriculums and Student participation at least twice within the school year without having to pay a fine. If they refuse to correct their mistakes within the 60 day warning, The school board of that district will have to pay a fine of 50,000 dollars to the Louisiana Department of Education to ensure that every school gets an accurate Sex- Education Class for an elective.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 389

Nate McLean Episcopal High Schoo

Daniel Lindsey

TITLE: Louisiana Aquifer Preservation Act

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

This bill aims to prevent the depletion of Louisiana aquifers due to industrial use. In Louisiana, 61% of the roughly 4 and a half million people use aquifer groundwater as drinking water, per the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Aquifers are a vital source of clean, reliable drinking water for millions of Louisianians. The industrial usage of aquifer-pumped water significantly contributes to the depletion of Louisiana aquifers. According to the USGS, 94.34 million of the 292.65 million gallons of water pumped daily from the Southern Hills Regional Aquifer is used for industrial purposes. Many large corporations, namely Exxon and Phillips 66, pump aquifer water rather than other affordable alternatives like river water. By imposing strict fines on industrial water usage, this bill aims to prevent future water crises in Louisiana.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

The industrial use of aquifer water will be declared illegal, and violators will face fines (see Section IV). This bill will go into effect upon the governor's signature. New industrial users must comply immediately, but current industrial users will be given a 5-year grace period before fines are imposed.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Money collected from fines will fund renewable energy projects.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Industrial users will face a fine of 1 cent per gallon of water pumped. Each year that the violation continues, the fine will be doubled.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 390

Roy Dong Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies

TITLE: Wrap it up!

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Food is commonly taken to-go in “fast food” restaurants (businesses that sell quickly prepared food). These meals are often packaged in containers made of paper, plastic, wax, and styrofoam. Materials like these are non-biodegradable and eventually accumulate in the environment, occupying landfills and contaminating soil. Plastics can even be broken down into microplastics, small fragments that can find their way into our oceans and wildlife. Microplastics are also ingested by wildlife of most ecosystems, and evidence suggests that we also consume these microplastics when we eat wildlife. This bill aims to encourage the usage of natural and biodegradable resources for restaurant food containers and utensils by imposing a penalty against restaurants that do not switch to biodegradable resources.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Restaurants must stop receiving new orders of non-biodegradables by January 2026. By May 2026, they must provide proof of purchase for biodegradables. By January 2027, all restaurants operating in Louisiana should only be using biodegradables.

SECTION III: FUNDING

On average, biodegradable resources cost 30% more than non-biodegradable resources. To prevent an increase in prices, 30% of the expenses spent on biodegradables will be compensated for. Funding for this project includes capital raised from penalties, but mainly from reserves provided by the Environmental Protection Agency. This bill requests $70 million out of the $11 billion the EPA budgets for environmental initiatives annually to help cover restaurant expenses for biodegradable resources. In Louisiana, annually, around $180 million dollars are spent on food packaging and take-out utensils in restaurants. The $70 million dollars supplied by the EPA alongside fines from refusing restaurants will supplement the change in expenditures that the restaurants would experience. Even with the switch to more expensive biodegradables, restaurants in Louisiana would spend 9% less with federal funding than what they currently spend for nonbiodegradables without federal funding.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Restaurants that would have not begun transitioning to biodegradables for food packaging by January 2026 would be fined $3100 per month until the restaurant begins. Restaurants that would have not finished transitioning to biodegradables for food packaging by January 2027 would also be fined $3100 per month until the restaurant finishes transitioning.

HOUSE BILL 391

Eesha Gottumukkala Lafayette High School

TITLE: Regulate/ban cell phone usage on roads.

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

We must strictly regulate cell phone usage for drivers. Louisiana is ranked as the second deadliest state in the nation for distracted drivers. This act can enhance road safety by significantly reducing accidents. Although Louisiana has laws in place aimed at preventing distracted driving, they aren't strict enough, and this issue has become much too serious to neglect it any further.

As time passes, the amount of distracted drivers increases. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, texting while driving is six times more deadly than driving while under the influence of alcohol. That means cell phone usage should be taken just as seriously, if not more severely than drunk driving. In fact, many states with stricter policies tend to have less distracted driver fatality rates. For example, Arizona started implementing stricter policies, which resulted in less than 1 distracted driving fatality per billion miles, as compared to Louisiana, which has about triple the amount. Therefore, action is imperative to address this critical issue.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill should be in effect by May 1, 2025. It will ban any handheld cellular usage while driving. It will not ban hands-free cellular usage, such as hands-free calling, and the usage of phone apps built in cars. If the cellphone is required for GPS navigation, it must be on a hands-free device. Section IV provides for the enforcement of this bill.

SECTION III: FUNDING

This bill does not require funding.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Increased fine for handheld cell phone usage while driving to $1000 first time offense, and $2000 for the second offense. The third offense can result from 10 days to 3 months in prison, with up to 15 8-hour days of community service. Additionally, if involved in a car accident due to texting, social media, or any other handheld cellular usage, the driver is punishable by 10 days to 6 months in jail, as well as up to 30 8-hour days of community service. This excludes accidents as a result of hands-free cellular usage.

HOUSE BILL 392

Liberty Lightfoot Lafayette High School
Dehlia Trainer

TITLE: Implement ASL Training in Prisons

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, 10% of prisoners reported having a hearing disability. Deaf and hearing impaired prisoners have a hard time understanding all directions from correctional officers (more commonly known as prison guards) because lipreading is not a fully effective way of understanding. This bill strives to protect their rights as is required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). To implement ASL (American Sign Language) training in prisons, all correctional officers will be required to learn fingerspelling and basic commands and phrases in ASL during initial training or in annual Mandatory Continued Training. Initial training is currently in place for correctional officers, and involves two weeks of training and testing in order to qualify for and receive the job. Mandatory Continued Training is required for employees of the Louisiana Department of Public Safety & Corrections where they must attend 40 hours of inservice training to stay up to date on their skills. This includes computer-based training, a day of First Aid/CPR, a Tactical Day, a Firearms/Range Day and a Defensive Tactics Day. This bill seeks to add an ASL day to this list. Commands/phrases that correctional officers must know for this bill are "Stop", "Lockdown", "Cafeteria", "Solitary", "Bathroom", "Follow", "Shower", and others that are deemed necessary by the respective prison.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

A professional ASL teacher will be hired for each correctional officer training facility. The teacher would work at a training facility year round in order to ensure each new wave of recruits and yearly training group would always have someone ready to teach. Initial training for new recruits is two weeks long. This bill would add on an additional three days of training for ASL, totalling to two and a half weeks. The ASL teacher who will be in charge of that training will begin with learning fingerspelling and the basic commands required to know. If correctional officers prove that they are meeting the requirements (as stated above), then they will pass the course, similarly to all other courses in initial training/Mandatory Continued Training. This bill would continue to have the Mandatory Continued Training system in place and simply add on another day of training (8 hours) for ASL training to ensure that correctional officers' ASL is up to date and being used correctly. An ASL teacher will monitor the correctional officers as they demonstrate their capability in fingerspelling and specified commands. This bill will go into effect on July 1, 2025.

SECTION III: FUNDING

An ASL teacher's average yearly salary in the state of Louisiana is about $45,000-$83,000. Factoring in for one teacher in each correctional officer training facility, with 8 in Louisiana, would equal out to be about $360,000-$664,000. Having a teacher all year round in the training facilities would allow for new recruits to be continually trained throughout the year, as is currently in place, and for their ASL to be monitored and kept up with consistently. The Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement (LCLE) has two grant pathways that are available to it: the "State program" and the "Federal program". The Federal program oversees grants authorized by Congress to support the implementation of programs and to assist the improvement of the state's criminal justice community through funding at the state and local level. The Federal program would be utilized for this

bill. This bill adheres to the Federal program's guidelines and therefore is eligible for grants and funding from it.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

This bill maintains the previous policies in place for Mandatory Continued Training: if correctional officers miss yearly training for the whole year, they will be terminated. If correctional officers refuse to be trained and taught ASL, they will also be terminated, due to refusal to follow basic training that is required to properly do their job.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 393

Keira Vollman Benjamin Franklin Highschool

TITLE: Wetland and Habitat Restoration

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

The loss of wetlands in the Atchafalaya basin due to sedimentation has serious consequences for the environment and public safety. Once filled with sediment, swamps cannot be replaced. The basin's wetlands are important for flood control, filtering pollutants and sediment, and providing habitats for plants and animals. Louisiana experiences some of the highest flood damages in the entire U.S., with estimated annual losses due to flooding being around $1.4 billion. Which includes costs associated with infrastructure repair, emergency responses, and property damages. New Orleans and the surrounding area being the most vulnerable due to its low elevation. In a high-flood scenario which scientists predict to happen within a few decades, thousands of miles of levees, roads, and pipelines in southern Louisiana could be impacted. The state has over 25,000 miles of levees and other flood control structures that require constant maintenance and reinforcement, much of which is due to sediment build-up and altered flow patterns in the Atchafalaya basin. Since 2000 the frequency of severe floods in Louisiana has increased significantly, with the likelihood of a 100-year flood(a severe flood event with a 1% chance of occuring in any year) it is projected to be increased by up to 40% in certain areas due to climate change and land loss.The bill proposed would focus on reducing sediment build up, restoring natural water flow, and implementing flood mitigation measures. This bill has potential to protect the region's ecosystem, infrastructure, economy, and communities from escalating risks.

Dredging and Sediment Reallocation: The bill would fund and coordinate dredging operations in the Basin to remove excess sediment and prevent waterways from clogging. This sediment could be transported to eroding coastal areas where it can help restore land lost to erosion.

Wetland and Habitat Restoration, the bill would fund wetland restoration projects that focus on planting native vegetation, reestablishing natural water flows, and creating buffer zones that absorb floodwaters and reduce flood impact downstream.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

The bill would be put in place in January of 2025 as it is an urgent affair. To start the bill would fund a sediment management program. The bill will fund and coordinate dredging operations in the Basin to remove excess sediment and prevent waterways from clogging, the sediment will then be transported to eroding coastal areas where it can then help restore land that is lost to erosion. This will alleviate the pressure on downstream areas like New Orleans, by allowing water to flow more efficiently and reducing the risk of severe flood events. The second step of the bill will support Wetland and Habitat restoration. The bill will also fund wetland restoration projects that focus on planting native vegetation, re-establishing natural water flows, and creating buffer zones that absorb floodwaters and reduce flood impact downstream. This will support the habitat's vast biodiversity that will benefit the ecosystem. The bill will additionally fund for the creation of Floodwater storage basins in the Atchafalaya basin, designed to hold and gradually release excess floodwater. The basins can absorb peak water levels which reduces the immediate pressure on levees and flood-defenses. This will reduce recovery

costs. The last implementation and one of the most important is the Community and Economic support, with all of the implementations this bill will fund it will create jobs in restoration, infrastructure projects, conservation, engineering, and construction providing economic benefits to local communities.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Over the ten years this bill will need to be implemented this bill needs $2-3 billion dollars which will significantly reduce flood risk, restore important habitats, and provide lasting resilience for New Orleans, the Atchafalaya basin and surrounding communities. The bill will take about 50%-60% (approx. $1-1.5 billion) from federal funding sources such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency), NOAA(National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. It will use 20-25% (approx. $400-750 million of State and local funds such as, CPRA (Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority and Louisiana state grants and budget allocations. The dedicated Bonds/taxes/fees will take 5-10% (approx. $100-300 million). Finally the bill plans to use funds from Public and private partnerships, these will take 10-15% (approx. $100-300 million for example, the government could provide tax credits or grants for private companies involved in dredging, sediment transportation, wetland restoration, and green infrastructure projects. Additionally nonprofit and environmental organizations such as the Nature Conservancy, Ducks unlimited and other regional nonprofits can help fund certain aspects of habitat restoration, and their involvement might attract philanthropic donations. By leveraging multiple funding sources this creates a balanced, sustainable approach to covering costs.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

No penalties necessary.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 394

Tatum Roniger Benjamin Franklin Highschool

TITLE: RISE: Renewing Infrastructure for Student Excellence

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Many schools across the state face severe challenges, including outdated facilities, chronic underfunding, and a shortage of essential educational resources. Recent statistics highlight the urgency of this situation. A significant portion of schools in Louisiana, 38.2%, report lacking the necessary amenities to implement their educational programs effectively. This issue is particularly pronounced in charter schools, where 31.4% state that their facilities limit academic curriculum implementation. Looking ahead, 62.7% of schools plan to increase student enrollment over the next five years, yet more than half lack adequate space for this projected growth. Further complicating expansion efforts, only 38.4% of charter schools have information about nearby vacant or underutilized traditional public school facilities.

In response to these pressing issues, the Public High School Reinvestment Fund will be established as a dedicated financial mechanism. This fund aims to support and facilitate the comprehensive renovation, strategic expansion, and thorough modernization of public high schools throughout Louisiana. The initiative will emphasize enhancing and broadening access to crucial educational areas such as STEM programs, arts education, vocational and technical training opportunities, and extracurricular activities to promote holistic student development.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation of this bill will be executed in three carefully planned and coordinated phases:

Initial Assessment (0–6 months): The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) will conduct a thorough and impartial statewide needs assessment, evaluating each public and charter high school's infrastructure, resource requirements, and potential for improvement.

Fund Distribution and Implementation (6–36 months):

Within 12 months: The first round of fund allocations will be strategically distributed, prioritizing the most underserved and resource-deficient schools.

Upon receiving funds: Schools will immediately begin implementing their approved improvement plans.

Within 2-3 years: The goal is to complete all necessary renovations, upgrades, and resource acquisitions.

Ongoing Support and Maintenance (36+ months):

Annual reassessment of school needs and fund allocation

Continued support for maintenance, upgrades, and emerging educational requirements

Addressing unforeseen challenges and adapting to changing educational landscapes

To ensure accountability and track the effective use of funds, schools will be required to submit regular, detailed progress updates to the Louisiana State Legislature. These reports will include comprehensive information on construction progress, resource allocation, and the tangible impacts of the improvements on educational outcomes and student experiences.

SECTION III: FUNDING

The Public High School Reinvestment Fund will be structured in two phases:

Initial Infrastructure Investment (Years 1-2):

An allocation of $100 million per year for the first two years, totaling $200 million.
This funding will be drawn primarily from the State General Fund and supplemented by State lottery proceeds.
This funding is specifically earmarked for major infrastructure improvements, renovations, and essential resource acquisitions.
Ongoing Maintenance and Support (Year 3 onwards):
Starting from the third year, the annual budget will transition to $20 million.
This budget focuses on the maintenance of improved facilities, addressing inflation, meeting new educational needs, and supporting ongoing programs established during the initial phase
To ensure long-term sustainability and adaptability, the ongoing maintenance and support fund will include provisions for an annual reassessment of funding needs. There will be a possibility of up to a 2% increase (maximum $400,000) per year to account for inflation and emerging educational requirements. This increase will be subject to legislative approval and budgetary constraints.
This initiative will also be funded through the establishment of corporate partnerships and solicitation of private sector donations (aiming for an additional $5 million annually).

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

To maintain the integrity of the program and ensure the responsible use of public funds, the following penalties will be imposed for misuse of allocated resources or failure to comply with the mandated reporting requirements:
First offense: Issuance of a formal warning accompanied by a mandatory, comprehensive audit of all fund-related activities and expenditures
Second offense: Immediate suspension of all funding allocations and the requirement to develop and implement a detailed corrective action plan, subject to approval by the Louisiana Department of Education
Third offense: Permanent disqualification from participation in the reinvestment program, coupled with the potential for legal action to recover misused funds and enforce accountability.

HOUSE BILL 395

Sophia Margavio Mandeville High School
Ella Kornfuhrer

TITLE: Eliminate Required Car Inspectons

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Many eligible to drive would like to begin driving as soon as possible, but an issue they may come across is required inspection stickers. Anyone with a car must get their vehicle inspected every other year and, if expired, drivers can be fined up to $124. It takes time, money, and effort to get these inspection stickers when they barely improve road safety, as most accidents are a result of driver error, and not mechanical errors within vehicles. States that have eliminated the need for these inspection stickers, such as Florida, have not seen an increase in accidents caused by mechanical error. Inspection stickers, as a result, are a waste of time, money, and effort for citizens ready to drive.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill will remove the requirement of biennial car inspections and the need for the sticker given afterwards.

SECTION III: FUNDING

This bill requires no funding.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If any cop pulls over or attempts to fine an individual for not having an inspection sticker, they will be at risk for losing their job based on their boss's discretion.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 396

Lillian Muirhead Benjamin Franklin High School

TITLE: Apply and fee to use plastic grocery bags

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

In the U.S about 500 million plastic straws are thrown out each day that is about 1.6 straws per person. Plastic straws are very likely to end up in bodies of water such as the ocean after they are thrown out and it is estimated that 437 million to 8.3 billion straws are thrown into the ocean each year. Since plastic straws are not biodegradable, microplastics can cause pollution to water and soil.Several states in the U.S have already banned plastic straws. Banning non-biodegradable straws is necessary to help the environment in Louisiana and help with problems of water pollution affecting marine life. Banning non-biodegradable straws is meant to move people to using biodegradable straws to help improve these problems caused by plastic straws.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

For this bill to take effect, it must be passed by both the Louisiana House of Representatives and Senate, then signed into law by the Governor; and it would go into effect on the first day of the following calendar year. To execute it the education of the public about the problems caused by non-biodegradable straw is needed to show why we need this bill.

SECTION III: FUNDING

The money for this bill will come from new tax revenue and from businesses that must pay the fee for the continued use of plastic straws. Businesses will have to pay about $25 dollars per day if they continue to use plastic straws.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If food service businesses continue to use plastic straw they will get a notice for the first and second offense, but for the third offense there will be a fee of about $25 per day.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 397

Elsie Poynter Benjamin Franklin Highschool

TITLE: MOTHER of Cancer Alley (Maternal Outreach To Help and Empower Residents of Cancer Alley)

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

This bill aims to address the critical need for improved maternal healthcare services in Cancer Alley, Louisiana by providing comprehensive maternal healthcare services. Cancer Alley refers to the stretch of land along the Mississippi River between Baton Rouge and New Orleans, known for its high concentration of industrial plants and elevated cancer rates. This area also faces significant disparities in maternal health outcomes due to high levels of pollution.

Some relevant statistics include:

27% of babies born in Cancer Alley face low birthweight (this is more than double the state average and triple the US average)

In Cancer Alley there is a 25.3% PreMature Birth Rate (nearly double the state average and 2.5 times the US average)

Louisiana's maternal mortality rate ranks 47th out of 48 states

These women do not have access to adequate maternal healthcare and education to take the precautions and measures that they should to mitigate and understand these issues.

For the purposes of this bill:

"Maternal healthcare" includes prenatal care, labor and delivery services, postpartum care, and related health services for pregnant women and new mothers.

"Cancer Alley residents" refers to individuals residing in the parishes along the Mississippi River between Baton Rouge and New Orleans.

This bill proposes to establish mobile health clinics, increase the number of healthcare providers specializing in maternal care, and implement a comprehensive maternal health education program in Cancer Alley. These measures aim to reduce maternal mortality rates, improve access to quality prenatal and postnatal care, and address the unique health challenges faced by pregnant women in this environmentally compromised area.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

The Louisiana Department of Health shall be responsible for implementing this law, which will take effect on January 1, 2025.

Implementation will involve:

Establishing and operating five mobile health clinics equipped for maternal care within the first year.

Recruiting and hiring additional OB-GYNs, midwives, and maternal health specialists to serve in Cancer Alley clinics and hospitals.

Developing and launching a comprehensive maternal health education program within six months of the bill's passage. This program will include:

Accessible Prenatal classes

Workshops on environmental health risks specific to Cancer Alley and strategies for mitigating these risks during pregnancy

Postpartum support groups

Miscarriage support groups

Community health fairs providing free health screenings, educational materials, and access to local healthcare providers.

An online platform offering on-demand educational videos

Conducting annual reviews to assess the program's effectiveness and make necessary adjustments.

SECTION III: FUNDING

The estimated cost for implementing this bill is $20 million for the first year, with ongoing annual costs of $15 million.

Funding will be sourced from:

Reallocation of 2% of the state's industrial tax incentives to this program.

A new 4% tax on industrial facilities operating in Cancer Alley.

Federal maternal health grants and matching funds.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

This section is not applicable as the bill does not impose penalties on individuals or organizations.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 398

Lucy Rhodes Benjamin Franklin High School
Gisele Morris

TITLE: Raising our Roofs

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

The average homeowner's insurance rate in Louisiana is noticeably higher compared to the rest of the nation. This is likely because of the flooding issue and hurricanes that our state endures every year. The average annual expenditure for homeowners insurance in Louisiana is $1,965, which is 55% higher than the national average. The high cost of insurance is causing population losses and housing problems.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Our bill would introduce an incentive to homeowners in Louisiana, where homeowners are encouraged to strengthen their roofs in exchange for a lower insurance rate. This would allow for more financial distribution among the people and help secure the needs of the population while encouraging them to be protected from natural disasters. Although the price for strengthening a roof may seem large and daunting in comparison to paying the insurance each year, it'll work better in the long run.

SECTION III: FUNDING

By securing a grant of $6 million to the insurance companies, they will be able to effectively lower the cost of homeowner's insurance. The bill will also provide a grant of $4 million to low-income households in order to ensure the fortification of their roofs.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If an insurance company does not comply with the new bill the company will be fined $5 million in damages and will be required to issue a refund to the customers.

HOUSE BILL 399

Philit Jin Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies
Barsha Debnath

TITLE: Preparation Actions Supporting Salaries To Help Educators Better Live Life (P.A.S.S.T.H.E.B.I.L.L).

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

As many may know, the people that set students up for success, people that give students education, people that build students and get students ready for reality often have low salaries. These salaries are so low that one can buy a completely new car with just the salaries that teachers make. The average teacher salary for Louisiana as of 2023-2024 school year is roughly around $50,000. This is lower than the average salary in Louisiana of $66,000. Not only do teachers educate, but many teachers often have to stay after school for faculty meetings, and they are even required to go to campus during the summer break. They have to attend certain classes to learn the curriculum they must teach to their kids when schools start, required by the Louisiana Law. Depending on when each school starts and ends, teachers work long hours. School usually is roughly around 8 hours depending on one's school, but these hours do not include teachers having to be on campus an hour ahead of time and after school activities like clubs. Teachers that don't have after-school activities already don't have enough time because of long school hours, and for teachers who actually do after school clubs as sponsors, they still have to attend these club activities that can take place outside of school, taking up the teacher's free time. Because of all this, many individuals have teachers that they appreciate that help them through school, as do many; teachers deserve way more than they receive as of today. At the end of the day, teachers are the first step to our success. What would students possibly be without these teachers?

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

The Louisiana Department of Revenue would work to tax 1-5% of each corporation (only corporations that are in a higher tax bracket would be taxed), which would add up the values of the money total to be a large amount, which would be enough to increase teacher salaries. Tax percentage would be reassessed every 3 years to adjust for inflation to fulfill the goal of increasing teacher salaries to $70,000. The Louisiana Department of Revenue will tax more to provide additional funding to parishes specifically for teacher pay to accomplish the goal of teachers salaries of $70,000. The government will then collect these taxes paid by the corporations and a large portion of it will go to the Department of Education towards teachers' salaries. If there is an excess amount, it will be allocated to other departments such as infrastructure, health care, food and agriculture.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Corporations would be taxed 7.54%, raising the existing 7.5% corporate tax for incomes over $150,000 by 0.04%, and amounts taxed will be implemented in increasing the salaries of teachers. As teachers' salaries get increased to about $70,000 to accommodate an above average salary.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If taxes aren't paid, companies would be subject to existing tax code laws.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 400

Elise Wilson Baton Rouge Magnet High School
Karmen Cheng

TITLE: Abolish Banning Books in Public Schools

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

This bill will make book banning in public schools illegal. Book banning is a form of censorship where access to a book is restricted or completely taken away as a result of challenges from parents, lawmakers, or administration due to a book's content, themes, or messages. Library personnel select the books they deem most entertaining, educational, and appropriate for the students. In our state of Louisiana, public school librarians are required to have a masters degree, a teaching license, pass the Praxis II Library Media Content Test, and earn a Louisiana Department of Education Certificate. With these rigorous requirements and the specialization of their education, school librarians are the most adept at selecting the books for the diverse range of students in the Louisiana public school system. It is important to have a wide spectrum of books to broaden the perspectives of readers, helping them to have different ideas and learn more about the world around them (Center for Brain Health). So if there was a ban on books student's perspectives would be narrowed which can limit their abilities to have a better understanding of problems.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Any future action taken to try to ban a book will be immediately rejected and dismissed. Public school libraries would be free to order previously banned books to put onto their shelves, which would be available to anyone. This ban will be enacted by the start of 2025, so schools can have time to order books and have them all in and shelved by the start of the 2025-2026 school year.

SECTION III: FUNDING

This bill requires no funding.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Any public school found to have violated this bill will be required to continue to put control and access to the books under the authority of the school librarian. The librarian, under no threat or outside influence, will decide whether the book will be put into the public school's library and will have part in deciding the consequences of the school for violating the librarian's decisions. If a student is limited from reading a specific book entirely on school grounds, the school would be charged for violating the first amendment which includes the freedom of reading.

HOUSE BILL 401

noora abi rafeh archbishop hannan highschool
tia segura

TITLE: truck the cyberyucks

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

The Tesla cyber truck is unappealing to the eye and has many dangerous factors in the state of a collision. The rigid structure of stainless steel makes the car more durable but also takes away impact from the vehicle transferring the force to other vehicles and passengers. Pedestrians and cyclists are particularly at risk because of the Cybertruck's design. A cybertruck has a large weight and size. There are a greater number of blindspots because of its shape and high ground clearance. Cybertrucks also contain lithium-ion batteries that not only have a higher risk of catching fire when damaged but also are resistant to conventional firefighting methods. The sale of cyber trucks should be stopped in Louisiana.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

State legislation will enforce that cybertrucks will no longer be sold in Louisiana. Owners of cyber trucks can keep their vehicle but it will be flagged because they cannot buy a new cybertruck

SECTION III: FUNDING

No additional funds required.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If cyber trucks are sold by a dealership, they forfeit any profit made from the sale. The individual who attempted to buy the vehicle from the dealership will be fined $5,000. If an individual attempts to sell a cyber truck independently, they and the person who attempted to buy the vehicle will both be fined $5,000.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 402

Anne Marie George Metairie Park Country Day School
Sydney Alltmont

TITLE: Green Roofs to Combat Climate Change

An act to improve air quality, decrease the effects of climate change, and better the lives of Louisianians.

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Section 1.2

The implementation of green roofs has numerous benefits, both economically, environmentally, and socially. Examples of economic benefits include lower energy costs, reduced stormwater management costs, and the creation of job opportunities. In terms of environmental impacts, green roofs aid in eliminating toxic pollutants from the air and decreasing the excess carbon in the atmosphere, thus helping to improve individuals' health. Green roofs have also shown to improve mental health.

Studies from the U.S. General Services Administration have proven that green roofs on commercial and public buildings provide paybacks of approximately 6.2 years, all with an internal rate of return of 5.2% and a return of investment (ROI) of 224% based on a net present value of $2.7/square foot.

Green roofs serve as insulators that help to maximize energy efficiency and diminish noise disruptions, thus shielding a building's internal users from external noise pollution. Data has proven that green facades have sound absorption that reaches 14 dB and sound attenuation of 61 dB. Furthermore, the mass of a green roof, its water holding substrate, and the evapotranspiration of vegetation reduce the amount of heat energy absorbed or lost by a building. Such capabilities reduce fluctuations in temperature and make climate regulating equipment (like air conditioning) more efficient. Various studies have proven that through evapotranspiration, plants can cool ambient air by 37.5°F to 41°F, while heat and cooling escaping from buildings has shown to be decreased by around 70%.

Green roofs reduce the volume and intensity at which rain is delivered to drainage systems. This decreases the likelihood of flash flooding and the possibility of damaged infrastructure after intense storms. Vegetation on roofs can allow for a longer lifespan of the roof by protecting the surface from bad weather, exposure to UV rays, and exposure to corrosive urban pollution, such as acid rain.

Cities contain high densities of heat-absorbing materials, such as concrete, and are subject to the Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect. By reducing the area of heat-absorbing materials exposed to the sun, green roofs can reduce UHI impact.

However, the principal benefit of such roofs is the sequestration and storage of carbon in the plants and media present on green roofs, which inherently ameliorates the negative effects of carbon emissions and improves air quality. Vegetation on green roofs can trap toxic airborne chemical pollutants emitted from industries and vehicles. Rooftop vegetation has been proven to capture large percentages of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), gasses that are emitted into the air from products or processes; such particles have links to diseases,

including cancer. For example, green roofs can capture up to 95% of cadmium, copper, and lead, and up to 16% of zinc particles suspended in the air.

In addition, studies have shown that exposure to nature or natural scenes, even for as little as 3-4 minutes, reduces symptoms of stress and restores cognitive function. Such benefits can improve work productivity and promote social engagement.

Section 1.2 DEFINITIONS

According to the U.S. Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, commercial buildings are defined as all other buildings that are not considered a residential building.

A “residential building,” as defined by the U.S. Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, includes:

1) detached one-or-two family dwellings having not more than three stories above grade plane

2) buildings that consist of three or more attached townhouse units and have not more than three stories above grade plane

3) buildings that are classified in Group R-2, R-3 or R-4 and have not more than three stories above grade plane

Solar panels are defined by the U.S. Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy as technologies that convert sunlight into electrical energy either through photovoltaic (PV) panels or through mirrors that concentrate solar radiation, with such energy that is gathered then used to generate electricity or stored in batteries or thermal storage.

A green roof, according to the Green World Infrastructure Network, is “a vegetated roofing system which is functionally integrated onto a roof area.”

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

All commercial buildings, both pre-existing and new construction, will be required to cover at least 40% of their roofs with either vegetation (a “green roof”) or solar panels.

Certain cases will be exempt where the competent authority for planning authorization, by reasoned decision, provides that all or part of the obligations from this Article shall not apply. This may include cases where such technology is impossible to implement due to technical, security, architectural or heritage constraints.

This act shall take effect ninety (90) days after the adjournment of the Youth Legislature.

SECTION III: FUNDING

No state funding is required for this legislation. The implementation of green roofs will be funded by the proprietor of the building.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Contractors shall not depart from or disregard the specifications of this building code. The Registrar will have the authority to order restitution or a corrective work order to implement the construction changes outlined in this legislation within a specified time period. If a licensed contractor fails to correct violations to this building code after being ordered by the Registrar to do so, the Registrar may impose a civil penalty of not more than $500. If such penalty is not paid within thirty days after imposition, the contractor’s license will automatically be revoked.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 403

Thuy Bui Baton Rouge Magnet High School

TITLE: Dine Safe Act: Allergy Prevention Training for Restaurant Staff

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, food allergies are responsible for approximately 30,000 emergency department visits and 150-200 deaths per year. Nearly half of these fatal reactions are caused by food from a restaurant or other food service establishment. Additionally, the CDC reports that more than half of the United State's restaurant staff has received no form of training on food allergies. While the FDA recommends that restaurant managers be well versed in how to deal with food allergies, it is clear that not enough is being done to prevent these reactions.

Because of this ignorance, even knowledgeable customers cannot advocate for themselves properly if the people they are talking to do not understand the mechanisms through which allergens can contaminate food. In addition, according to the CDC, "one fourth of surveyed managers reported having no ingredient lists or recipes for menu items," meaning many staff members do not have a holistic idea of what is in most menu items, leading to troubles in serving customers with allergies. It is through the education of restaurant workers on allergies and allergens that these issues can hopefully be addressed, since staff will understand why ingredient lists and other similar tools are important alongside the fundamental understanding of how allergies work and how severe they are.

This bill seeks to promote the education of restaurant workers in the subject of cross contact in order to prevent such reactions and deaths. Ultimately, even a basic education in the subject of cross contact should prevent deaths and make it easier for customers with allergies and restaurant staff to communicate about the dangers and needs of their conditions.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill, if implemented, will be put into effect February 1st, 2025. Every food based establishment in Louisiana will be required to provide some sort of explanation on cross contact, one that may include explanations on how it is similar to cross contamination such as with uncooked meats, and must establish how fatally important the information is. This bill will allow for an adjustment period for restaurants to train their employees on how to properly handle foods to minimize risk of cross contact, and how to serve customers with severe food allergies. Ultimately, the role for checking that the law is being followed would fall into the hands of health safety inspectors, who would be looking out for not just contamination of harmful bacteria, but also of allergens when the staff are prompted. This could include but is not limited to: Checking to see if surfaces are properly cleaned of allergens, if gloves are changed for an order for someone with allergies, and ensuring no cross contact takes place.

SECTION III: FUNDING

No funding necessary.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

The penalties for breaking this law will be a fine no less than $100 and no more than $10,000, depending on the income of the business, in addition to the number of employees they neglected to train, and the severity of the outcome. Repeat offenders are to have their Retail Food Permit revoked and other similar licenses or permits suspended indefinitely.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 404

Sarah Ebenezer Baton Rouge Magnet High School
Wren Harms

TITLE: Enforcement of Mandatory Evacuation Orders for Louisiana Prisons

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

According to the ACLU: During the Hurricane Katrina evacuation mandate, over 6,500 inmates were left in Orleans Parish prisons through the storm. Inmates as young as 10 were left with no food or water, the guards were not made aware of any evacuation plan, and as the buildings in OPP lost power, prisoners were left in locked cells with sewage water up to their chests. The decision to evacuate prisoners during an evacuation mandate is currently left up to the local sheriff department, and they have decided against evacuation as recently as 2021 with Hurricane Ida. Our bill intends to mandate the enforcement of evacuation orders to prisons beginning in October 2026. When mandatory evacuation orders are put into effect, the Department of Justice is responsible for keeping everyone under their control safe. Leaving prisoners in deteriorating prisons opens the US Govt. and prison management open to unnecessary lawsuits and potentially compromised prison security and the potential for escapes.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Prisons are already capable of evacuating their prisoners to an incarceration center with space, as this has been done in the past, for example, thousands of inmates in Florida were shuffled prior to hurricane Milton to keep them out of mandatory evacuation zones (according to National Criminal Justice Association). This bill mandates that prisons carry out evacuations rather than leaving the choice up to local authorities. If this bill is passed, a joint task force will be created between the DoJ and FEMA to work with local authorities to create a plan for facilitating the evacuation process for prisoners, specifically laying out procedures to coordinate prisons and transport needs across the state, and if necessary, neighboring states.

SECTION III: FUNDING

No extra funding is needed, prisoner transportation costs are already factored into prison operating budgets.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If the prison is private, prison management will be fined $100 per day per inmate for failure to evacuate after a mandate goes into effect.

If the prison is public, the prison will incur the same penalty to the department responsible for the funding and management of said prison.

A $500 fine will be imposed on top of these penalties for any prisoner death due to ignorance of evacuation order.

These funds will be allocated to FEMA for rehabilitation and restoration efforts of the prisons and their populations following the storm damage.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 405

Isabel Berry Metairie Park Country Day School
Trinity Wilson

TITLE: establish equal pay in Louisiana for private businesses

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Not providing equal pay cannot be justified, it can only be defined as sex based discrimination. Louisiana has the 3rd largest wage gap in the nation. Louisiana women are paid $0.66 for every dollar made by men. And there was a $0.34 wage gap difference per dollar between women and men in 2022. In addition, this pay gap is even worse for women of color. While Louisiana law requires the state agencies to pay a woman employee the same amount as a male employee doing the same job, the law does not apply to private businesses. A private business is defined as a company that is owned by one person or a small group of people that do not have shares that are traded in the stock market. According to the Minority Business Development Agency, there were over 461,000 private businesses in Louisiana in 2018. This means that over 461,000 businesses in Louisiana are exempt from the equal pay law. We recognized the fact that women continue to do the same jobs as their male counterparts, however, it is not a law that they should receive the same pay for all businesses. We hope that you as well will recognize the inequalities of this law and support enforcing equal pay in hope to minimize the inequalities against women.

Private Business: A company that is owned by one person or a small group of people that do not have shares that are traded in the stock market.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

90 days after the adjournment of the Youth Legislature, if this law passes, it would require all Louisiana privately owned businesses to enforce equal pay for any and all employees that are hired 30 days after this law is passed. Privately owned businesses who do not already provide equal pay among their employees, will be required to find the average between their male employees pay rate and their female employees pay rate and put in action the new pay rate for all employees. As for current employees whose pay will be affected by the passing of this law, they will continue the year receiving the yearly amount agreed upon when they were hired by the company. The following year, they will receive their updated agreed salary.

SECTION III: FUNDING

No funding is required for this bill.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Any private business that does not follow the bill will be fined by the state government for not complying with the state law.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 406

Donald Marshall Archbishop Hannan High School
Dorian Francis

TITLE: TO: give meal and rest breaks to employees of all ages in order to improve working conditions across the state.

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

As of now, only employees under the age of 18 are required to be given a lunch break at all in the state of Louisiana. Under this new bill, all employees, regardless of age, who work for more than 5 hours consecutively are entitled to 20 minutes of break that will be paid by the employer and considered a part of the employee's hours worked. On top of this, any employee who works for more than 8 hours in a day is entitled to an optional 35 minute lunch break that is unpaid, if the employee so wishes. Employees are far more productive if they are given breaks and also have more satisfaction in their lives, so therefore, it is beneficial to both the employees and employer for them to be given a break.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This law would be implemented by having all employers take an account of their employees shifts and when they are on and off the clock to verify that all employees are being given their period of rest.

SECTION III: FUNDING

There will be no additional financing or funds allocated required for this bill.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Failure for any employers to follow this law will result in a fine of up to $5000 that increases as seen fit for any repeated offenses.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 407

Leah Zheng Haynes Academy
Hiba Asif

TITLE: MACH – Modern Access to Convenient Vending and Healthy Choices

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

1 in 11 people go hungry everyday because they have no access to food. According to the USDA's 2022 food access research report, 39 million people live in low-income, low-access areas (which are more than one mile from a supermarket in urban areas or more than 10 miles away in rural areas). Having vending machines accessible to people will combat this. Placing a vending machine within a 3 mile radius of a low-income neighborhood will allow people to get the food they need at an affordable price. Additionally, people with diabetes or low blood will also benefit from having easily accessible food. Many people may need accessible food to prevent hospitalization, and vending machines may decrease this.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Upon passage of this bill, the government will purchase vending machines that will be placed in every 3 mile radius of a low-access area. The amount of vending machines placed in a city will depend on the amount of low-access areas the city has. After 3-6 months, data from existing vending machines will be used to determine how many more machines to purchase and where to put them. The Louisiana Department of Health will start out the implementations mainly in a few low income areas to test out how well they do. Once an accurate statistic is formed, it will be then where we expand the vending machines around the city. This will take about 2-3 months to fully be completed.

SECTION III: FUNDING

The government will fund the implementation of the vending machines, and the profit from the vending machines will go into the Louisiana Department of Health funds. The vending machines will cost $3,000- $5,000 each and will be paid for through funds from the Louisiana Department of Health. The cost to restock each month costs around $200, with a $300 profit. Each vending machine will be paid back in about 10 months, and the profits will go back to the Louisiana Department of Health.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

No penalties necessary.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 408

Will Peters Mandeville High School
John Parker Bowers

TITLE: Limit Taking of Louisiana Farmland Out of Production To Be Replaced By Solar Arrays

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

The argument for Food vs Fuel defines a need for balance. In Louisiana, there are about 8 million acres of productive farmland. Unfortunately, some of this farmland is now being bid upon by large solar companies looking to put solar arrays on good farmland. These companies, with large financial backing, typically outbid farmers for this land. Although Solar arrays can be helpful to the environment, there are concerns about the mass production of solar panels. If they are produced at a large enough scale the pollution during the production cycle could negate the panel's lower carbon emissions or, worse, lead to more pollution. Solar arrays are made with tax credits in mind, meaning there could be economic repercussions if large amounts of farmland are turned into solar farms. There are also concerns about the impact solar arrays have on the ecosystems of the farmland. For example, ducks often live in and around rice fields, living off the biological waste that the field produces. If solar arrays were to be installed on these farms many ducks and other animals would be left without a habitat, hurting the overall Louisiana ecosystem.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

All purchases of productive farmland intended to be replaced by solar arrays will be reviewed by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture.

SECTION III: FUNDING

No additional funding will be needed for this bill. Regulatory and administration costs already are accounted for or can be reallocated from other sources.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

First-time offenders will be fined $3k-$5k. Repeat offenders will face gradually increased fines and/or prison time.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 409

Eleanor Stafford St. Joseph's Academy
Claire Ann Chustz

TITLE: C.O.V.E.R. (Community Obligations for Visible Expectations in Respect to individuals) Act

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

This bill aims to establish equality in public decency standards by banning everyone from being topless in public spaces. Currently, society places different restrictions on men then they do women, leading to laws that are discriminatory and unfair towards women, who face greater limitations. Through addressing this disparity, this bill aims to create a more equal environment for all individuals. Allowing everyone to be topless can cause discomfort to some members of the public, and this legislation seeks to end that through promoting a standard of decency that applies to everyone equally.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill will be implemented by launching a public campaign that educates people on this legislation and why it is important. This serves to make the public aware of this much needed change and to help them become more apt to conform to the new social decency norms. Those on private property owned by the individual or with explicit written consent from the owner are allowed to be topless. At public pools and public beaches, swim tops must be worn. All tops must be at least 70% opaque. All tops must cover most of the chest area and the majority of the pectoral. This is the standard set that all arrests will be based off and it will be incorporated into law enforcement training.

SECTION III: FUNDING

This bill will receive funding from private donors.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

The penalty for an individual that is not fully covered regarding this legislation’s standards while in public spaces is a fine that is equal to the current fine for women. This fine is no less than $100 but no more than $500. Repeat offenders will be given a higher fine and community service. If indecency is to an extreme extant, perpetrator will be judged by a jury of their peers and given an appropriate punishment. Extreme public indecency is classified as multiple repeat offenses and/or multiple offenses at the same time.

HOUSE BILL 410

Cameron Wilkinson St. Joseph's Academy
Addison Richard

TITLE: M.U.S.K. (Make Ugly Sports (utility vehicles) Kept (away from society))

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

This bill aims to ban Elon Musk's cybertruck. This automobile is made of a stainless-steel exoskeleton which can prevent damage to the car and long-term corrosion however, it is more unsafe than safe because the stainless steel is stiff and sharp-edged which would hurt a pedestrian more than a normal car. It also has a high riding position which increases the risk of injury to pedestrians even more. The stainless-steel body is also unsealed meaning that it rusts more easily than other cars. There is also a limit of publicly available crash test data, so the driver might not be aware of how their car would react in a collision. Another issue with the cybertruck is the poor visibility, which has a few causes. First, the rear window is small, and drivers often have to rely on solely the backup camera in order to back up which can be dangerous to pedestrians, cyclists, and other drivers. Another cause of poor visibility is the tinted glass ceiling which can create a glare that can distract the driver, and the rear windshield is tinted as well and can cause problems in visibility in conditions such as heavy rain, snow, hail, and fog. This small rearview windshield also causes large blind spots, which are larger than blind spots in a normal truck that already has bigger blind spots. The cybertruck is difficult to manufacture as well, and the unusual shape makes it more dangerous than other cars. Some drivers have reported that after just a few weeks of operating, the traction control, electronic stability control, automatic emergency breaking, lane departure system, and cruise control were all inoperable which may have been caused by software glitches or sensor malfunctions. The steering wheel is also highly sensitive because of the Steer-by-Wire, which means that there is no physical connection of the steering wheel to the tires and sensors are used to communicate, which can cause accidental swerving to occur.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

All Cybertruck sales will stop January 1, 2026th and to ensure that Cybertruck drivers have enough time to sell their car. These drivers have until January 1st, 2027 to either sell to someone from another state or drive their cybertruck to a different state. After January 1st, 2027, the governor will create a new department, called the Department of Cyber Security, which will consist of a volunteer task force in collaboration with local police departments and a task force of people in need of community service hours that will go looking for cybertrucks and report them to the government and other states that choose to adopt similar legislation can also be added to the network.

SECTION III: FUNDING

This bill requires no funding.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If a cybertruck driver has their Cybertruck after January 1st, 2027, the government system will override their car and safely route the vehicle to drive it into the nearest body of water resulting in its neutralization. Cybertruck owners will be held financially responsible for the environmental damage it causes.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 411

Camille Mendler St. Joseph's Academy
Lauraelis Williams

TITLE: Require Easily Accessible Feminine Hygiene Products in all Female Bathrooms in Louisiana Public Middle and High Schools.

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

According to the World Population Review's study, the average age of menarche in the United States is 12.8 years old. This means that on average, a girl's first period arrives when they are in only 6th or 7th grade. At this age, a regular child would be attending junior high, spending most of their day inside halls and classrooms; consequently, many of these young girls must deal with their very first period at school. Unfortunately, many Louisiana schools fail to provide feminine hygiene products in their bathrooms, leaving many students uncomfortable when they do not already have a pad or tampon on hand. In fact, advocacy groups PERIOD and Thinx commissioned a 2021 survey of 1000 teens that found that about 60% of the teens stated they rarely or never could find free menstrual products in their school bathrooms. With this lack of proper material, many girls may be forced to reuse products or use unsanitary alternatives. Aside from these extremely unhygienic physical consequences, a student's grades and mental health may also be affected. Students could miss class time looking for the proper products or may even stay home to avoid having to deal with a period at school. Alternatively, if a student chooses to just power through, they could be negatively impacted by discomfort and struggle to pay attention. Lastly, when there is lack of acknowledgement to certain issues like the menstrual cycle, many girls may be left with a sense of shame and fear when they receive their period. The menstrual cycle is a necessary part of puberty that is unavoidable for most teenagers. It is a medical concern and should be treated as such; it is just as necessary as the soap and toilet paper already present in bathrooms.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill will require all Louisiana middle and high school bathrooms to have pads and tampons available to students via a basket or dispenser. This will assist female students when they get their first period or are simply left with no feminine hygiene products on hand. If students are found to be using the products for inappropriate behavior such as theft or vandalism, the school will be responsible for punishment or pressing of charges. Materials that contain possible allergens like latex will be prohibited from usage for the safety of students. If said reactions occur, the school will be responsible for damages.

SECTION III: FUNDING

The Louisiana Department of Education will have $100,000 set from the general fund to use to provide grants. This system will not take any money out from other services, just money from the general budget. Schools must contact the department to apply for a grant that gives money based on an evaluation of the amount needed per school. These grants will be given to schools to provide feminine hygiene products in bathrooms, and the actual amount of money will be based on the population of the school. This will be measured per 150 students. These grants will not have any guidelines on what brands pads or tampons are bought from aside from prohibition of pads with latex or other mass allergens.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If a public school is found to not be providing or restocking the mandatory materials, there will be a fine equivalent to grant money given to provide the products.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 412

Margaret Johnson St. Joseph's Academy
Lily May

TITLE: Cut Pain and Paperwork: Give School Nurses OTC Medication Privileges

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Currently in the State of Louisiana, standing doctors' orders are required to receive common over the counter medication including but not limited to: Advil, Tylenol, Alive, Midol, Claritin and more. Standing orders are written protocols that authorize people who don't have prescribing rights, such as nurses, to perform tasks like administering medicine. School nurses are trained to understand and assess students' medical condition and are able to get directly connected to a guardian via phone call. Allowing students to receive over the counter medications for things like a simple headache or period cramp allows them to remain focused and stay present in the classroom. Requiring standing orders places a roadblock in between students and the proper care they need. Receiving and submitting a standing order is a lengthy process that requires paperwork to be completed by both the parent and doctor. Introducing this legislation will also alleviate stress on healthcare providers by minimizing unnecessary paperwork and doctors' visits.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Starting at the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year, all school nurses certified with the Louisiana State Board of Nursing will be able to administer over the counter medication with their discretion and phone call approval by a parent/guardian or listed emergency contact. When a student enters the nurse's office with a medical concern the nurse must first complete a consolation of their own before calling a parent/guardian if they believe the administration of over-the-counter medication is necessary. Nurses must give detailed information on the student's state and cannot continue without express verbal consent for the parent/guardian. If a parent/guardian cannot be reached an emergency contact can be called. If a nurse is unable to reach any of these contacts, they may continue their standard care but cannot administer any OTC medication. This bill does not pertain to any prescription medication and the administration of those medications will continue following the state guidelines. School Nurses in the state of Louisiana are required to be state certified and receive continuing education, additional guidance on administering over the counter medication can be given in these continuing education courses. This bill will not change the role of nurses in the greater medical field of Louisiana, it will simply give school nurses one small bit of regulated leniency to benefit their school for the better.

SECTION III: FUNDING

This bill does not require any funding.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

School nurses who do not follow the proper protocol in contacting a parent/guardian or listed emergency contact will be disciplined as the Louisiana State Board of Nursing deems necessary. Schools are expected to hold their faculty responsible and may carry out any discipline if it does not conflict with the rulings of the Board of Nursing.

HOUSE BILL 413

Camille Masterson St. Joseph's Academy

TITLE: ORDER THAT 70% OF ALL MONEY DISTRIBUTED TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE SPENT ON TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Since the passage of No Child Left Behind, on average, only 55% of educational funding is spent on students and teachers in the classroom. The public school system has grown in the administrative state to positions such as testing coordinators, parental liaisons, ISS monitors, multiple guidance counselors, multiple secretaries, multiple athletic directors, ESS coordinators, special educational coordinators, and more. As schools have begun to hire an extreme number of administrative roles, teachers' salaries and student resource funding have been cut as a result. Teacher salaries have decreased 5% over the past decade. The addition of nonessential jobs in public school are taking away even more from teacher's salaries. As this modern age advances, the use of laptops is more prominent in school. The Louisiana government provides schools with enough money to afford laptops and subscriptions to online resources. The more unnecessary jobs added, the less funding students receive for resources and materials.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

It is hereby ordered that 70% of all money distributed in Louisiana from the state's minimum foundation to local school districts must be spent on students, teachers, classrooms, classroom materials, or educational materials. A teacher is defined as a person with direct supervision over students for at least 50% of daily classroom seat time minutes. Only 30% of the remaining funding may be used in any administrative role (ex. Curriculum directors, faculty directors, administrative assistants, parental liaisons, testing coordinators, etc.) Louisiana public schools receive $12,330 per student. The average teacher salary in Louisiana is between $36,117 and $50,334. The average salary for School administrator is $87,834.

SECTION III: FUNDING

No funding needed.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

This bill aims to change to distribution of the Louisiana Department of Education budget, so no penalties are necessary as the state will be enforcing this bill.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 414

Paige Roscoe St. Joseph's Academy
Lucy O'brien

TITLE: Prohibit Homework Due on Mondays in Public High Schools

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Homework over the weekends, including tests on Monday, negatively impacts the mental health of students all across Louisiana. Studies show that weekend work is counterproductive because it leads to unnecessary stress, cramming, and hours of work, which takes away from the proper learning experience. Over 70% of students say that homework often causes them stress and 56% of students say homework is their prime stressor. Not only that, but homework over the weekend affects the social life of many students by taking away valuable time that could be used to cultivate other skills and spend quality time with family and friends. The brain can only take up so much information at a time and the overload of homework, mixed with the stress of getting it turned in on time can lead to a lower quality of work, high procrastination, and lower productivity.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill would prohibit public schools from giving any homework due on Mondays. This bill would go into effect at the start of the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year.

SECTION III: FUNDING

No funding is needed to implement this bill.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Any teacher caught violating this bill will receive a warning and will have to participate in an online course on the mental health of students. If caught a second time the teacher will receive a write up from their employer, a suspension for their third violation, and if caught a fourth time they will face termination.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 415

Cat La St. Joseph's Academy

TITLE: Lighting the Way: adding more light in the lanes to improve road safety for older drivers.

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Older drivers often face challenges with visibility, especially driving during nighttime. Nearly 49% of all fatal car accidents occur at night, highlighting the increased risk of accidents during these hours. Over 50% of older drivers often struggled with reduced night vision and glare sensitivity, making it difficult to navigate the roads. Implementing lights in between the lanes will provide clear guidance, allowing drivers to focus on the illuminated lanes rather than being distracted by the bright headlights of other cars. This measure can reduce accidents caused by glare and improve overall visibility and direction. In Jones Creek, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, additional lighting has already been installed, greatly improving driver safety, especially when driving on narrow roads. Adding lights between lanes can lead to fewer collisions, smoother traffic flow, and a safter driving environment for everyone on the road.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

The Department of Transportation shall install high-quality, waterproof, and energy-efficient LED lights along the edges and center lines of all major highways and roadways within the state. Priority will be given to areas where major accidents have occurred. These lights will be thoroughly tested before installation to ensure durability and safety for drivers. Drivers who have reported an issue with driving during the nighttime will be able to fill out a form regarding whether they would like to participate in the test drive. Doing this will provide a range of people to make sure there is a diverse group of participants, confirming that the lights are safe for not only older drivers, but for all drivers. Regular maintenance will be conducted every six months to assess and replace faulty lights.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Funds for this project will come from the state transportation budget and any available federal grants for road safety improvements. Currently the Department of Transportation and Development Highway program has a budget of $62.8 million, if we profit 5% of the budget it will give us a grant of $3.1 million, which can provide for durable lights, ensure fair salaries for the workers, and cover maintenance and any potential damages.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

There are no penalties for this bill.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 416

Steven Stogner Catholic High School

TITLE: Support Local Music Venues

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

One of the most important aspects of Louisiana's culture is its local art scene, including live music. Local music gives us an opportunity to take a break from our day and enjoy the talents and vision of local artists. However, this integral part of our city's community is under fire. Around the world, rising utility and rent costs on top of lingering impacts of the COVID pandemic have grassroots music venues closing. British charity Music Venue Trust has stated that venues in the UK have had a 37.5% rent increase and are operating with a profit margin of 0.5%, with MVT CEO Mark Davyd stating that 16% of grassroots venues have been shut down in the last year. If a similar situation happens in America, then the owners and employees of small venues will be put out of business, local musicians will lose places to perform, and the community surrounding the local scene will be broken. To both nurture our own music scene and prevent a similar situation from happening, we must act now.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

If passed, this bill will give local music venues a 10% tax credit on any taxes associated with running the business, except for sales tax. This will create less expenses for music venue owners, allowing them to make more profit to pay rent and utilities, better promote shows, and adequately pay musicians. The tax credit will only be given to venues that employ at least two bands or solo acts each week.

SECTION III: FUNDING

There will be no funding because decreased costs will give venues more money to promote shows, resulting in larger audiences. A larger audience will have more people paying sales taxes on both tickets, food, and drinks, which will balance the loss of business tax.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Venues that do not pay at least two bands a week to perform will lose eligibility for the tax credit.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 417

Andi Hayes St. Joseph's Academy

TITLE: The Walk Initiative (Make Louisiana Walkable)

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

A “walkable” city is a city that prioritizes the movement of pedestrians over that of traffic and cars. They are usually densely populated areas that have the necessities of life (work, shopping, and recreation) a walking distance away from residential areas specifically without the need for cars.

The benefits of walkable cites are numerous. They provide safety for pedestrians and drivers, lower everyday expenses, and protect our planet. Transportation is the largest emitter of greenhouse gas at 29% and majority of those emissions come from personal vehicles which serve reduced use in walkable communities. Walkable cities also boost personal and community economies. Living in a walkable neighborhood boosts home values and Americans spend roughly 15% of their income paying for transportation. Making cities walkable makes them more attractive to new inhabitants and the people living there as well as frees up disposable income to be poured back into the local community. Walkable cities have been proven to increase the quality of life for inhabitants, lowering car accidents and getting people out of the house, boosting mental and physical health. Louisiana is not walkable. Even the most urban areas, like New Orleans and Baton Rouge, barely meet the walkable threshold as pedestrians have few safe sidewalk and crosswalk options, especially considering how spread out the suburbs of these cities are. The problems only get worse as you get more rural. Louisiana needs to refocus its infrastructure. This bill proposes the Walk Initiative, a new agency under the Department of Transportation and Development devoted to making our state walkable. The first step in making cities walkable is providing safe and accessible alternatives to driving in the form of sidewalks and crosswalks. Hopefully, with the passage of this bill, the Walk Initiative can begin to transform Louisiana into a walkable state fit for pedestrians and drivers to thrive.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill proposes the creation of a new agency under the Department of Transportation and Development titled the Walk Initiative.

This agency is tasked with examining the walkability of the state and creating a plan to ensure new construction follows walkability guidelines as well as plans to edit already existing infrastructure. The guidelines of walkability include but are not limited to:

- the building of sidewalks on all roadways except for interstates with the Walk Initiative having final say over the location of these sidewalks (including on what roads and the distance from the road), their quality (in size and material), and their construction timeline and management (including what construction company and all relevant details to the construction and funding of said construction).
- the building of crosswalks (including signaling buttons at said crosswalks) in all intersections as well as any other location deemed necessary to ensure that pedestrians and the ability to safely cross the road is not infringed upon. This includes limiting the distance that must be walked without having a median or other pedestrian safe haven in the road as well as the creation of more roundabouts or alternative intersection connections that prioritize pedestrians over car traffic. The Walk Initiative will also have final say over the location of crosswalks and buttons (including at what intersections and crossing posts and their distances), their quality, and their construction (including the construction company and all relevant details to the construction and funding of said construction).
- The maintenance of walkable infrastructure both new and existing (sidewalks, crosswalks, etc.)
- Any other related construction, advocacy, or action that promotes walkability like bike lanes, green spaces, traffic and street signs, etc.

Every project undertaken by the Walk Initiative will be done in conjunction with the appropriate state and local authorities to ensure limited disruption to the flow of traffic and the functions of the community, city, parish, and state.

To ensure its success without wasting funding, the program will begin with pilot programs in Baton Rouge and New Orleans and aim to make them walkable over the next 30 years, meaning that all construction must be planned by that point but not necessarily executed to completion. After 30 years the program will be paused and reassessed by the legislature and require the passage of another act drafted by the Walk Initiative in its final years in order to continue.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Funding for the creation of the agency with be taken out of the budget for the Department of Transportation and Development until the re-allocation of funds under the agency. This funding only refers to the needed money in order to hire and organize the Walk Initiative initially, not the funding for the construction. The Walk Initiative should stop pulling the Department of Transportation and Development for its sole funding after the first 5 years and should seek to determine its funding through its own re-allocation.

The Walk Initiative, after its creation, is tasked with determining the best location for funds to be drawn from for each of its projects as well as for the costs of the agency itself. Examples of funding that they may pull from include:

- federal funds (such as the Infrastructure Bill passed under Biden or any future or previous infrastructure or related funds not currently in use or not currently optimized by their user)
- state funds (such as the budget for the Department for Transportation and Development, the budget for the Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism, any relevant state budget, or any relevant unused or not optimized state funds)
- local funds (such as the budgets in individual parishes, cities, and communities that are used for infrastructure and public works)
- new taxes (if the state legislature or city authorities decides to pass a new tax or other legal fundraising solution in order to fund the new agency or if it is decided to reallocate and already existing tax)
- private donors (another other fundraising method not listed above including support from private donors and NGOs)

Final determinations on the funding of the agency will be proposed by the Walk Initiative and approved by the relevant authorities (like the Governor, treasurers of budgets, and local authorities).

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If a local authority refuses to cooperate, they do not face immediate penalties. They may lobby for the removal of the program after its first 30 years. If after the 30-year goal is reached, the new act that must be passed to continue the program will include provisions that punish local authorities, likely but not necessarily, through withholding funds.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 418

Skylar Villa Baton Rouge Magnet High School

TITLE: Stop The Bait

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Cyber casinos in recent years have spiked in popularity. Once hidden behind deep diving online, influencers have made revenue from sponsorships and livestreaming on these casino sites. With streamers raking in massive viewership from our youth, this causes a major problem for online gambling. It's not just our content creators either, major cyber casino sites and sites that offer sports betting like MGM use enticing advertisements that can pull in extremely young users in as they promote major benefits for those who participate. Despite major sites like DraftKings, MGM, and FanDuel limiting their sports betting to those 21 and over, various loopholes have been discovered to bypass these policies, giving kids, and especially teenagers, access to the gambling world. This explosion in underaged online gambling is dangerous as it brings teens into the world of addiction and debt.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

The law will be enacted online and will affect the websites mentioned above. Advertising online must not contain any appearances or endorsements of celebrities, influencers, enticing language, or any tactics used to appeal to younger users online.

SECTION III: FUNDING

There will be no funding necessary.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Any platform that doesn't apply the changes by the first 90 days will be fined $150,000 and the fine will increase by another $10,000 the longer it takes for these major platforms to implement the reforms. If the fine is still left unpaid by the first 9 months of the law coming into effect, then the platform will be blocked online within the state.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 419

Emma Smith St. Joseph's Academy

Ella Kate Cole

TITLE: Taking Out The Trash

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

According to the Container Recycling institute 86% of disposable water bottles in the United States eventually become litter. Last year the most common items found by the ocean conservancy volunteers were cigarette butts, food wrappers, and plastic bottles. In Louisiana approximately 143.8 million pieces of litter are on the roads. Litter negatively affects communities, tourism, and the overall health of our state. 68% of Louisiana citizens support additional fees to pay for litter pick up and prevention. The majority of expenses go towards cleanup instead of the actual prevention of litter. This is why this bill will put a small tax on commonly littered items to help with clean up and prevent people from buying larger amounts of said items.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill will require that a tax of 3 cents be put on the most littered items at fast-food restaurants and convenience stores. The items that the tax will be enforced on are fast-food items such as wrappers and cups, plastic bottles, and cigarettes. A branch of the Republic Services will be established for the purpose of cleaning up the taxed litter around Louisiana. Workers will need to be hired to clean trash and drive the trucks/dumpsters. This will help to keep our state beautiful and to discourage people from buying commonly littered items, which in return will improve the diets of Louisianians and deter the purchasing of Cigarettes. Also, a social media program will take place to discourage littering. An Instagram account will be set up to promote cleaning and express the importance of reducing litter in Louisiana through posts and statements. All Louisianians will be encouraged to follow this page and help support the movement by reposting and sharing.

SECTION III: FUNDING

A tax of 3 cents will be put on the above-mentioned items. This will fund the salaries of the cleaners ($7.25/hour) and all necessary equipment/dumpsters. Transportation of trash will also be paid for from this tax, such as gas and repairs to vehicles when needed.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

This bill has no penalties

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 420

Hannah Howard C.E. Byrd High School
Maya Beasley

TITLE: Lower the cost of childbirth in Louisiana

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Each year the amount of home births in the USA increases, in 2023 there being 46,918 home births, which poses many risks for the mother and child involved. According to the Mayo Clinic, there is a higher chance of infant death, seizures and nervous system disorders when compared to hospital births. However, this does not stop women from choosing a home birth due to the detrimental costs of having a baby in the Hospital. The most recent census data from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services explains that the overall charge for a childbirth plus a hospital stay ultimately adds up to 16,884 dollars. And if you choose or end up having to have a c-section, the cost of just the surgery, without a hospital stay added, can climb up to 22,646 dollars. When insured, to give birth vaginally costs around 11,500 dollars on average, and a c-section costs around 17,103 dollars. Many women who are giving birth in these hospitals either cannot afford these costs or will end up in poverty because of them. In Louisiana, they have enacted a Birth Outcomes Initiative to try and improve care of women who are giving birth, predominantly serving African American and poor women because they typically suffer from numerous social challenges like rape, addiction and STDs, all of which can lead to pregnancy and a childbirth that they cannot afford. However the Louisiana Birth Outcomes Initiative cannot go as far as to completely lessen the cost of having a child. This calls for the need to lower the cost of childbirth in hopes to give the children and mothers in Louisiana the opportunity to have a successful and prosperous life and end the pattern of poverty. This makes it necessary to lower the cost of childbirth in Louisiana.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill will be implemented in all hospitals across Louisiana by requiring childbirth insurance to cover a minimum of 90% of childbirth costs and having a maximum of 500 dollars of out of pocket pay. Hospitals will be required to allow new mothers a week-long stay free of charge, if necessary, and any day after that being a 100 dollar charge. The Law will be taken into effect on January 1st, 2025, enacted by legislation.

SECTION III: FUNDING

In countries like Finland, the cost of having a baby is around 60 dollars, due to reimbursements and maternal health care policies. The way this bill will be funded is by increasing maternal health care, which would include free prenatal care and child welfare clinic services, as well as using the sales taxes collected from baby clothing, food and all items sold for newly born babies and using them to help reimburse mothers who have just given birth and help to decrease the cost of having the child. This would ultimately cause an increase of taxes on baby care items however they would go directly to helping fund having the child in the first place. To fund this bill there would need to be a starting price of 200,000 dollars to get it enacted and going.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Consequences for breaking this law, if passed, would include a fine of 1,000 dollars per child born, sent directly to the hospital. On the 10th offense of breaking the law, the Doctor in charge of the childbirth department will be temporarily suspended from practicing medicine for a 2 week period without pay, and on the 20th offense he will be suspended for a month.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 421

Abby Eldredge St. Joseph's Academy
Sadie Bozeman

TITLE: Implement a Later Start Time in Public High Schools

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Louisiana currently has the earliest average school start time in the country, at about 7:30 A.M. About 82 percent of American schools start earlier than medically recommended. Studies by the American Psychological Association show that students in schools that begin later perform better academically, have better attendance records, experience greater mental wellness, and even get in fewer automotive wrecks than those in schools with an earlier start time. Many of these benefits stem from an increase in students' sleep time, which is proven to improve brain function and combat stress. Teenagers' brains naturally fall asleep later and wake up later than adults. Since their brains take longer fall asleep in the night, allowing for more sleep in the morning helps them achieve the necessary 8-10 hours for proper development. According to the CDC, about 77 percent of high schoolers in the United States do not meet the minimum of 8 hours. Pushing back school start time lengthens the amount of sleep students get, according to the American Psychological Association. Louisiana law requires the public school day to contain a minimum of 360 minutes of instruction, not including break or lunch time.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill will require all public high schools to pick a later start time between 8:00 A.M. and 9:00 A.M. All schools will still include at least 360 minutes of instructional teaching time and extra lunch and recess time as desired, in accordance with present Louisiana law. Therefore, the end time will adjust as needed to accommodate the change in start time. This will ensure that students and teachers have the needed rest to perform their best during the school day. This change will be made for the 2025-2026 school year, beginning on the first day of school.

SECTION III: FUNDING

No funding is needed to implement this bill.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If any high school does not implement the later start time at the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year, they will have 30 days to change it. If the school fails to comply within the 30 days, then the school district will have to pay 1% of its income per month until the school implements the later start time.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 422

Anna-Katherine Dixon St. Joseph's Academy
Adele Crasto

TITLE: REQUIRE A STUDY HALL FOR STUDENTS

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Majority of high school students experience sleep deprivation and burnout caused by an overload of schoolwork, lack of time in the day, technology use, and prioritizing schoolwork and extra curriculars over their well-being. This causes mental strain, exhaustion, health issues, anxiety, and students falling behind. Study halls have been proven to alleviate stress and anxiety from students by providing time to complete homework, catch up on sleep, and study. Statistically, 60-70% of teenagers struggle with sleep which, in turn, leads to grades dropping. As of 2024, Louisiana ranks one of the bottom five states for standardized testing scores. By requiring public schools to provide a mandatory study hall, schools' productivity, grades, and standardized testing scores will rise. One of many schools to prove this point is Cantwell Sacred Heart of Mary High School. After a few months of mandatory study halls, student's GPA's rose by 0.5% and the number of honor students rose from 32% to 50%. Furthermore, students' overall performance and mental health will improve.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill requires all public schools in Louisiana to provide a period during the school day for a study hall. The study hall will be the same duration as a regular class period for the school. The school district would have to decide when the study hall will take place; before school starts, during class time, lunch, or after school ends. The teacher that teaches the class before the study hall, or after if study hall is in the morning before school, is responsible for the students during the study hall.

SECTION III: FUNDING

This bill needs no additional funding to be implemented.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

The punishment for failing to implement the policy is first a warning, then the Louisiana Department of Education will fine the school district $5,000 per school year that the policy goes unenforced.

HOUSE BILL 423

Mary-Jane Fruge Lafayette High

TITLE: Who's the Chicken Now?

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Bullying is a major problem in Louisiana, at least half of suicides in young people are the result of bullying. It is also well known that when people learn humility they become better people overall, and Louisiana needs more kind and humble people. The intention is to end bullying at the source using chicken hats.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Starting January 1st 2025 disciplinary administration at schools will have the option to make students that have a history of bullying other students wear chicken hats for 30 days. This option would be in line with that of suspension and expulsion and is intended to give bullies a "taste of their own medicine" as well as including religious exemptions for those to which it applies. Students selected to receive this disciplinary action will have to wear it from the time they wake up until they fall asleep for 30 days, during this period the hat is intended to raise a reaction out of other students and cause them to be bullied. By the time the hat is no longer being worn they will hopefully be a more humble and kind person.

SECTION III: FUNDING

A portion of the donations that schools receive on a yearly basis will go towards supplying chicken hats for these punishments. once chicken hats are used they will be returned to the school and can be used repeatedly.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

No penalties are necessary for this bill, as its use is up to the discretion of the schools. If a student removes their hat during the time they are intended to wear it, it is up to the schools how they chose to supplement the punishment

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 424

Anna Camille deBlieux St. Joseph's Academy
Louisa deBlieux

TITLE: Eliminate the sale of single-use plastic bags within most stores

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

The standard American uses more than 350 plastic bags each year. Plastic bags, on average, produce more than 10% of overall plastic waste. This bill aims to cut down on Louisiana's plastic use, starting with plastic bags. Research shows that plastic waste causes harm towards wildlife and soil, and once the plastic degrades down into "microplastics," they cause damage to human health, including neurological and reproductive issues. 12 other states have already adopted statewide single-use plastic bag bans: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington. According to Environment America, government agencies have found that plastic bag bans reduced plastic bag litter by at least one third in other states. Because of this, the risk of plastic bags ending up in rivers, marshes, and landscapes where wildlife and marine life might mistake them for food or become entangled has decreased significantly. Plastic bags are also made from the non-renewable source of petroleum, unlike paper bags that are typically made from recycled paper or responsibly managed forests. By switching to paper bags, the reliance on fossil fuels is decreased, reducing carbon emissions and conserving natural resources.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill would require corporations to refrain from purchasing single-use plastic bags by January 1st, 2025, and completely cease the use of plastic bags by January 1st, 2026. This bill prohibits grocery stores and retail stores from providing single-use plastic carryout bags to customers, excluding small stores that operate solely in Louisiana and have 3 or fewer locations. For example, the carryout bag fee will apply to stores like Walmart, Target, T.J. Maxx, Old Navy, etc., but not to stores like Sweet Baton Rouge, Goodwood Hardware, Frock Candy, etc. Stores must provide customers with recycled paper carryout bags at the cost of 10 cents per bag. 60% of the bag fee revenues will be given back to the state of Louisiana via the Department of Revenue to be used exclusively for litter abatement. Stores will retain the remaining 40% of the bag fee revenues. The carryout bag fee does not apply to customers that participate in a federal or state food assistance program.

SECTION III: FUNDING

No funding necessary.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

For any failure to comply with this bill, the merchant will be fined $500 on the first violation, $1,000 on the second violation, and $2,500 on the third or subsequent violations.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 425

Ivy Frierson C.E. Byrd High School

Jillian Snyder

TITLE: Bill to make all gas stations and fast food restaurant's fountain drinks one size.

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

In America, gas stations and fast food establishments offer drink sizes of small, medium, large, and x-large. As of right now, according to CBS news, around 40% of adults in the U.S. are obese. America has one of the highest rates of obesity compared to other countries, and within it, Louisiana ranks 4th out of all the states. Large amounts of soda can be a factor to this obesity and drinking lots of it is normalized in the US. According to the Business Insider, a small sized drink at a fast food restaurant is 84% bigger in the US than in the UK. As well as this the medium is 55% bigger and the large is 89% bigger. My partner and I think that by making gas stations and fast food restaurants only offer 20 oz drink sizes, obesity rates will decrease and Americans will just be overall more healthy. This bill does not affect coffee shops or sit down restaurants. By implementing this bill we hope to lower obesity rates in Louisiana as much as we can by reducing the sugar soda drinks, which 45.5% percent of the LA population consume at least once a day. While the law can't control whether or not they will get refills or multiple cups, at least it is doing something to combat the unhealthy habits Americans have made normal.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

To implement this bill it would prohibit the making and serving of any drinks that aren't a small size, to be specific 20 oz, at gas stations and fast food restaurants.

SECTION III: FUNDING

This bill will be financed by taxes. The manufacturers will stop making any cup sizes for gas stations and fast food establishments that aren't 20 oz. Since it will go into effect immediately, all cup sizes that aren't 20 oz can go to homeless shelters and other charities that need it, rather than going in the trash.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If the establishments fail to follow this law, they will be fined and pending closure.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 426

Grace Buras St. Joseph's Academy

TITLE: A Step in School Shooting Decrease: C-Bond BRS

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

According to Statista, there were 44 school shootings in 2018 reported, which is about a 140% increase from 2008. In 2023, there were 79 reported school shootings nationwide, which is almost 340% increase since 2008. According to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), between 2000 and 2022 there were 328 casualties, 131 cases of which were active shooter related deaths.

Patriot Glass Solutions is a security company in Texas that is working towards reducing casualties in schools. Using a material called C-Bond BRS (Ballistic Resistant Security), existing windows are made shatterproof and forced entry more difficult. By removing the need to remove windows and install new windows, the C-Bond BRS is also significantly cheaper than most other bulletproof or shatterproof options, only about $100 USD per square foot of window.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill requires that schools that plan to partake in this solution must make certain windows a priority: windows on doors leading into the school and windows of classrooms on the first floor along public roads and walkways.

SECTION III: FUNDING

While schools are expected to raise their own funds, the government will provide 30% of what schools are able to raise as additional funds. This 30% will be from firearm and ammunition taxes already in place and will be taken from the general revenue of the state. The state will not provide more than $2,000 USD per school.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Participating schools that are found using provided government funding for other uses such as funding for extracurricular activities, art programs, salaries, etc. will be denied the funds this bill provides. Similarly, if schools are found to be using salaries or funding used for various school programs or activities will be denied the funds this bill provides.

HOUSE BILL 427

Jasmine Henry Haynes Academy High School
Audriana Li

TITLE: Recycling and Litter Reduction Through Beverages Act

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

In the United States, only 5% to 6% of plastics get recycled each year, and the state of Louisiana has one of the lowest recycling rates in the U.S. Different communities in Louisiana offer different recycling services, such as curb-side pickups and drop-off locations, but some areas have no recycling service at all. As a result, Louisiana is a large contributor to pollution. Research shows that there are approximately 143.8 million pieces of litter on Louisiana roadways, interstates being the most type of littered roadway, with an average of 10,178 pieces of litter per mile. The long-term effects of neglecting to recycle will have devastating impacts on the environment, and if this negligence continues, there will be a massive increase of air pollution and greenhouse gasses, and a decrease in the general well-being of our earth.

In California, when consumers buy beverages, they pay a fee, and then receive a refund if they return the bottles or cans for recycling. By doing this, consumers are forced to either recycle or pay an extra fee for drinks. By implementing this bill in Louisiana, pollution would go down and recycling would be increased.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill will implement a tax that will increase the price of all plastic and aluminum beverage bottles, and in return, if consumers decide to recycle their bottles, they get a refund. The extra revenue generated from the tax (i.e. in the case where consumers do not recycle their bottles and redeem their refund) will go toward the Louisiana Department for Environmental Quality. For each bottle 16 oz or under, there will be a 5 cent increase and refund, for each bottle over 16 oz, there will be a 10 cent increase and refund. Eligible beverages include soda, sparkling water, soft drinks, water, coffee, tea, fruit and vegetable juice, beer, and wine coolers. Non-eligible beverages include milk, infant formula, medical food, wine, and spirits. Recycled items can be dropped off at pre-existing recycling centers throughout Louisiana, where people will receive their refunds. Public infrastructure buildings such as libraries, schools, and community centers will serve as drop-off locations for areas that don't have recycling centers.

SECTION III: FUNDING

There is no funding required.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

There aren't any penalties that are able to be issued.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 428

Anniston Wimberly C.E. Byrd High School
Allie Wimberly

TITLE: Require public high school athletes in the Louisiana to have one study period built into their school schedule.

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Studies have shown that many high school athletes struggle with the balance of school work and sports practices. According to NCAA, high school athletes can range from having 10-20 hours of practice a week. Another study by KRQE sports found that 36% of high school athletes fail at least one class, which is four in every ten student athletes. A recent study conducted in the United States found that 91% of high school athletes experience high stress levels when having to balance their sport's practices and school work.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Before any student tries out for a sports team at their high school, they will be required to sign a contract stating that they are willing to take a study hall period if they make the team. Once the student makes the team, they will automatically be put into the class, taking priority over other students. The hope is that the student athletes will be able to complete homework and studying in the class, relieving stress after hard practices in the afternoon.

SECTION III: FUNDING

This requires a study hall teacher that is willing to observe the students in the classroom. The school board will be responsible for paying these teachers.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If the student refuses to take the study hall class, they will not be able to play on the sports team that they want to play on.

HOUSE BILL 429

Charley Bergeron St. Joseph's Academy
Sara Pasquier

TITLE: To Provide an Optional Gun Buy Back

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

In an average year, 1,036 people die and 2,936 are wounded by guns in Louisiana. Louisiana has the 3rd-highest rate of gun violence in the US. This level of gun violence is devastating and unacceptable. Each life lost is not just a statistic but a person—a family member, friend, or neighbor. The trauma reaches far beyond those directly harmed, affecting entire communities who live in fear and grief. Louisiana deserves safer neighborhoods and public spaces, free from the constant threat of danger. Addressing gun violence is about protecting lives, peace of mind, and the basic human right to feel safe. Our bill intends to offer a solution to reduce the number of guns on the street.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Our bill establishes an optional, anonymous gun buyback program that is regularly scheduled in high-risk areas, which are often low-income urban neighborhoods with high crime rates, inadequate policing, and lack of access to public services across the state. Accessible drop-off locations, including community centers, police stations, and mobile units, will allow residents to surrender unwanted firearms without ID or questions. Participants will receive prepaid debit cards to maintain privacy, with additional incentives for high-risk weapons like assault-style firearms. Trained staff and law enforcement will handle and dispose of all firearms responsibly, in line with regulations. Through public outreach and community partnerships, this program aims to reduce gun-related risks and foster safer neighborhoods for all.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Funding for the gun buyback program will come from various sources, including state grants from the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and federal funds through the Bureau of Justice Assistance's "Smart on Crime" initiative. We will also establish public-private partnerships with local businesses and nonprofits for financial contributions or support, such as prepaid debit cards. Additionally, we will advocate for reallocating part of existing public safety budgets and encourage local governments to provide matching funds. These efforts will ensure sustainable support for the program and foster community involvement in reducing gun violence.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

There are no penalties, as it is completely optional.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 430

Mary Ellis Beach St. Joseph's Academy
Emery Zeringue

TITLE: Ensure that the Louisiana public school system provides comprehensive sex education for students in grades 6 through 12.

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Louisiana ranks among the top five states for teen birth rates, with approximately 28 births per 1,000 girls aged 15–19—almost double the national average. This high rate of teen pregnancy is coupled with alarming statistics on sexually transmitted infections (STIs); Louisiana has one of the highest STI rates in the country among youth, with over 27,000 reported cases of chlamydia and gonorrhea among teenagers in recent years. The lack of comprehensive sex education leaves youth vulnerable to misinformation, as only 27% of Louisiana schools currently offer any form of sex education, most of which focuses solely on abstinence.

Comprehensive sex education has proved successful in spreading awareness about contraception, consent, and the risks of STIs, delaying the initiation of sexual activity by 50% and increasing contraception use among teens by nearly 40%. States with these programs see markedly lower rates of teen pregnancy and STIs, resulting in better health outcomes and reduced public health costs. Without comprehensive education, Louisiana's youth face heightened risks of unintended pregnancies, untreated STIs, and mental health issues such as anxiety and depression stemming from misinformation, stigma, and inadequate support for safe relationship practices, while communities bear the social and economic impact. Ensuring that students have access to comprehensive sex education from grades 6–12 is a critical step toward protecting their well-being and securing a healthier future for Louisiana.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

To effectively implement this initiative, first it will be necessary to develop an inclusive, medically informed curriculum in partnership with public health, education, and youth development experts, certifying its coverage of essential topics such as contraception, STI prevention, consent, healthy relationships, and mental health, tailored to the age groups of grades 6 to 12. It will also be necessary to provide training programs to equip educators with the knowledge and confidence needed to teach sensitive subjects effectively, while facilitating ongoing support systems through workshops and online resources. Engagement with the community and parents by hosting informational sessions to build understanding and support, coupled with clear communication channels for parental response will be just as critical. And of course, key metrics such as changes in teen pregnancy rates and STI cases as well as feedback from students and educators to continuously improve the program will need to be monitored.

SECTION III: FUNDING

To make this financially feasible, we'll need to seek funding from state budgets, federal grants, and public health organizations to cover curriculum development, teacher training, and program materials, while also allocating resources to evaluate impact.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Non-compliant schools will be placed on a corrective action plan, receiving mandatory support from the Louisiana Department of Education. Continued non-compliance may lead to a review of the school's accreditation status, impacting its reputation and funding. To further promote accountability, a monitoring system will be established to regularly evaluate compliance and provide additional oversight as necessary.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 431

Olivia LaMotte St. Joseph's Academy
Allison Adams

TITLE: Rectifying Louisiana's current castration law

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

In the United States someone is sexually assaulted every two minutes and out of every 100 rapes, 97 rapists walk free. To potentially put an end to sex offenders whose victims are of ages 13 and younger, Louisiana recently introduced a law allowing judges to sentence surgical castration onto these offenders, although more specifically, performing on first- and second-degree rapists. Castration is the removal of sex organs, and while it is usually a procedure used against males, it includes the removal of sex organs amongst everyone. In other, more recognizable terms, it is also known as neutering and spaying. There are two forms of castration which include surgical and chemical. While the process of surgical castration permanently removes the sex organs within someone or something, chemical castration is a reversible procedure which is best explained as a hormone blocker, meaning, unlike surgical castration, it is not immediately set into effect and is instead given doses over a course of time. In June of 2024, Louisiana became the first state in America to pass a law in which allows for surgical castration to be used as a punishment against sex offenders towards those who are age 13 and under and this has been set in effect on August 1st, 2024. The removal of sex organs significantly decreases the testosterone and estrogen hormone production within an individual and is performed because these hormones tend to lead sex offenders to their choices in harming others in such a way, although the removal of sex organs does not permanently or entirely prevent the production of hormone within an individual. In fact, it is said that within those who are middle aged and receive castration can experience a surge in the hormone production after a period of time, generally 5-6 years. This is specifically oriented towards those who are fully developed (Including those who are 25 years of age and older—Whose frontal lobe is fully developed), because the procedure tends to more permanently affect those who are younger (Usually 24 years of age and younger—Whose frontal lobe is fully developed) and therefore, not fully developed. Although the removal of sex organs does not permanently or entirely prevent the production of the hormones within an individual, it can reduce testosterone levels by 90-95% and estrogen levels by about 80%. These hormones increase sexual drive which tends to be the leading cause of sex offender's choices in harming others in such a way.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill is expanding the range of sex offenders who may receive surgical castration by increase the age range of victims from 13 and under to 17 and under which is the states legal age of consent. This bill opens sentencing options for judges and can allow criminals who have received this procedure to apply for parole. Testosterone and estrogen levels will be checked bi-annually and if they are exhibiting proper behavior as well as lower levels, then retrials may be allowed and sentences can be reduced, if the judge sees fit.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Funding will come from the medical residual fund in order to pay for proper medical equipment as well as payment for the surgeons. 250$ will come out of this fund per surgery. Surgeons will need to be paid roughly 105$ per surgery which is 42% (wages are based on length of procedure, which ranges from 30 minutes to an hour on average) and an additional 85$ will go to the usage of medical equipment which is roughly 34%. The remaining 24% will go into necessary recovery fees.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Prisoners currently have the right to refuse surgical castration but by doing so they are adding 3 to 5 years onto their current prison sentence.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 432

Macy Mauffray St. Joseph's Academy
Aubrey Spears

TITLE: Keeping Neutrality In Public Schools

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Our First Amendment states that all American citizens have the right to free speech, religion, and expression. This principle is vital to ensure that different beliefs can coexist and putting The Ten Commandments up in every classroom would violate this. It is important to recognize that public schools are meant to be a safe environment for education regardless of students' religious/cultural backgrounds. It is crucial in public education to keep the line between church and State. Since public schools are designed to be accepting and neutral to religious instruction, this law would completely undermine their purpose. Instead, we believe that providing optional theology classes for students of different religions would be better. These classes could be taught by religiously educated volunteers or clergymen who want to share their knowledge.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill would abolish the law of putting The Ten Commandments up in every public-school classroom in Louisiana. Schools will be highly persuaded to provide optional religion classes.

SECTION III: FUNDING

No funding needed

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If schools do not follow taking down the Ten Commandments, they will have to meet with their parish education board and receive a fine of $200 per classroom.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 433

Ben Farmer Jesuit High School
Peyton Bouchon

TITLE: Bring nap time to high schools for an increase in student productivity and learning.

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Students throughout Louisiana suffer from a lack of sleep. Less sleep means lower cognitive function and worse memory, leading to lower grades and test scores. A solution to this problem is mandatory nap time. Just 15-30 minutes a day of sleep during the school day can improve long term memory by as much as 10%, and overall grades can increase by up to 7.6%. Mandatory nap time is the cure to the insomnia epidemic faced by many students throughout the state.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

A "nap" period will be inserted into the students' schedule directly following their lunch periods. It will be 55 minutes in length and moderated by the students' otherwise assigned homeroom teachers. If necessary, new rooms will be constructed. Otherwise, old/unused rooms will be repurposed with cushioned floors. Students have the choice between bringing their own blanket and pillow or receiving a school-issued blanket and pillow.

SECTION III: FUNDING

The cost to renovate each room would be $1000, and each sleeping kit for the students would cost $20. A slight increase in taxes would cover all the costs necessary for this to be implemented state-wide.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If a school is caught not adhering to this bill, 10% of the school's annual funding will be cut until it properly implements it, at which point its funding will return to the previous amount.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 434

Nicholas Hudson C.E. Byrd High School

TITLE: Four Day School/Work Week

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

The idea of a four day School/work week is ideal for the mind to grow. Hundreds of other schools have adopted and taken into action the four day school/work week. These cities have lowered costs and improved teacher recruitment. Teachers and parents struggle to keep their kids entertained while they work five days a week. Teachers have found an increase in students attendance and increased teacher morale due to a four day school/work week. This does not just apply to school of course it can also apply to parents working jobs. We know they want one less work day to be relieved from all that stress.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

For this bill to work, teachers would need to adjust their schedule to fit the educational needs of the kids. The hourly pay would be changed to fit the same amount of money as a five day week. Schools with a four day week save more money due to lack of transportation needs, food products, appliances, etc. This bill would take effect the week after it passed so everybody can have time to start adjusting to the new schedule.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Instead of spending money, this bill saves money. The maximum money that can be saved from implementing this bill would be 5.43%. The average saving is 0.4% to 2.5% in savings which is a lot in comparison to a five day school work week where more money is spent than saved. The hourly pay would change to fit the same amount of money for a five day work week.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

There would be no legal consequences given by the government with this law passed. The only consequence would be self imposed by continuing a five day school/work week. This could cause the possibility of losing workers or students and going out of business which would be due to the fact that others would be on the four day school/work week schedule. A four day school/work week seems much more enticing compared to a five day school/work week.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 435

Hannah Millet Mandeville High School
Elise Allen

TITLE: Proportional Allocation of Electoral Votes in Louisiana

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

An act to institute the congressional district method of allocating electoral votes. Two of Louisiana's electoral votes will go towards the winner of the state popular vote, and the remaining six represent the popular vote of each of the six congressional districts. Electors must vote according to the popular vote of their district and their pledged party. The pledged party is the party the electors are nominated by and registered to when filed with the Secretary of State. By abolishing the winner-take-all system, in which the winner of a state's popular vote receives every electoral vote for that state, this bill aims to encourage presidential candidates to campaign in Louisiana, thus highlighting the importance of the state. In the most recent election, both candidates made rally stops in Omaha, Nebraska, one of only two states in the nation that uses proportion allocation. However, neither candidate bothered to visit solid red states (states that vote reliably Republican), such as Louisiana. To any presidential candidate, Republicans and Democrats alike, visiting any state that votes consistently with a single party is considered both a waste of time and a waste of funds. Additionally, instituting the proportional allocation method makes Louisiana more politically competitive to presidential candidates, similar to Nebraska. More attention on Louisiana will also make issues affecting Louisiana more important as candidates from both parties will work to gain voters in Louisiana. By proportionally allocating Louisiana's 8 electoral votes, we demand the attention our state and its constituents deserve from presidential candidates.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Per the Louisiana State Constitution (§ 1253), candidates of recognized political parties will submit a full slate of 8 electors in order to be placed on the ballot. As the Louisiana Constitution presently states, two of these appointments represent the state at large and the remaining six represent a designated congressional district. These electors will be filed with the Secretary of State by a sworn statement, which will be filed and signed by the chairman and secretary of the state central committee. Each political party will specifically assign every elector to a district or as at-large electors. The filed statement will have the elector's district or at-large assignment. After election day, the party that won the overall state popular vote will submit its two at-large electors. The remaining six will be put forth according to the popular vote of their respective district. The electors will convene in Baton Rouge at the appointed date to cast their votes. As stated by La R.S. §18 :1264, if one or more of the presidential electors fails for any cause to attend at the appointed place at 12:00 noon of the day prescribed for their meeting, the other electors shall fill the vacancy by voice vote by no later than 4:00 p.m. Any person selected to fill such a vacancy in the office of presidential elector from a congressional district shall be a qualified elector of the district for which the vacancy occurred.

SECTION III: FUNDING

No additional financing is necessary for the implementation of this bill.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

There will not be any penalties for this bill.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 436

Hersimrat Bhinder Baton Rouge Magnet High

TITLE: Enhancing Education and Vocational Training due to Advancing Industries in Louisiana for a Strengthened Workforce

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Louisiana's economy is experiencing economic issues due to a diminishing workforce and this labor shortage is a pressing issue that could reshape our economy as we know it if not addressed strategically. Louisiana currently has a Louisiana's Worker Shortage Index of 0.55 meaning that there are only 55 job seekers for every 100 positions (United States Chamber of Commerce). Our education and vocational training systems are not keeping up with the continuously changing needs of modern industries which have resulted in workers needing more qualifications for in demand jobs and many young, skilled working aged people are leaving the state for better job opportunities. This bill aims to boost the workforce by using educational and vocational training in order to meet the growing demands of modern industries.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

To implement this bill we would build more on the Louisiana Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) by allocating more resources to vocational schools, community colleges, and other workforce development programs and also by allocating money into incentivizing students with scholarships and campaigns. We would also try to align the training with the industry needs at the time and combine it with a strengthened system of internships. This would all be monitored in order to see the effectiveness of the bill and ensure that the training systems align with the job market demands.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Initially about 19.75 million but the outgoing annual investment would be about 12.5 million all of which would come out of the surplus budget.

The 19.75 million would be broken up as 5 million for scholarships, 1 million for outreach programs, 750,000 for the monitoring, 2 million for advancing programs for the trainings, 3 million for industry upgrades, 500,000 for aligning the curriculum with industry needs, 7.5 million for partnerships, internships, and apprenticeships. We would later on lower the spending on outreach, program advancements, industry upgrades, and partnerships as the program grows.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

No penalties are applicable for this bill.

HOUSE BILL 437

Ethan Nguyen Jesuit High School

TITLE: The Revival of Indentured Servitude

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Problems over illegal immigrants crossing the borders of the United States has been going on for years and perhaps will continue to grow. The current system of keeping illegal immigrants out of the country seems to not be working well. As of July 2023, there is an estimated 11.7 million immigrants who are currently in the U.S. and undocumented. For Louisiana, it is estimated that there are nearly 100,000 illegal immigrants. These illegal immigrants take up crucial jobs, commit crimes with little to no chance of being caught, and sometimes endanger the true citizens of Louisiana. Louisiana needs to focus on this specific problem before it becomes uncontrollable as it is for other states.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Foreigners will be able to apply through the ISPOL (Indentured Servitude Program of Louisiana). Now, they will be able to more easily and legally live in Louisiana. They will be flown to Louisiana and work jobs given to them by the ISPOL. After 5 years, they will have adapted to Louisiana, and their contracts will end. Now, they are legal citizens who can freely live or go back to their fatherland.

SECTION III: FUNDING

The first few years will be funded by the Shelter and Service Program. Congress has appropriated about $650,000,000 for the SSP (Shelter and Service Program). Therefore, for the first few years, the SSP will provide housing for these indentured servants. However, the money they earn will be heavily taxed. This taxed money will go towards the future of the ISPOL, so that reliance on the SSP will not be as great. Eventually, the taxed money should be so great that there will be no need for exterior funding.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If ISPOL is found to be overtaxing the indentured servants, the contract will be immediately terminated; then, the indentured servant will be paid for the compensatory damages and will be granted citizenship in Louisiana. On the other hand, if the indentured servant runs away or does not follow his contract, he will be immediately deported once found.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 438

Alex Landry Archbishop Hannan High School

TITLE: Saving With Shavian

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Saving with Shavian aims to recognize and implement Shavian, a phonemic writing system proposed by George Bernard Shaw, as an official writing system of the state of Louisiana. As reported by the World Population Review in 2024, 43% of people in Louisiana lack a basic 4th grade reading level, and 54% of all adults in the United States possess a reading level below 6th grade, with Louisiana ranked as the 5th least literate state. The Shavian alphabet aims to rectify the orthographic inconsistencies that are ever-present in the English language by using a 48-character phonemic alphabet, one which is spelled based on how words sound rather than traditionally spelled. Designed for simplicity, logic, and practicality, Shavian would allow for a comprehensive understanding of English phonetics that our current writing system is incapable of adequately teaching, and in turn, allow for increased literacy rates. According to the concept of phonological awareness, as reported by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, children learn the words of a language based on the sounds they make, and the implementation of Shavian would eliminate the need for learning arbitrary characteristics of English including traditional spellings, a lack of vowel characters, unnecessary characters, including ‘c’, ‘q’, and ‘x’, and a lack of characters for common phones such as /θ/, /ʃ/, and /tʃ/.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill will be implemented in two parts: a preparatory period, and an execution period. The preparatory period would begin on January 1, 2025 and mandate a state-funded production of textbooks, dictionaries, famous novels, and miscellaneous education tools printed in Shavian, and last until November 1, 2025. The execution period would begin on August 1, 2026, and take place over five years, distributing a new textbook every year until Shavian materials are fully implemented.

SECTION III: FUNDING

A total sum of six hundred thousand dollars ($600,000) will finance this bill. Five hundred thousand dollars ($500,000) will be allocated to parish governments according to the number of public schools within said parish, with a minimum of eight thousand dollars ($8,000) being allocated to each public school, and a maximum of thirty thousand dollars ($30,000). These funds shall be used exclusively for the purchase of new textbooks, dictionaries, and school materials. One hundred thousand dollars ($100,000) will be used for the production, printing, and distribution of Shavian-related materials. To raise these funds, funding for current textbook printing will be diverted to the project. Every five years, new textbooks in the core subjects of English, Mathematics, Science, History, and Literature will be printed, which the school may pay for with its provided funding.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Public schools will be given an integration period of six months following the beginning of the execution phase, and after August 1 of each subsequent year when new textbooks are produced. If a school is found to not incorporate Shavian-based materials following this integration period, their funding supplied by Saving With Shavian will be pulled. Further refusal will result in fines of up to two thousand dollars ($2,000), with an added five hundred dollars ($500) for each additional offense.

HOUSE BILL 439

Madeline Falcon Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

TITLE: Increased Domestic Violence Penalties

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

It is sad to say that domestic violence is an issue that has plagued Louisiana for generations. According to the 2023 Annual Louisiana Domestic Abuse Fatality review, Louisiana has led the country for the highest homicide rate and ranked 5th in the nation for homicide rates of women who a close or intimate partner has killed since roughly 1997 and subsequently from 2020 to 2021, over 549 deaths were identified because of domestic violence within our state. What's even worse is that these victims are not getting the justice they so deserve. These women who are mothers, daughters, wives and caregivers, are not getting the safety that should be promised to them by the law. In Louisiana, a first case domestic violence abuse is classified as a misdemeanor instad of a felony, and an offender can face anywhere between 30 days to 6 months in jail with a bail option and or a fine wagering from $300 to $1,000. This punishment does deliver the rightful justice to the victims of the cases or the correct punishments to the perpetrators. My bill is working to change that, and to give these victims the justice and safety they deserve. Harsher penalties will ensure these violent offenders are getting the punishment they deserve, but reassuring the victims, giving them protection from their perpetrators and giving them the justice they deserve.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

The Louisiana Department of Justice will oversee the implementation of this bill. All domestic violence cases will automatically be processed as a felony; further sentencing will be determined upon the offense (whether or not it's a first, second, third, etc...) and the severity of each case.

SECTION III: FUNDING

This bill will require no funding.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

First-time offenses will automatically be classified as a felony and require 6 months in prison minimum; second offenses require a one-year minimum in prison; third offenses require a minimum of five years in jail; fourth or more offenses will have a minimum of 10-15 years in prison. All prison sentences can be increased due to the severity of the case; all offenses will be required to pay in full for property and medical damages. If insurance covers property and medical damages done to the victim, the offender must pay a minimum fine of $3,000 or more, depending on the severity of the case.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 440

Autumn Baldridge Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

TITLE: Require digital literacy classes in elementary schools

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

The digital divide affects citizens across the country. Since the world has become increasingly digital, knowing how to navigate the internet has become essential, and something that must be learned at a young age. Therefore Louisiana must follow in the steps of states like Delaware, New Jersey, and Texas and require digital literacy classes. There are many free programs such as Internet Matters, or Google’s applied digital skills course.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

The state of Louisiana will require 4 hours of a digital literacy class annually. This can be done by integrating it into existing classes. Elementary schools will decide what topics to teach based on the digital literacy guidance from Louisiana’s Department of Education.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Many digital literacy programs are free to use and, therefore will need no funding.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If the school does not have reliable access to the internet or computers, they will be exempt from all penalties. There will be a $4,000 fine for any school that does not demonstrate the required digital literacy skills.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 441

Julia Brinker Episcopal School of Baton Rouge
Rainier St. Claire

TITLE: Encouraging Gun Safety for Louisiana Youth

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

According to the Violence Policy Center, Louisiana ranks second in the nation for gun-related deaths. With over 53% of Louisiana households owning at least one firearm, and with a reported 28 mass shootings in Louisiana just this year, it is obvious that something must be done to protect Louisiana citizens, especially our youth. Louisiana has one of the highest firearm mortality rates for children and teens aged 1-19, with 17.6 deaths per 100,000. For these reasons, it is necessary that we teach our children how to properly and safely handle firearms.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill will require all Louisiana public high schools to offer a course on firearm safety. Curriculum will be offered Project ChildSafe, a program through the National Shooting Sports Foundation dedicated to the promotion of gun safety information and free firearm safety kits.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Funding will come from the Louisiana Center for Safe Schools and state general funds as part of the GOHSEP's grant program for school safety.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

In school districts that fail to adhere to/implement the curriculum, a mandatory meeting will be scheduled between that parish's school board and the Louisiana State Board of Education and Secondary Education (BESE). Further action will be up to the discretion of the BESE on a case-to-case basis.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 442

Addison Aucoin Lafayette High School
Maggie Krefft

TITLE: Provide Psychotherapy to Troubled Veterans

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Homelessness by definition, is "the condition of lacking stable, safe, and functional housing." A nonprofit organization is a voluntary organization that depends not on compensation, but rather giving up time to help others in need. The funding that these organizations receive is strictly donation-based. In 2021, the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development estimated that there are approximately 322 homeless veterans in the state of Louisiana. The point-in-time (PIT) census is a count of sheltered and unsheltered individuals across the United States experiencing homelessness on a single randomized night in January. The 2022 PIT census found that "21 percent of individuals experiencing homelessness reported having a serious mental illness." A serious mental illness is "one or more mental, behavioral, or emotional disorders resulting in serious functional impairment." The Law for Veterans defines a medical discharge as taking place "when a service member becomes ill - physically or mentally - during their military service and becomes unable to perform the duties required to be a productive member of the military." A service member is qualified to receive this discharge if they suffer from severe Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). According to the Concerned Veterans for America Foundation, "80 percent of homeless veterans suffer from mental health challenges, including PTSD." Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder is a disorder in which a person has difficulty recovering after experiencing or witnessing a terrifying event. In a veteran's case, this could include, but is not limited, to combat. Homelessness is often associated with instability, lack of safety, and stress. The similarity it resembles to PTSD in a militant society could potentially be triggering for veteran victims, who upon discharge don't have the means to afford stable, safe, and/or functional housing.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

The Anxiety and Depression Association of America reports that a form of psychotherapy referred to as cognitive behavior therapy (CBT) "has consistently been found to be the most effective treatment of PTSD both in the short term and the long term." There are currently 68 homeless housing programs in the state of Louisiana. Nonprofit homeless shelters are limited by what they can provide due to their tight budgets and limited funding. This bill proposes the addition of cognitive behavioral therapists in homeless shelters. The purpose of this is to aid struggling veterans. Licensed CBTs will work in shelters to meet the demands of PTSD victims. Funding for this bill is to assure that there will be workspaces for CBTs within shelters and that all materials necessary to navigate veterans through their struggles will be available. The number of psychotherapists will vary by parish (64 total) and be dependent on the veteran population density by location; a caseload of greater than 30 clients per five-day work week invites burnout into the lives of therapists, and, therefore, their caseloads should include no more than 23 clients per week. In parishes where greater than 23 homeless veterans reside, there shall be additional therapists available for each group of 23 veterans. There are currently 322 homeless veterans in the state of Louisiana, and assuming that all veterans will utilize this resource, a maximum of 14 therapists will be needed to offer this service in the most successful way possible.

SECTION III: FUNDING

"As of October 27, 2024, the average hourly pay for a Cognitive Behavioral Therapist in Louisiana is $19.33 an hour." For a CBT with a maximum caseload (23 clients), salary will be $445 weekly. Workers will be paid in accordance with how many clients they counsel (can range from as few as one client to as many as 23), $20/one client. Note that this is not a full-time job. An appointment needs to be made with the nonprofit shelter, and the client and therapist will meet at a mutually agreed upon time. Therapists do not need to stay at the shelter for longer than the amount of hours allotted for patient appointments. For cancellations not made within 12 hours before appointment, therapists will be paid half of their hourly rate, despite not offering services at that time. Assuming that all therapists have a full caseload, 14 therapists will require monthly pay of $1,780 each. Accounting for all 14 employed therapists in the state of Louisiana, $25,000 will be required to fund this program monthly. The government will provide financial assistance through a maximum grant of $300,000 per year. The total budget for the 2024 fiscal year for the Department of Veterans Affairs in the state of Louisiana is $91 million. This bill will utilize 0.33 percent of funding allotted to the LA Department of Veterans Affairs ($273,000). The first step of receiving these funds will be the grant application process, where nonprofits will apply by submitting proposals outlining their plans of implementation (to pay CBT workers when they see a client). Then, the review process will occur, where the LA Department of Veterans Affairs will review these applications to ensure that they meet specific criteria. If approved, the nonprofits will be awarded grant funds, which must be used to terms set by the donor. Finally, to ensure that these funds are being used as agreed upon, nonprofit organizations will be required to report their expenditures to ensure accountability and transparency. Keep in mind, all numbers assume all homeless veterans will utilize this program, and the probability of that occurring is slight to none. If not enough funding is given for this program, nonprofits can solicit the grant owner (LA Department of Veterans Affairs) and request early renewal for annual funding. This is very unlikely to occur given that not all veterans will utilize this program.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If nonprofits accept grant money but do not comply with the guidelines in this bill for specified funding allotment, their grants will be revoked. This includes, but is not limited to, firing their CBT therapist or restricting access for veteran care for no adequate reason.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 443

Ian Gremillion Archbishop Hannan High Shchool

TITLE: People's Initiative to Save Seawater (P.I.S.S.)

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

According to a study made in June of 2024 by AAMC, "microplastics are in almost every part of the human body, including in breast milk, the placenta, testicles, hearts, livers, and kidneys." These microplastics have become a prevalent issue in the daily lives of people all over Louisiana and the world. Microplastics can come in many forms; from shreds of synthetic clothing to the raw plastics that get melted down to make the products we use daily. A lot of microplastic intake can be derived from the products we use and consume daily however, many can also be drawn from factories' wastewater, processes, and sewers that can lead directly into your home. According to the WHO, "Microplastics may enter drinking-water sources in several ways: from surface run-off (e.g. after a rain event), to wastewater effluent (both treated and untreated), combined sewer overflows, industrial effluent…"They have also stated that drinking water samples have been tested, resulting in up to 10,000 particles per liter. These studies show that stopping microplastics from reaching the outside world is a major first step toward controlling their spread and effect on our daily lives.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation of this bill is a lengthy process; spanning roughly fifteen years. The first step is for the Lousiana Department of Environmental Qualities (hereby referred to as the LDEQ) to collect samples of various water systems and send them to a contracted agency to test the water to see if the water is considered compromised. Then, the LDEQ would issue permits to businesses based on how much water they output daily. These businesses (referred to as sources) would be broken into classes as seen below:

Class A: up to 5,000 gallons of water per day

Class B: up to 25,000 gallons of water per day

Class C: up to 50,000 gallons of water per day

Class D: up to 100,000 gallons of water per day

For the duration of the first two permits (all permits last 5 years), a source would have to report the amount of microplastics it discharges through contracted testing facilities or on-site testing at the businesses' expense. These tests are simply reporting the amount of microplastics in the water be it 500 or 10,000 parts per 100 milliliters of water. The frequency of tests being sent depends on the class of the source and whether it discharges into a compromised source or not. The frequency of reports goes as follows:

Class A: Annually for discharging into a non-compromised body of water and semi-annually for any discharging into a compromised source

Class B: Semi-annually for discharging into a non-compromised body of water and quarterly for any discharging into a compromised source

Class C: Quarterly for discharging into a non-compromised body of water and monthly for any discharging into a compromised source

Class D: Quarterly for discharging into a non-compromised body of water and weekly for any discharging into a compromised source

Upon the expiration of the second permit and the issuing of the third, the sources will have to meet very easy margins for microplastics to introduce them to cutting back where necessary without making impossible thresholds to meet. This will only last for the first three years of the third permit where in the final two years of the permit the maximum amount of allowable microplastics will be lowered and kept at that level. The allowable amount of microplastics will vary depending on the class of the source and whether or not it is discharging into a compromised source. The general structure will be that lower water level outputs and sources that do not discharge into compromised water will have easier requirements to meet whereas larger sources and ones that discharge into compromised sources will have harder and more restricted requirements. These requirements can be adjusted with the issuing of a new permit.

SECTION III: FUNDING

This bill requires very little funding as the majority of the work is already being done currently in the collection of water samples and the documentation of reports. However, funding would be required to contract the tools needed to accurately test the water samples in this new way and for the payment of the new people required to operate this project. The contracting to test the samples for the first 2-5 years would require around $150,000 however after that, the LDEQ does not do any more testing as private businesses are expected to handle their testing. Since the documentation and workers who handle the fining and recording are already in place there is no need for new workers. This money would be provided by EPA which often provides grants to the LDEQ to work on projects such as these.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Fines are handled mostly on a case-by-case basis but will tend to follow the following structure:

If they are dumping into a compromised waterway or they are outputting more than 2x their allotted amount: $3,000 to $5,000

Any output above their threshold but below 2x their threshold into an uncompromised waterway: $100-$500

If they had a permit and made any violation there is an upcharge of 10%

Fines for repeat offenders go as follows:

A = number of offenses

B = minimum range of fine

C = maximum range of fine

D = percent increase (expressed as a decimal)

Total fine = A(B+(D(C-B)))

For example, if a source were to have a permit and dump more than 2x their allotted amount of microplastics into a compromised source and this is their 4th offense their fine would go as follows:

Total fine = 4($3000 + (0.1(5000-3000))) = a total fine of $12,800

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 444

Jonathan Mekari Catholic High School

TITLE: Establish racetracks for DMVs to use across the state where prospective drivers must complete a new test as part of getting their driver's license.

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Establish a controlled racetrack environment for DMVs to use across the state where prospective drivers can demonstrate practical driving skills in a safe and monitored setting as part of their driver’s license test. This bill aims to enhance driver training, improve safety, and reduce accidents by ensuring drivers are better prepared for real-world situations.

DMV Racetrack: A controlled driving course with simulated road conditions, obstacles, and turning challenges designed to test and improve driving skills. **These will not have to be connected to existing DMV buildings. They can be built anywhere in a city that is convenient for the use of DMVs.**

Skill-Based Test: A driving test focusing on practical skills, including maneuvering, braking, cornering, and reaction time. This test will have to be completed on a time trial on a DMV racetrack.

The United States has an average of 12.4 fatalities per 100,000 people.

- Germany -> 4.1 fatalities per 100,000 people.
- Sweden -> 2.8 fatalities per 100,000 people.
- Japan -> 2.6 fatalities per 100,000 people.
- Finland -> 4.6 road fatalities per 100,000 people.
- United Kingdom -> 2.6 road fatalities per 100,000 people.

These are examples of nations with rigorous driver’s license tests, and their traffic fatality rate is three to six times lower than the US. This bill will increase the rigor of testing for our drivers, potentially reducing the traffic fatality rate to be in line with these other nations.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Multiple racetrack facilities will be built across the state, designed in partnership with driving safety experts and civil engineers, to safely test drivers in controlled conditions. Enough will be built so that everyone will be a reasonable distance from a DMV racetrack.

Testing Requirements:

- All applicants for a driver’s license, upon completion of the written test and the standard driving test, must complete a "Skill-Based Test" on the racetrack.
- The test will measure handling, speed, reaction times, decision-making under pressure, and proper control in various simulated conditions (e.g., sharp turns, sudden stops).

Safety Features:

- Vehicles used for the track test must have enhanced safety features, including roll bars, anti-lock brakes, and emergency shutoff capabilities.

- DMV staff supervising the tests must have appropriate training in vehicle control and safety protocols.

- The track will be built to control crashes and mitigate damage if a crash occurs.

Implementation Timeline:

- This bill shall take effect upon passage, with the first DMV racetracks operational within 18 months.

- Year 1: Begin the design and development of racetrack courses and the implementation of the pilot program.

- Pilot Program:

o Pilot Implementation: A pilot program will be initiated in three DMV locations statewide to gather data on effectiveness, safety, and applicant feedback.

o Evaluation Period: The pilot program will last 12 months, after which data will be analyzed to assess safety improvements, cost-effectiveness, and driver readiness.

o Expansion: If successful, the racetrack program shall be expanded to all DMVs within three years.

- Year 2-3: Complete the pilot, analyze findings, and begin statewide expansion.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Initial costs for the design and construction of racetracks at each DMV shall be allocated from the state's road safety budget and supplemented by grants from road safety organizations. Maintenance and improvements will come from the same funds.

Corporate sponsorships and partnerships will be encouraged with automotive companies, especially automotive safety and insurance companies. This will help the state reduce costs of building and maintaining these facilities. Insurance companies will be motivated to sponsor this because less crashes on the road will save them money.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Failure to complete this driver's license test will result in failure to get a driver's license without reapplying and retesting.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 445

Anthony Peek Baton Rouge Magnet High School.
Anthony Peek

TITLE: The Louisiana Minimum Wage Law

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Currently Louisiana and four other states have not adopted a state minimum wage law, but instead default to the Federal Fair Labor Standard Act minimum wage. The federal minimum wage was established on July 24th, 2009 and states that the minimum wage for covered nonexempt employees should be no less than $7.25. According to the 2024 poverty guidelines, a full time employee earning the federal minimum wage of $7.25 per hour makes just $20 more than the poverty guideline for a one person household. For a two or three person household with children, the federal minimum wage is not a sufficient amount of money to sustain an above poverty life. Louisiana is the second highest ranking state in poverty, with 19% of Louisianians living in poverty. The living wage in Louisiana is $11.33 per hour with that being stated, the federal minimum wage does not cover the expenses per hour to live in Louisiana.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

The Louisiana Minimum Wage Law will establish a minimum wage for Louisiana at $13.25. The Louisiana State Minimum Wage Law will take effect on January 1st, 2025. The increase from $7.25, from under the Federal minimum wage, will increase with the State law to $13.25 for all covered non-exempt employees.

SECTION III: FUNDING

There is no state funding needed. The funding will depend solely upon business owners. As an incentive, for every new hire in the first twelve months after this bill is in effect, business owners will receive a 2% state tax credit on each employee's annual wages.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

The penalties for the noncompliance of businesses and companies not paying the basic state minimum wage, will be a payment of back wages per employee, as well as $500 bonus per employee for malpractice. These payments will be made directly to the employee of the company.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 446

Laurel O'Brien Lafayette High School
Emma Stutes

TITLE: TO: Change the State Beverage From Milk to the Daiquiri.

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

This is in the state's best interest because of the daiquiri's historical significance and popularity in Louisiana. In 1981, daiquiri drive throughs were thought to be invented in Lafayette, Louisiana by David Erwin with his business the 'Daiquiri Factory'. This is no surprise considering the longstanding social culture surrounding alcohol consumption. Daiquiris are also the most commonly searched cocktail in Louisiana, with 7075 average monthly searches. Drinks like the daiquiri facilitate the characteristic jauntiness that pervades Mardi Gras (an over 300-year-old Southern tradition), their gelid temperatures are compatible with the humid climate that causes sweat to weigh on every civilian's brow, and they suit the state's modest regulatory practices (for example, New Orleans permits the public consumption of alcohol). 20 of the 33 states with official beverages have chosen to represent themselves with milk; This is not an adequate means of exhibiting our individual and unique culture as Louisianians.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

The official state drink, milk, shall be replaced by the daiquiri.

SECTION III: FUNDING

No finances are needed for this bill.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

No penalties are applicable for this bill.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 447

Eva Carpenter Haynes Academy
Keren He

TITLE: TITLE: Undergraduate Nonrequired Internships and Training for Teaching our Youth

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

There are many elements that encourage our young adults this generation to become educators; however, they are engulfed by the contrary which has taken away an inordinate amount of our great teachers. In fact, during our 2021-22 school year, eighty four percent of teachers remained at the school, eight percent left their school for another, and the final eight percent completely left the teaching profession altogether. Eight percent of teachers may not seem like a lot, but it counts for 3,500 teachers across Louisiana.

In fact, of former teachers, some of the main complaints from formers teachers include: 66% reporting greater balance between personal life and work, 60% reporting more autonomy and flexibility with their work, 58% reporting more manageable workloads and also more "professional prestige" in their current positions. Young people are being discouraged and are more likely to quit. Teaching as a profession is stigmatized, which perpetuates a negative feedback loop (burnout, etc.). According to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), the number of students in college for teaching degrees has decreased quite significantly leaving us with no teachers for our students. There are students in Louisiana without teachers for certain subjects, affecting LEAP and other standardized tests (also are more common at schools serving low-income students).

Currently, there are over 44,000 public school teachers and 1,145 unfilled teacher positions across the public K-12 system. The positions are waiting to be filled with teachers willing to work and determined in finding jobs for themselves. These are just many reasons why we need to create better support systems for teachers and encourage our younger generations going into this profession!

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This plan will begin in the upcoming fall semester of 2025. This will be a voluntary internship provided to undergraduates, typically juniors and seniors, who are interested in pursuing their teaching degree and soon license. They will be able to apply for it preceding their third year of university. By taking part in this internship, each student will be able to instruct their students during the summer between semesters. However, these teaching positions will still be available for unemployed teachers willing to seek work. These internships will assist students with paying both their student loans and encourage them to observe and take part in the classroom scene. Another characteristic of this program is that these teaching programs will take place in the general area of their already enrolled university. Not only will this encourage younger teachers, but it will create more qualified people to teach our incoming students!

SECTION III: FUNDING

In order to provide money for these paid internships, the 3.2 billion dollars increase last year from federal funding to the Department of Education will be able to set aside more money to pay these interns more than they previously had and be able to provide for more. Basically, these internships will be funded directly from the Department of Education with a slightly smaller cost to an average teaching salary.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

There will be no penalties associated with this bill; likewise, this bill is only to set aside money from the Department of Education to public universities.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 448

Derek Moore Jesuit High School

TITLE: Secure the right to organize for Louisiana workers, uplift our struggling working class, and strengthen its voice in our democracy.

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Louisiana is a notoriously hostile environment for organized labor, with one of the lowest union memberships in the country. There are numerous steps that need to be taken in order to ensure that we are a state in which the working class has strong avenues for representation, the most important of which is to repeal Louisiana's so called "right-to-work" law. This law significantly hinders labor unions' ability to effectively negotiate for fair wages & guarantees, safe conditions, and strong worker protections. These needs are especially apparent in our state, which consistently ranks near the bottom of quality of life metrics.

This bill includes several additional provisions to further reinforce the capacity for labor unions to fight for Louisiana workers' rights.

As we move forward, it is of the utmost necessity to build up outlets for democratic change and create a more egalitarian society for our struggling working class. Organized labor is a critical part of this process.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

A. Repeal Right-To-Work: Amendment to Louisiana Revised Statute Title 23, §981 "Any employer and labor organization may enter into a collective bargaining agreement that requires all employees in the bargaining unit to become or remain a member of the labor organization, or to pay dues, fees, assessments, or other charges of any kind to the labor organization."

B. Ensure Fair Union Election Processes: "Employers must remain neutral during labor organization elections and provide workers with fair access to vote in labor organization elections without interference, intimidation, or coercion."

C. Guarantee Union Access to Workplaces: "Employers shall not infringe upon the right of Labor Organizations and their representatives to access the workplace and other public sites for the purpose of organizing, including but not limited to the ability to meet with employees, distribute materials, and hold informational sessions during non-working hours."

D. Full Legalization of Project Labor Agreements: "Project Labor Agreements—employment terms for construction projects—shall be permitted and enforceable on any public or private construction project within the state of Louisiana."

E. Affirm Teachers' Right to Collective Bargaining: All public school teachers have the right to engage in collective bargaining with their school districts regarding wages, benefits, hours, working conditions, and other terms of employment. School districts must recognize a teachers' labor organization as the exclusive bargaining representative for teachers. Disputes that cannot be resolved through contract negotiation must be submitted to mediation or arbitration, which is binding.

SECTION III: FUNDING

No Funding Required

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Employers found in violation of this act may be held liable in a court of law by their respective employees. Additionally, employers may be fined up to $1,000,000 for violating this act.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 449

Musa Cheema Haynes Academy

TITLE: Make Appetizers Great Again (MAGA)

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

School lunch programs in Louisiana, like in many parts of the country, often struggle with providing meals that are both nutritious and appealing to students. Current school meals are frequently criticized for being bland, overly processed, and not reflecting the state's rich culinary traditions. In a time when childhood obesity and poor nutrition are growing concerns, many students are opting out of the meals offered, choosing unhealthy snacks or skipping lunch altogether. In Louisiana, where food culture is deeply rooted in fresh, flavorful, and diverse ingredients, school lunches should reflect that heritage and encourage healthier eating habits. By shifting to smaller, more diverse "appetizer-style" meals, schools can offer students a variety of nutrient-dense, locally sourced foods in portions that are both manageable and exciting. From mini gumbo bites to crawfish-stuffed peppers and sweet potato fritters, Louisiana's culinary flavors offer a perfect opportunity to engage students and improve the overall appeal of school lunches. The MAGA Bill seeks to leverage Louisiana's local food resources and cultural pride to reshape school meal offerings. By integrating healthy, locally-sourced appetizers, the bill not only aims to improve student nutrition but also to foster a greater connection to the state's agricultural and culinary industries. With student involvement, fresh ingredients, and education on healthy eating, this bill will help Louisiana schools provide meals that students enjoy and benefit from.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Appetizer Menus: Schools will serve a variety of healthy, Louisiana-inspired appetizers such as veggie wraps, gumbo bites, and crawfish salads.

Local Sourcing: Emphasis on fresh, locally sourced ingredients from Louisiana farms to support the state's agriculture. Student Involvement: Students will vote on new menu items through taste tests and surveys to ensure meals are both nutritious and enjoyable.

SECTION III: FUNDING

State Grants: The state will provide funding to schools for updating facilities and sourcing local ingredients.

Private Partnerships: Schools will partner with local farms and food service companies to reduce costs and enhance meal quality.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

:Non-Compliance: Schools failing to meet the new standards may face funding reductions and be required to submit corrective action plans. Misuse of Funds: Schools that misallocate funds for non-lunch-related purposes will face audits and potential penalties.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 450

Addison Crain Dutchtown High School

Kaia Bourgeois

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

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

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

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

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill would require that one vape detector be installed in each student bathroom in all public high schools before the beginning of the 2026 school year. The detectors would be required to be able to detect vape smoke from the entire bathroom.

SECTION III: FUNDING

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

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

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

HOUSE BILL 451

Riya Reddy Haynes Academy
Ryan Pham

TITLE: Bill to Reform and Establish Accessible Donations Supporting Treatment, Insurance, and Care for Kindness (BREADSTICK)

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

The United States has long been criticized for its inaccessible and morbidly expensive healthcare system. For instance, just an ambulance ride to the hospital can add $400-$1200 to an already lengthy hospital bill, a cost that's difficult for many to manage. The healthcare system doesn't just affect people economically, it can also take a toll on people physically and mentally. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, a leading healthcare non-profit focused on journalism, one in four adults have had to postpone or skip getting the vital healthcare they needed due to its exorbitant cost. In addition, about one in five adults reported having to lessen medication doses because of the inaccessibility of prescription drugs. Nearly 3 out of every 4 adults feel "somewhat worried" or "very worried" over medical bills, whether that be from unexpected charges to prescription drug costs to long-term care services for themselves or a family member. The lack of affordable healthcare is a glaring issue in the country and state, so this bill aims to mobilize healthcare reform efforts and reduce the burden of medical expenses by establishing a non-profit organization and fundraising campaign focused on providing funds to those in need, donating to hospitals, and reducing the costs of prescription medication.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

The non-profit will be created immediately after passing. Fundraising challenges will be created starting in Orleans Parish and spreading throughout the state, eventually becoming a statewide organization as branches find success. These challenges will accept anyone willing to compete and consist of participants trying to raise the most money for BREADSTICK. Winners will receive prizes ranging from local or state recognition and will be able to visit local hospitals to speak directly to the people they are impacting. Additionally, high school students who participate will receive service hours and letters of recommendation based on the amount they raise. Commercials for companies may also be purchased through donations ranging from $500-$50,000+. The more money paid, the larger the advertisement will be. For example, a donation of $500 from a company may result in a newspaper advertisement, while $2000 could buy an advertisement at a local bus stop.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Funding will mostly come from donations from companies and the fundraising challenges. However, the United States Department of Health and Human Services would also allocate a small percentage of their yearly budget equating to around $50,000-$150,000. This percentage may increase as the non-profit increases.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

There will be no penalties as participating in fundraising is not required.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 452

Madison Andrews Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

TITLE: Ensure that schools do not have hairstyle restrictions for students

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

To ensure that schools do not have hairstyle restrictions for students.

Schools need to remove hair restrictions for their students. If enacted, this bill will help students feel more confident at school and allow them to express themselves as they please. With uniforms in place in eighty-five percent of schools in Louisiana, students don't have any way to express themselves. Students should be protected from hair bias and able to wear their hair as they please. It will help the school belong to all students

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Schools need to remove all hair rules from their handbooks. Schools must submit their handbooks to their school board to ensure there are no rules against hairstyles

SECTION III: FUNDING

No funds are needed to enact this bill

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

If rules against hair are not removed from a school handbook, the school will lose 1% of state funding each business day until it is enacted. The maximum amount of funding lost is 10%. And then other penalties will apply.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 453

Adam Chittom Episcopal High School

Kate Lyons

TITLE: Increase Vehicular Homicide Charge

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

In the state of Louisiana, the existing charge for vehicular homicide ranges from a mandatory minimum of five years to a maximum of thirty years. While this could seem reasonable, when compared to the sentence for voluntary manslaughter, which ranges from a mandatory minimum of five years to a maximum of forty years, this looks disconcerting. In Louisiana law, voluntary manslaughter is defined under Louisiana Revised Statutes 14:31 as involving the killing of another person, but under circumstances where the killing occurs as a result of provocation or in a state of passion. Vehicular manslaughter is defined under Louisiana Revised Statutes 14:32.1. as the unintentional killing of another person while operating a vehicle, either through reckless driving or driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. This occurs when a person operates a vehicle (car, aircraft, watercraft, etc.) and recklessly causes the death of another person as a result of the driver's negligence or reckless disregard for human life. In 2022, Louisiana experienced 900+ fatalities in over 800 fatal crashes, which is roughly 1.3 deaths per 100 million vehicle miles traveled. Approximately 30% to 40% of fatal crashes in Louisiana involved alcohol or drug impairment, suggesting vehicular manslaughter was a significant part in these fatalities. Seeing these statistics it becomes clear how important it is for Louisiana to rid the roads of negligence. An increase in the charge of vehicular manslaughter from a minimum of five years to a maximum of thirty years to one more similar to voluntary manslaughter a maximum of forty years would set a precedent that vehicular manslaughter is equitable in terms of severity and would increase the justice and public safety in this state. Other examples of similar laws include Ralphs Law passed in California in 2006, which increased penalties for drivers convicted of causing death under the influence. California has seen an overall decrease in fatal accidents in recent years since this law was passed. Another example is Leandra's Law which increased penalties for repeat DUI offenders and introduced mandatory ignition interlocks for individuals convicted of driving under the influence. There has also been a decrease in overall traffic fatalities and an increase in public awareness of the dangers of impaired driving. There have also been related laws passed in Nevada and Arizona surrounding longer sentences for DUI-related fatalities or higher blood alcohol concentration, and both states have seen DUI-related fatalities reduced in recent years.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

The law would be updated to these new conditions on January 1st, 2025. This includes the Louisiana State Legislature Website and other containers of the law in the state of Louisiana.

SECTION III: FUNDING

N/A

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

N/A

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 454

Jack Butler Catholic High School

Matt Maher

TITLE: Advancement for Using Registered Automobiles (A.U.R.A.)

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Driving in Louisiana is a pain, this is a result of our state's lackluster enforcement of traffic laws and an inefficient road and traffic system. People feel they can disobey traffic regulations and create their own system for driving. Our bill aims to end this newfound self-centered rule breaking. Most people, when getting caught for disobeying traffic regulations get either let off with a warning or receive a ticket with minimal repercussions, and then they continue to break the law again. With our bill "A.U.R.A." we will take the past misdemeanors or warnings presented to the lawbreaker and base their new punishment from those if they are caught again. For example, if someone has repeatedly gone twenty-five miles over the speed limit and this is their second offense, the severity of the punishment or fine will increase due to the lack of change that person has presented. Also, for any repeated violation of three times or more, there will be a suspension of the license, which length will be decided by the severity of the law broken. For traffic violations that yield an amount of money to be paid, that money will now be sent to a Bureau that oversees all operations created by this bill, this group will be called the Bureau for Louisiana's Traffic (B.L.T.). The money will be used specifically to repair damaged roads and fix inefficient traffic designs. B.L.T. will hire a traffic expert for every city to survey existing roads every five years, and the traffic expert will report back to the B.L.T., who then will hire contractors to fix roads if needed. This bill will decrease the amount of traffic violations and cut the number of bad drivers in Louisiana. Also, it will fix the bad infrastructure of our state and ineffective design of our traffic system.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

For this bill to take effect, the Bureau for Traffic in Louisiana will be created to oversee the cases for punishments about traffic disobedience, it will be incorporated into the regular criminal justice system. The Bureau will also aim to repair roads and fix traffic designs by using traffic expert. This bill will be enforced by all State Police officers.

SECTION III: FUNDING

The money for this bill will come from the increase in tickets and fines given to people who have committed traffic violations in Louisiana. Also, a .05% increase in sales taxes on every purchase will be implemented. The money from the tickets and taxes will be sent to the B.L.T.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

This law passes consequences for repeat traffic violations. For the first instance of a violation, the ticket will be the normal amount determined by our Bureau of Traffic. For the second instance, the ticket fine will be increased by 10%, the third will be increased by 15%, and for all instances above three, a 20% increase, as well as the license being suspended, with its length determined by a judge, but not exceeding six months. Even though the fine will be increased, all instances will be considered non-reportable, which means the insurance will not be notified and rates will not go up.

HOUSE BILL 455

Lori Bush Metairie Park Country Day School

TITLE: An act to add an E to the American spelling of the word “judgment”

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

I believe that we should change the spelling of judgment to judgement as it makes more sense.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

A. In Louisiana, the official spelling of the word “judgment,” shall hereby become “judgement.” Teachers shall be expected to teach the spelling of this word as such.

I. This will be enforced in both public and private institutions.

II. The enforcement of this law in private and religious institutions shall be left to the Louisiana Board of Regents.

B. Louisiana-based publishers and book-printing companies must now print all spellings of judgement as such in their merchandise.

I. Louisiana companies shall be funded $10,000 each to make these changes.

II. Schools shall be funded $1000 to make these changes.

C. Older books and previously printed documents are not required to have the spelling corrected, however a clause notifying the reader of the correct spelling is encouraged.

SECTION III: FUNDING

I. Louisiana companies shall be funded $10,000 each to make these changes.

II. Schools shall be funded $1000 to make these changes.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

A. Failure to comply with this law on the teachers’ part shall result in fines ranging from $50-$500, depending on the number of offenses.

B. Failure to comply on the account of publishing and printing companies shall result in a fine of $500-$2500 depending on the number of offenses.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 456

Graham Waguespack Catholic High School
Dawson Stoeckle

TITLE: Sexually Transmitted Quarantine

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

It is estimated that about one in five (68 million) Americans have a sexually transmitted disease (STD). Not only that, but the rates of STIs in the United States have been increasing. In 2017, the number of reported chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis cases were about 2.3 million. In 2019, this number reached over 2.5 million. From 2000 to 2022, the number of new cases of STDs have increased by about 50 million per year in the United States. It is without a doubt that America has a large, worsening STD problem that needs to be addressed.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Those with untreated or uncurable STDs (HIV, Herpes, HPV…) would not be allowed to have sexual contact with someone without an STD. People who have an STD would only be allowed to have sexual contact with someone that has the exact same STD as them. Someone getting diagnosed with an STD must take a forensic DNA test to find the transgressor. The only exception is if the contact was between two married individuals. Getting an STI is of course legal, but people that are diagnosed with an STI are still not allowed to have sexual contact with someone without said STI (unless married). This would put the spread of these diseases to a near standstill as people with these STDs would not be allowed to facilitate the spread of their respective diseases. The chance of kids being born without their parents’ STD(s), the mortality rates among people with an STD, and the chance of an STD being cured would all attribute to the slow, generational decline of STDs within the populations of said disease.

SECTION III: FUNDING

No funding is necessary for this bill.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

The penalty for someone who spreads an STD to an uninfected person or someone with a different STD are the medical bills required to treat the victim’s disease, as well as 2 weeks in federal prison.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 457

Malia Jones Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies

TITLE: An Action To Allow More Study Time For Students

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Not every school gives students time outside of their short lunches to get their various school and extracurricular work done. Many highschool students engage in sports or have a part-time job after school, leaving little to no time for the required work of their classes or clubs. Students can start to feel stressed, and this can lead to some aspects of their studies falling into the rear view. 90% of students say they feel less stressed with the addition of study hall. Study halls being implemented in schools will allow students the ability to get to all of their coursework while still being able to play their sports or work their job.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

All schools in Louisiana will be required to offer study halls to their students for the 2025-2026 school year. For schools that operate on a period schedule (students attend all their classes all year), study halls will replace one of the slots on a schedule. Students will have one less class if they choose For schools that operate on a block schedule (students attend half their schedule for a semester), classes will be shortened by a minimum of 15 minutes to allow for a full hour of extra time for classwork/studying. Parishes will be required to reduce the instructional minutes required.

SECTION III: FUNDING

This bill will require no funding.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Schools that do not implement these changes by the next school year will have their superintendent's office investigated to determine the proper information was relayed. If the information was relayed, the penalty will be decided.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 458

Peyton Bartholomew Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies

Lena Zheng

TITLE: "PDALDS" (Preventing Discrimination Against Learning Disabilities in School.)

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

Schools hinder students' education daily because of their diagnosed learning disabilities. According to HelpGuide.org, "Even experts mix up learning disabilities with ADHD and other behavioral problems sometimes." Understanding that a student's disorder isn't something that prevents individuals from learning and isn't the reason for behavioral issues is important. Students with disabilities are still equal to people with no learning disability, and should be treated as so. Schools need to begin to teach their staff, and students that any student with learning disabilities should still be treated equally publicly and in education. Schools use prejudgment to bring a student with a learning disability down in education levels by taking action against them like isolation and extreme special treatment. Even though using learning disabilities against students is illegal, schools fly under the radar and work against mentally challenged students regardless. Students with special treatment will have a much harder time adapting in the real world, career, and scenario-wise because of the treatment they received. Students that have disorders are often misunderstood by staff, and overall will have a harder time continuing their educational career, preventing them from reaching their full potential. According to a Columbia University study, "Children and adolescents with disabilities experience physical … and emotional violence, and neglect at considerably higher rates than those without disability, despite advances in awareness and policy in recent years." Some people with learning disabilities drop out of school because the staff and students enable bullying, mistreatment, and denial of accommodations toward disabled individuals.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

Upon passage of this bill, the OTSD.C.O. will begin development of a government website under the domain name "PDALDS.gov". This site will contain links to existing resources for disabled students and orientations developed by the Department of Education and the Department of Health. There will be at least two orientations, one for school staff and one for students.

Beginning in the 2025-2026 school year, public school faculty members will be obligated to complete the orientation at the minimum of once every two years. These may be completed during Professional Development Days. Students will be required to complete their orientation every two years, and will do so during standardized benchmark/parish testing days.

Additionally, all faculty will be allowed to make reasonable adjustments to lesson plans and the delivery of curriculum to aid disabled students. Faculty may not, however, alter the curriculum itself.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Funding for the website is needed, as well as additional pay to teachers and staff for their time. It'll cost around $10-$20 dollars per year to run the website, $500 to $5,500 to create the website, and anywhere from $10,000 to $100,000 to create the training program. Compensation for the teachers and staff will be funded by sales taxes.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

(and must understand their job may be at risk for taking equal education away from students with disabilities.)

The penalties are as follows:
a) First Violation: Teacher required to sit through an orientation about learning disabilities within five business days after the first violation. Students will receive disciplinary action.
b) Second Violation: Teacher will be flagged and closely watched for three months by a member of the administration, a supervisor will enter the classroom of the teacher at least twice a month under the three month period. The student will receive first orientation and a minor referral within five business days of the report/violation. Students will have this violation in their records.
c) Third Violation: Teachers will be suspended from teaching for two weeks and are required to go through another orientation to continue teaching. Student will receive their first major referral and a call home. Students will have this violation in their records permanently.
d) Fourth Violation: Teachers have their teaching certificate permanently revoked, and will have to go through an orientation again, as well as applying to the board for reinstatement. Teachers will have this violation on their records permanently. Students will receive in-school suspension and another call home. Students will have this violation in their records permanently.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 459

Ian Trahan Catholic High School

TITLE: Say Their Names!

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

On April 26th, 2024, Baton Rouge police officers placed a man under arrest after a 911 call was received from two women who claimed a man was trying to coerce them into having sex to pay off a debt. This man was Allbert Herrera Machado. Machado is a member of the ruthless Venezuelan street gang known as Tren de Aragua. Tren de Aragua is thought to be the largest criminal street gang in Venezuela. The two women identified Machado's co-defendants as high-ranking affiliates of Tren de Aragua who've been smuggling women into the U.S. through the Southern Border and hiding them in stash houses in several states for sex work. Laken Riley was a 22-year-old nursing student who was taking an afternoon walk when she was brutally murdered by José Antonio Ibarra, a 26-year-old Venezuelan who had entered the United States illegally. Jocelyn Nungaray a 12-year-old who after being strangled her body was thrown off a bridge into a creek like a piece of trash. Who committed this vile and tragic act? Johan Jose Martinez-Rangel and Franklin Jose Peña Ramos. Both men entered the US illegally through the Southern Border coming from Venezuela. This must end! These criminals are causing death and destruction all around the US including in Louisiana. This should not be a Republican vs Democrats issue but an issue of making the everyday lives of American citizens safer, because when one American bleeds we all bleed. Let me make this clear this is not an attack on immigrants, but this is a bill that will ensure that the everyday lives of Louisiana's citizens are safer. We cannot affect what the federal government does, but we can affect what we do to help people here is Louisiana remain safe.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

An Illegal immigrant caught without committing a crime in the State of Louisiana should be turned into ICE.

An illegal immigrant caught committing a crime in Louisiana will serve out the consequence and after that consequence is served, he/she will immediately be turned over to ICE.

An Illegal immigrant who takes the life of a Louisiana citizen will be incarcerated for life without the possibility of parole.

An Illegal immigrant who commits any type of sex crime against any Louisiana citizen will be given the maximum sentence for that crime without the chance for parole. After that sentence is served, he/she will be turned over to ICE.

SECTION III: FUNDING

Louisiana ended the 2024 budget cycle with a $595 million budget surplus in 2024, some of those funds will be used to pay for these immigrant's needs in jail and to increase funding for police to capture these immigrants.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Any parish that does not abide by this state law and does not assist in the capture of illegal immigrants will be cut out from state funding util they agree to follow the law.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 460

Claudia Harris University Laboratory School

TITLE: Mandatory Mental Health Days For High School Students

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

This bill proposes the implementation of a mandatory mental health day for public high school students in Louisiana to allow students to feel able to take time to prioritize their mental health without being penalized for it. In today's day and age, many teens experience high levels of stress due to academic pressures, social factors, and other factors which can lead to anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues. In fact, the CDC reports that approximately four in ten high school students reported persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness in recent years, two in ten high school students seriously considered suicide, and one and ten attempted suicide in 2023. This law seeks to address these concerns by mandating up to three excused days - without the note of a doctor - per semester specifically designated as a mental health day for the student. Therefore, allowing students to rest, recharge, and seek any necessary mental health resources.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

For this bill to take effect, public school districts will be required to update their attendance policies to include mental health days as a valid reason for excused absences; therefore, giving students the opportunity to take up to 3 days off without a doctor's note. The law would go into effect at the beginning of the 2025 school year. Schools will also be mandated to provide informational resources on how to effectively use a mental health day, such as information on access to counseling and methods of stress management.

SECTION III: FUNDING

The primary costs associated with this bill is the creation of informational materials.These expenses can be covered by reallocating funds within existing school district budgets under the 'Support Service Programs' category.No new taxes are necessary to support this bill due to the fact that all costs if any will be minimal.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

Non-compliance with the updated attendance policies by school districts will result in a school being subject to a reduction of up to one letter grade in their Louisiana Performance Ranking.

LOUISIANA YOUTH LEGISLATURE 2024

HOUSE BILL 461

Lola Avery St. Joseph's Academy

Kali Baker

TITLE: Mama, A Child Bride Behind You: Criminalizing Marital Unions between Minors

SECTION I: BACKGROUND

In the state of Louisiana, a minor may be wed at the age of 16, so long as both parents or legal guardians give written consent, and a Juvenile Court Judge approves. Should a 16- or 17-year-old seek to enter into a marital union, the age difference between them and their intended spouse cannot exceed three years.

Before 2019, there was no minimum age for marriage in Louisiana, as long as the minor had parental consent and judicial approval. Still, the minimum age limit set by the State Legislature is barbaric, allowing minors to enter into a union they have no way of escaping in the case of abuse or mistreatment.

Though parental/judicial consent might allow for marriage between minors, it is incapable of reversing it. Regardless of the age that an individual might enter into a marital union, one must be 18 years of age before filing for divorce. With Louisiana's age of consent set at 17, current statutory law allows individuals below the age of consent to engage in a marital union, without any legal mechanism to escape abuse or mistreatment.

SECTION II: IMPLEMENTATION

This bill revises current Louisiana marital law and requires that any individual seeking to enter into a marital union must be at least 18. No parental or judicial consent is required, but both parties must be legal adults.

This revision will result in the unions of individuals legally capable of filing for divorce, meaning that no individual is forced to remain in a marriage they are legally incapable of escaping.

SECTION III: FUNDING

There is no funding required for the implementation of this bill.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES

There are no penalties associated with the implementation of this bill.

Supreme Court Challenge Form

Name: _____ School: _____

Chamber: _____ Bill/Law to Challenge: _____

Bill/Law Preamble:

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Statement of Challenge:

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Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Signature: _____ Date: _____

YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE
Technical Amendment Form

Bill Number/Title: _____

Committee: _____ Date: _____

Amendment Sponsor/Club: _____

Line Affected: _____

Amendment Text:

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Accepted: Yes No Designation: Friendly Hostile

Considered: Yes No Vote: Passed Failed Tabled

Clerk: X_____

YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE
Amendment Form

Bill Number/Title: _____

Chamber: _____ Date: _____

Amendment Sponsor/Club: _____

Line Affected: _____

Amendment Text:

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Accepted: Yes No Designation: Friendly Hostile

Considered: Yes No Vote: Passed Failed Tabled

Clerk: X_____

YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE
Amendment Form

Bill Number/Title: _____

Chamber: _____ Date: _____

Amendment Sponsor/Club: _____

Line Affected: _____

Amendment Text:

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Accepted: Yes No Designation: Friendly Hostile

Considered: Yes No Vote: Passed Failed Tabled

Clerk: X_____

YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE
Amendment Form

Bill Number/Title: _____

Chamber: _____ Date: _____

Amendment Sponsor/Club: _____

Line Affected: _____

Amendment Text:

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Accepted: Yes No Designation: Friendly Hostile

Considered: Yes No Vote: Passed Failed Tabled

Clerk: X_____

YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE
Amendment Form

Bill Number/Title: _____

Chamber: _____ Date: _____

Amendment Sponsor/Club: _____

Line Affected: _____

Amendment Text:

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Accepted: Yes No Designation: Friendly Hostile

Considered: Yes No Vote: Passed Failed Tabled

Clerk: X_____