

ACTS OF 2026 LEGISLATURE

ACTS 452-526

ACT No. 452

SENATE BILL NO. 39
BY SENATOR MIZELL
AN ACT

To enact R.S. 37:3556(F), relative to the licensure of massage therapists; to provide for a provisional license for massage therapist graduates; to require notification to a client; to provide for terms and conditions; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 37:3556(F) is hereby enacted to read as follows:
§3556. Licensure; qualifications; provisional licensure

* * *

F. The board shall make available to any graduate of a state-approved, Louisiana-based school for massage therapy a provisional license for immediate use upon graduation at an established massage therapy business registered with the board. The provisional license shall be active for one three-month term and shall not be renewed. Any facility that employs a massage therapist who is operating under a provisional license shall notify a client of the licensure status of a provisionally licensed massage therapist prior to the client receiving any services from that massage therapist. A provisionally licensed massage therapist may only work at a facility that employs a massage therapist licensed pursuant to Subsection A of this Section.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 453

SENATE BILL NO. 45
BY SENATOR WHEAT
AN ACT

To enact R.S. 40:2183.1, relative to hospice care; to exempt certain organizations from hospice licensure; to provide for criteria for exempted organizations; to provide for services performed at an exempted organization; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 40:2183.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§2183.1. Exemption from licensure; gratuitous care

A. The licensure requirements provided for in this Part and R.S. 40:2120.1 et seq., relative to licensure of home- and community-based service providers, shall not apply to a nonprofit organization that provides gratuitous end-of-life care to terminally ill patients in a home-like setting if the organization meets all of the following criteria:

(1) Provides accommodations and services at no cost to the patient or the patient's family.

(2) Does not receive any payments from Medicare, Medicaid, or any other public or private health insurance.

(3) Provides individual private bedrooms for no more than three patients at a time at any single location owned or operated by the nonprofit organization.

B. Any organization that satisfies the criteria provided in Subsection A of this Section shall be treated as the patient's place of residence for purposes of home hospice care.

C. Any medication prescribed for the patient in accordance with the patient's plan of care shall be delivered, stored, and administered in the same manner as if the patient was in a home setting.

D. The patient's licensed hospice provider shall prepare and manage the patient's plan of care.

E. An individual designated by the organization as the patient's caregiver may perform any delegated tasks in the same manner as a family member serving as a caregiver in a home setting. An individual's licensing credentials shall not prevent the individual from performing tasks in a caregiver capacity. A licensed healthcare professional may delegate tasks to an individual serving as a caregiver in accordance with the patient's plan of care. A licensed healthcare professional who delegates caregiver tasks in accordance with the provisions of this Section and who is acting in good faith and with reasonable care shall be immune from disciplinary or adverse administrative actions from the individual's respective licensing board.

Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to

become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 454

SENATE BILL NO. 72
BY SENATOR HODGES AND REPRESENTATIVES
DICKERSON AND SAWYER
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 32:707.2(A), (C)(1), and (D), to enact R.S. 32:702(18), 705(B)(6) and (7), 707.2(I) and (J), 707.2.1, and 707.2.2, and to repeal R.S. 32:707.2(G), relative to the office of motor vehicles; to provide for the acceptance of digital signatures; to provide for the acceptance of electronic signatures; to provide for system requirements for electronic lien, titling, and recordation of motor vehicles; to provide for the duties of the office of motor vehicles; to provide for the use of electronic signatures; to provide for civil immunity; to provide for effectiveness; to provide for severability; to direct the Louisiana State Law Institute to alphabetize and renumber definitions; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 32:707.2(A), (C)(1), and (D) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 32:702(18), 705(B)(6) and (7), 707.2(I) and (J), 707.2.1, and 707.2.2 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§702. Definitions

As used in this Chapter:

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(18) "Certificate of title" means the record that is evidence of ownership of a motor vehicle, whether paper or electronic, issued by the department.

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§705. Acceptance and delivery of certificate

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B. For purposes of this Section, an "endorsement" means one of the following:

* * *

(6) The electronic signature of the seller affixed to an electronic record of assignment or transfer of title in a manner authorized by the department, consistent with the provisions of the Uniform Electronic Transaction Act, R.S. 9:2601 et seq. The electronic signatures shall comply with the Identity Assurance Level 2 (IAL2) security standard when required by federal law or regulation, as defined in the National Institute of Standards and Technology Special Publication 800-63A.

(7) An electronic signature of the seller affixed through an electronic titling system or other electronic process approved by the department, which shall have the same force and effect as a handwritten signature and endorsement executed pursuant to Paragraph (1) or (2) of this Subsection.

* * *

§707.2. Electronic media system for lien recordation; **vehicle titling and registration; participation requirements; fees;** required bond; confidentiality of information; rules and regulations

A. The department shall develop and implement on a statewide basis ~~no later than January 1, 2010~~, a computer system which will permit the electronic recording of information concerning the perfection and release of vehicle security interests without submitting or receiving the paper title documents **including electronic lien, electronic titling, and electronic registration.** The department ~~may~~ **shall** allow the submission of vehicle title information for new, transferred, and corrected certificates of title, including the perfection and release of security interests, through electronic media means in a cost-effective manner in lieu of the submission and maintenance of paper documents otherwise required by this Chapter. **The system shall enable the ability to transact, process, record, and transmit certificates of title and to record and release liens through a completely electronic process for the following users:**

(1) All business entities and their service providers applying for automotive titles and registrations, for itself or the customers.

(2) All federally insured depository institutions, their affiliates and subsidiaries, other lenders, and their public tag agents and other service providers.

* * *

C.(1) An approved public license tag agent operating a secured host computer system interfacing with the computer system of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of motor vehicles, and the computer system of a lending institution or other sales finance company shall be bonded in an amount specified by the department. The public license tag agent is hereby authorized to charge a fee to customers utilizing this electronic media system.

(2) Each federally insured depository institution that originates more than ~~two hundred fifty~~ **twenty-five** motor vehicle transactions per year, and each finance company, lending institution, or other lender shall designate a public tag agent with which such bank, finance company, lending institution, or other lender shall interface its computer system for the purpose of receiving

electronic confirmation from the department, of the receipt and the filing of the security interest on the subject motor vehicle. Each federally insured depository institution that originates more than ~~two hundred fifty~~ **twenty-five** motor vehicle transactions per year, and each finance company, lending institution, or other lender shall also designate such public tag agent when transmitting a release or satisfaction of its lien.

* * *

D. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, a written or printed report of an electronic media transaction or recording required under the provisions of this Section, if certified as true and correct by the department, shall serve as evidence of any signature, acknowledgment, or information which was provided to or by the department through electronic means, and the certification shall be admissible in any legal proceeding as evidence of the facts stated therein.

* * *

I. Any lienholder using the department's electronic lien and electronic titling system, directly or through a public tag agent, to release a lien encumbering an electronic certificate of title shall process the electronic lien release within five business days after the lienholder has been paid in full and the payoff funds are deemed by the lienholder to be collected. The requirements of this Subsection shall not apply to paper certificates of title, which shall be governed by R.S. 32:708.

J.(1) Beginning twelve months after January 1, 2028, or the date the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of motor vehicles, certifies that a fully operational statewide electronic, lien, electronic titling, and electronic registration system has been implemented, whichever occurs sooner, any person who, in the regular course of business, submits applications for certificates of title, registration, lien recordings, lien satisfactions, or other documents to the department in connection with motor vehicle transactions shall submit those applications through the system, subject to such exceptions as the department may provide by rule.

(2) The department shall promulgate rules and regulations in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act establishing definitions, operational standards, performance requirements, compliance criteria, and reporting requirements for electronic lien and title, electronic vehicle registration, and electronic registration and titling systems.

§707.2.1. Electronic signatures and records for motor vehicle transactions
A. Any document, record, or instrument required in connection with the sale, lease, transfer, titling, registration, or financing of a motor vehicle may be created, executed, transmitted, and stored electronically, including but not limited to the following:

- (1) Titling documents.**
- (2) Registration applications.**
- (3) Odometer disclosure forms.**
- (4) Secure and limited powers of attorney.**
- (5) Attestations.**

B. Any documents used to transfer ownership of a vehicle to an insurance company after payment of damages may be signed electronically and reproduced in paper form and shall not require notarization. The supporting documents include but are not limited to the following:

- (1) Limited powers of attorney.**
- (2) Applications for duplicate titles.**
- (3) Odometer disclosure forms.**

C.(1) Electronic signatures shall comply with the Identity Assurance Level 2 (IAL2) security standard when required by federal law or regulation as defined in the National Institute of Standards and Technology Special Publication 800-63A.

(2) An electronic signature or electronic record accepted by the department pursuant to this Section, including a legibly scanned or imaged copy of a signed document, shall have the same force and effect as a handwritten signature or original paper document, shall satisfy any legal requirement for a written signature or record, shall not require notarization, and shall be admissible for all legal and evidentiary purposes to the same extent as a handwritten signature or original paper document.

D.(1) The Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of motor vehicles, shall accept electronic records and electronic signatures for the documents and records identified in Subsections A and B of this Section and any electronic signature or electronic record accepted by the department pursuant to this Section shall have the same force and effect as an original written document or handwritten signature and shall satisfy any legal requirement for a written record or signature.

(2) The department shall promulgate rules and regulations in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act as may be necessary to implement the provisions of this Section, including but not limited to rules governing:

- (a) Electronic signatures and authentication standards.**
- (b) Security and identity verification procedures.**

E.(1) A dealer or authorized officer as set forth in R.S. 32:702 using an approved system in good faith and without actual knowledge of fraud or unauthorized access shall be immune from civil liability arising solely from the use of electronic signatures, remote notarization of powers of attorney or electronic records, including claims alleging improper execution, authentication, or transmission, provided the dealer or authorized officer complied with the requirements of this Section and any rules promulgated by the department.

(2) The immunity provided for in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall not apply to intentional misconduct or gross negligence.

§707.2.2. Secure digital motor vehicle titles

A. The Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of motor vehicles, shall implement, or authorize the use of, a secure, interoperable system that offers vehicle title holders a fully paperless, secure digital vehicle title that may be issued in lieu of a paper certificate of title, including the ability for such title to be made available to the title holder through a department-approved or state-authorized digital credential platform.

B. Once implemented, the secure digital title system shall:

- (1) Include all functions related to title reassignments.**
- (2) Meet or exceed applicable security requirements as set forth in regulations promulgated by the department.**
- (3) Provide title holders with online, real-time access to motor vehicle titles and status of titles in process.**

(4) Support secure interoperability with department-approved systems, including approved digital credential platforms, dealer service providers, financial institution service providers, and verification services, through standards-based interfaces, application programming interfaces, or other methods approved by the department.

C. A secure digital vehicle title produced under this Section shall be regarded as an official title from the state of Louisiana and fully recognized legally for any motor vehicle related transactions within the state and all other United States jurisdictions.

D. The secure digital title system shall permit the electronic transfer, reassignment, and recording of ownership of a motor vehicle. Ownership transfers executed through an approved electronic title system shall have the same legal effect as transfers executed through a paper certificate of title. Licensed motor vehicle dealers may complete title assignments, reassignments of ownership, and related documents through the electronic system without requiring issuance of a paper certificate of title.

E. A duly certified copy of the office of motor vehicle's secure digital title shall be admissible in any civil, criminal, or administrative proceeding in this state as evidence of the existence of the title.

F. The commissioner of the office of motor vehicles shall promulgate any rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this Section. Any rules promulgated under this Section shall be designed to promote competition, transparency, interoperability, and consumer choice, subject to security, privacy, and technical standards established by the department. The department shall not require a title holder, dealer, lender, insurer, or other authorized user to use a specific proprietary application to access, present, or verify a secure digital title where a department-approved interoperable alternative meeting the department's security, privacy, and technical standards is available.

G. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to grant any vendor, contractor, system integrator, or operator of the department's system of record the exclusive right to display, present, verify, or otherwise make available to residents a digital wallet, identity verification, electronic signature, verifier services, or other resident-facing services related to secure digital vehicle titles. The department shall remain the sole issuer of secure digital vehicle titles. The department may authorize one or more qualified providers, including approved digital credential platforms and verification services, to perform resident-facing display, presentation, or verification functions, subject to security, privacy, audit, and interoperability requirements established by the department.

H. The department shall remain the authoritative source of all title records. Any display, presentation, verification, or use of a secure digital title through an approved digital credential platform shall not alter the department's ownership or control of the authoritative title record and shall be subject to technical standards and business requirements established by the department.

I. A secure digital title issued pursuant to this Section may be verified through a department-approved digital verification service, provided such service meets security, privacy, audit, and interoperability requirements established by the department.

Section 2. R.S. 32:707.2(G) is hereby repealed in its entirety.

Section 3.(A) The provisions of R.S. 32:705(B)(6) and (7), R.S. 32:707.2(A), (C) (1), (D), (I), and (J), and R.S. 32:707.2.1, as enacted or amended by this Act, shall become effective on January 1, 2028, or on the date the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of motor vehicles, certifies that a fully operational statewide electronic lien, electronic titling, and electronic registration system has been implemented, whichever occurs sooner.

(B) Nothing in this Section shall be construed to invalidate or limit any electronic record, electronic signature, or electronic transaction otherwise authorized by law or by policy of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of motor vehicles, prior to the effective date of this Section.

(C) The provisions of R.S. 32:707.2.2, as enacted by this Act, shall become effective on the date the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of motor vehicles, certifies that the secure digital title system required by R.S. 32:707.2.2 has been implemented and is operational, or January 1, 2031, whichever occurs sooner.

Section 4. R.S. 32:702(18), the repeal of R.S. 32:707.2(G), and Sections 5 and 6 of this Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, those provisions shall become effective on the day following such approval.

Section 5. If any provision of this Act, or the application thereof, is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items, or applications of the Act which can be given effect without the invalid provision, item, or application and to this end the provisions of this Act are hereby declared

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words under-scored (House Bills) and underscored and **boldfaced** (Senate Bills) are additions.

severable.
Section 6. The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby authorized and directed to arrange in alphabetical order and renumber the definitions provided in R.S. 32:702.
Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.
A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 455

SENATE BILL NO. 81
BY SENATOR MORRIS
AN ACT

To amend and reenact Code of Criminal Procedure Art. 780(C), relative to the right to waive trial by jury; to provide for requiring written prosecutorial consent to jury trial waivers in noncapital felony cases; to provide for effectiveness; and to provide for related matters.
Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
Section 1. Code of Criminal Procedure Art. 780(C) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:
Art. 780. Right to waive trial by jury

C. ~~With the consent of the district attorney the defendant may waive trial by jury within forty-five days prior to the commencement of trial. The court shall deny a defendant's motion to waive a jury trial unless the prosecuting authority provides written consent to the waiver.~~

Section 2. This Act shall take effect and become operative if and when the proposed amendment to Article I, Section 17(A) of the Constitution of Louisiana contained in the Act which originated as Senate Bill No. 97 of the 2026 Regular Session of the Legislature is finally adopted at a statewide election and becomes effective.
Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.
A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 456

SENATE BILL NO. 99
BY SENATOR FOIL
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 30:2022(A)(1), 2050.1(B)(2)(a), 2050.3(B)(3), 2075.2(B), 2116, 2162(A)(2), 2181, 2195.9(A)(6), 2250, and 2286.1(A)(2), relative to electronic communication and notification at the Department of Environmental Quality; to provide for electronic applications; to provide for electronic mail; to provide for force and effect of notification; to provide for certified mail; to provide for written comments and notices; to provide for written requests; to provide for mailing lists; to provide for distribution; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
Section 1. R.S. 30:2022(A)(1), 2050.1(B)(2)(a), 2050.3(B)(3), 2075.2(B), 2116, 2162(A)(2), 2181, 2195.9(A)(6), 2250, and 2286.1(A)(2) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§2022. Permit applications and variance requests; notification
A.(1) Any person seeking a permit, license, registration, variance, or LPDES variance shall file a **an electronic or** written application for such with the secretary. Excluding applications relative to medical and dental devices, the secretary shall promptly send a notice of the subject matter of each application to the governing authority of the parish affected by the application and any public interest group or individual within the affected parish who has requested notice **electronically or** in writing and provided a mailing address **or email address**. The notice of a permit, license, or registration application shall be provided within thirty days after receipt of the application. The parish governing authority shall promptly notify each municipality within said parish affected by the application. **Electronic transmission of notice pursuant to this Section shall have the same force and effect as notice provided by mail or certified mail.**

§2050.1. Enforcement; policies; list; legal review

B.(1)

(2)(a) On a periodic basis, the secretary shall mail, **including by electronic mail**, a copy of the list, either separately or as part of a department publication, to persons who request that they be placed on the mailing list. **Electronic transmission of notice pursuant to this Section shall have the same force and effect as notice provided by mail or certified mail.**

§2050.3. Enforcement; notice of violation; penalties

B.(1)

(3) Written comments **or electronically submitted comments** may be filed with the assistant secretary regarding the alleged violation and a possible penalty.

§2075.2. Sewage treatment facility; privately owned; surety required; nonfunctional system

B. If the treatment facility is to be acquired by a homeowners' association, by act of sale or donation, for operation and maintenance, the original permittee must submit the legal name of the association, with one person as "environmental contact" for any matter relating to the treatment plant. The permittee shall also include the current mailing address, and telephone number, **and an electronic mail address** for the environmental contact, which shall be submitted to the department at least sixty days prior to legal transfer of the facility.

§2116. Naturally occurring radioactive material
On and after July 1, 1995, the secretary, upon receipt of an application for any commercial facility seeking a specific license for the treatment, storage, or disposal of naturally occurring radioactive material shall promptly notify the governing authority of any parish affected by the application and any public interest group or individual within the affected parish who has requested notice in writing **or electronically** and provided a mailing address **or email address**. The parish governing authority shall promptly notify each municipality within said parish affected by the application. The secretary shall promptly consider such application and take such action thereon as he deems appropriate in accordance with law; however, the failure by the secretary or the parish governing authority to give the notice required by this Section shall not affect the validity of the action taken on the application. For the purposes of this Subsection, "any public interest group within the affected parish" shall mean any association having not less than twenty-five members who reside in the parish in which the relevant facility is or will be located. **Electronic transmission of notice pursuant to this Section shall have the same force and effect as notice provided by mail or certified mail.**

§2162. Solid waste capacity
A.(1)

(2) In performing such evaluations, the secretary shall determine the permitted capacity that is available to safely manage the solid waste. After each such determination, the secretary shall submit a report to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality and shall make such determination available to the public through public notification and the department mail list, **including an email list. Electronic transmission of notice pursuant to this Section shall have the same force and effect as notice provided by mail or certified mail.**

§2181. Notice to legislators
The assistant secretary for the office of environmental services shall send a list of the applications for hazardous waste permits and a list of the hazardous waste permits that have been granted to each member of the ~~legislative committees on natural resources and the environment in the Louisiana House of Representatives and the Louisiana Senate~~ **Committee on Environmental Quality and the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment**, and to each member of the legislature in whose district a facility that has applied for or been granted a hazardous waste permit is located. The lists shall be mailed **or electronically transmitted** monthly to their district offices and shall include the nature of the permit, the dates of application or granting, the person or company affected, and the parish of the location of the facility subject to the permit. However, the failure of the assistant secretary to provide the list required by this Section shall not affect the validity of the action taken on the applications or permits. **Electronic transmission of the list pursuant to this Section shall have the same force and effect as mailing.**

§2195.9. Financial responsibility
A. The financial responsibility requirements for taking response actions and third-party judgments by motor fuel underground storage tank owners who are eligible participants in the Tank Trust Account are hereby established as follows:

(6) A lien filed by the department with the same ranking and privilege as that authorized by R.S. 30:2195(F)(2) may be substituted for the financial responsibility requirement of this Section, but in no case shall the lien be substituted on behalf of an owner or operator who continues to operate the system. The department shall promulgate regulations to provide for the use of this lien that ensures the fiscal stability of the account. Such regulations shall provide that the use of the funds in the Tank Trust Account in any fiscal year on sites for which the lien authorized by this Section has been used to substitute for the financial responsibility amount shall not exceed twenty percent of the amounts collected in the previous fiscal year. The secretary is authorized to exceed the twenty percent limitation contained in this Paragraph upon recommendation of the Motor Fuels Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund Advisory Board. Upon recommendation of the board to exceed the twenty percent limitation as provided for in this Paragraph, the secretary shall send ~~written~~ notice to the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality and the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment listing the project

name, project location, and the amount of the project that exceeds the twenty percent limitation. **Electronic transmission of written notice pursuant to this Section shall have the same force and effect as notice provided by mail or certified mail.**

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§2250. Notice of determination of tax imposed
Upon determining the tax imposed on each disposer or generator of hazardous waste in Louisiana, the secretary shall ~~mail a~~ **provide, by mail or electronic transmission**, written notice of such determination to each disposer or generator and to the secretary of the Department of Revenue, setting out the amount of tax imposed on the disposer or generator, the fact that the notice is being mailed to the Department of Revenue, and the fact that the amount of tax in the written notice will be due on January 1, 1985, and that the secretary of the Department of Revenue will proceed to collect the tax on that date. **Electronic transmission of notice pursuant to this Section shall have the same force and effect as notice provided by mail or certified mail.**

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§2286.1. Submission and approval of voluntary remedial action plans
A.

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(2) Within ninety days of receipt of the remedial investigation work plan, the department shall review the plan and either approve such plan or provide written notices of deficiencies in the investigation work plan. **Electronic transmission of the written notices of deficiencies pursuant to this Section shall have the same force and effect as notice provided by mail or certified mail.**

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 457

SENATE BILL NO. 100
BY SENATOR JENKINS
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 45:201.9, relative to proof of insurance by transportation network company drivers; to provide that a transportation network company driver shall provide proof of insurance coverage in the event of an accident; to provide that a transportation network company driver shall disclose whether he was logged on to the transportation network company's digital network or on a prearranged ride at the time of an accident; to provide for penalties; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 45:201.9 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:
§201.9. Proof of insurance

A transportation network company driver shall carry written or digital proof of coverage satisfying R.S. 45:201.6 with him at all times during his use of a vehicle in connection with a transportation network company's digital network. In the event of an accident, a transportation network company driver shall provide this insurance coverage information to the directly interested parties, automobile insurers, and investigating police officers, upon request pursuant to R.S. 32:863.1. Upon such request, a transportation network company driver shall also disclose to directly interested parties, automobile insurers, and investigating police officers, whether he was logged on to the transportation network company's digital network or on a prearranged ride at the time of an accident. **Failure by a transportation network company driver to comply with any provision of this Section shall subject the transportation network driver to the provisions of R.S. 32:863.1.**

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 458

SENATE BILL NO. 102
BY SENATOR PRESSLY
AN ACT

To enact R.S. 32:1253.1, relative to the Louisiana Motor Vehicle Commission Law; to provide for a private right of action for trade associations; to provide for standing and remedies; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 32:1253.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§1253.1. Private right of action; association standing

A. A trade association may bring an action or intervene in an action in its own name or on behalf of one or more of its members as provided in Subsection B of this Section, if it meets all of the following conditions:

(1) It is primarily comprised of and controlled by a minimum of one hundred licensed motor vehicle dealers.

(2) A minimum of one of its members holds a valid license under this Chapter and has standing to sue or intervene individually.

(3) The interests the association seeks to protect are germane to its purpose.

(4) Neither the claim asserted nor the relief requested requires the participation of individual members.

B. A trade association prevailing pursuant to this Section may be granted any of the following remedies:

(1) Declaratory relief.

(2) Injunctive relief.

(3) Reasonable costs and attorney fees.

C. An action by a trade association pursuant to this Section may be brought before the commission or in any district court of competent jurisdiction.

Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 459

SENATE BILL NO. 109
BY SENATOR JENKINS
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 40:1133.3(B)(1)(a), (b), and (d), relative to the Louisiana Emergency Medical Services Commission; to provide for membership; to provide for qualifications; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 40:1133.3(B)(1)(a), (b), and (d) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§1133.3. Louisiana Emergency Medical Services Commission; creation; membership; qualifications; terms; vacancies; meetings; officers; compensation; domicile

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B.(1) The commission shall be composed of twelve voting members appointed by the governor as follows:

(a) Two emergency medical services administrators, including one representing the private sector and one representing the public sector, **nominated by the Louisiana Ambulance Alliance.**

(b) Two licensed paramedics and one licensed emergency medical technician ~~who are approved as emergency medical services educators by the bureau.~~ At least one of the members as provided in this Subparagraph shall be appointed by the Louisiana Fire Chiefs Association.

* * *

(d) One member who is, at a minimum, a ~~state-certified~~ **state-licensed** emergency medical technician nominated by the Louisiana Municipal Association.

* * *

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 460

SENATE BILL NO. 111
BY SENATOR KLEINPETER
AN ACT

To enact R.S. 56:325(A)(13), relative to freshwater recreational fish; to provide for daily take and minimum size limits for black bass; to provide for daily take and minimum size limits for crappie; to provide for a geographic area; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 56:325(A)(13) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§325. Daily take, possession, and size limits; freshwater recreational fish; possession of finfish filets prohibited

A. No person shall take in any one day more than the following of each species of fish, of the designated size where specified:

* * *

(13) Within the area south of US 190 from the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee to the intersection of LA 1 and US 190 due north of Port Allen, east of the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee from US 190 to US 90, north of US 90 from the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee to LA 20, north and west of LA 20 from US 90 to LA 1 in Thibodaux, south and west of LA 1 from LA 20 to US 190, no person shall take, in any one day, more than the following of the designated size:

(a) Black bass (Micropterus spp.), or their hybrids - minimum size twelve inches total length - five.

(b) Crappie (Pomoxis spp.), or their hybrids, also locally called white perch or sac-a-lait - minimum size eight inches total length - twenty-five.

* * *

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

ACT No. 461

SENATE BILL NO. 112
BY SENATORS HODGES AND MIGUEZ
AN ACT

To enact Subpart E of Part III of Chapter 1 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 17:288.1 through 288.5, and R.S. 17:3996(B)(92), relative to parental choice in education; to authorize released time courses under certain circumstances; to provide for religious education subject to parental authorization; to authorize public school boards to adopt certain policies; to provide for immunity from liability for public school boards that authorize released time; to require parental consent for minor students; to provide for requirements; to require that parents receive certain information; to authorize academic credit; to provide for legislative intent; to provide for definitions; to provide for constitutional protections; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Subpart E of Part III of Chapter 1 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 17:288.1 through 288.5, and R.S. 17:3996(B)(92) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

SUBPART E. SCHOOL RELEASED TIME EDUCATION ACT

§288.1. Short title; legislative intent

A. This Subpart shall be known as and may be cited as the “School Released Time Education Act”.

B. The legislature finds all of the following:

(1) In 1952, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled that public schools may release students during school hours for off-campus religious instruction, provided that there is parental consent and that the program is not publicly funded. The ruling established that public schools allowing released time for religious instruction is permissible under the Constitution of the United States of America. (Zorach v. Clauson, 343 U.S. 306).

(2) Article 101 of the Louisiana Children’s Code declares that “(t)he people of Louisiana recognize the family as the most fundamental unit of human society; that preserving families is essential to a free society; that the relationship between parent and child is preeminent in establishing and maintaining the well-being of the child; that parents have the responsibility for providing the basic necessities of life as well as love and affection to their children; that parents have the paramount right to raise their children in accordance with their own values and traditions; that parents should make the decisions regarding where and with whom the child shall reside, the educational, moral, ethical, and religious training of the child...”

(3) As interest grows across Louisiana, legislation is needed to show support for parents’ rights to request released time courses of education for their children.

§288.2. Definitions

Unless otherwise indicated, the following definitions shall apply to this Subpart:

(1) “Department” means the state Department of Education.

(2) “Parent” means a biological birth parent, an adoptive parent, or the legal guardian who is authorized by law to make decisions regarding the education of his minor child.

(3) “Released time course” means a course in religious instruction taught by a sponsoring entity in which a student is allowed to attend, subject to prior approval by the minor student’s parent, at an off-campus location, unless the equal access provisions in R.S. 17:288.3 allow for the course to be taught on campus.

(4) “School” means a public school, as defined in R.S. 17:236, that is under the jurisdiction of the school board.

(5) “School board” means a city, parish, or other local public school board that operates a public school, subject to the provisions of this Title.

(6) “Sponsoring entity” means a church or other religious organization that is qualified as a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, and receives written parental permission from parents and authorization from the school board, to operate a released time course program.

(7) “Student adult” means a person who is eighteen years of age or older or is an emancipated minor who is authorized by law to make his own decisions regarding his education.

§288.3. Released time courses; authorization; parental approval; requirements; limitation on liability

A. Each school board may adopt a policy that allows students, subject to parental approval, to participate in a released time course.

B. The policy adopted by the school board shall require all of the following:

(1) That the minor student’s parent gives written consent for the minor student to attend a released time course.

(2) That the student adult indicates, in writing, his consent to attend the released time course.

(3) That any sponsoring entity of a released time course that provides transportation of students to or from a released time course maintain automobile liability insurance with coverage limits in an amount not less than the minimum coverage required by the school board for school buses operated by or on behalf

of the school system. Proof of such insurance shall be furnished to the school board as a condition of providing such transportation.

C. The written consent, required in this Section, shall be on a form created by the school board and shall include a notice that contains the following:

(1) That the school and school board are free from liability for any injury that occurs while the student is off campus at a released time course.

(2) That the school and school board are free from liability while the student is being transported to or from the released time course.

(3) That any liability for injury that occurs at the released time course is solely the responsibility of the entity sponsoring the released time course.

(4) That any liability for injuries that occur during the transportation to or from the released time course shall be solely the responsibility of the sponsoring entity or the person authorized, pursuant to this Subpart, to transport the student.

D.(1) The sponsoring entity of the released time course shall maintain attendance records and make them available to the school that the student attends or to the school board.

(2) The released time course shall be no less than one hour and no more than five hours per school week.

(3) When notification is given to a school, by a parent or student adult, that the student is attending the released time course and subsequently does not attend the course and is not otherwise present at the school, then the student shall be recorded as having an unexcused absence by the school for that time and shall be subject to the provisions of R.S. 17:233.

E. Criminal background checks shall be conducted, as provided in R.S. 15:587.1 and 587.7, on each instructor and any other person who may have direct contact with or supervisory responsibility over a student participating in a released time course. This requirement shall not apply to other students participating in the course.

F.(1) The sponsoring entity assumes liability for the student while under the control of the sponsoring entity.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, an authorizing school board, school, or any officer or employee thereof shall be immune from liability from any action or suit for any injury that takes place at a released timed course held off campus or that takes place while the student is being transported to or from the released timed course.

(3) Liability associated with any transportation of students to and from a released time course that is at a location other than the school shall be the responsibility of whichever of the following that applies:

(a) The parent who transports the parent’s own child.

(b) Another person designated by the parent to transport the minor student.

(c) The sponsoring entity who is authorized by the parent to transport the student.

(d) The student adult who transports himself.

G. Any transportation to and from a released time course shall be subject to specific prior written authorization by the parent unless the parent is transporting the parent’s own child.

H.(1) Released time courses shall not be held on school property unless permitted under a neutral policy of equal access that opens school property for use by community groups. To the extent that the other community groups are allowed to use school property, then the school shall not discriminate against the sponsoring entity, the student, or the parent who desires to have the minor student attend the released time course.

(2) Nothing in this Subpart shall be interpreted to deny a released time course or the sponsoring entity equal access to funds, benefits, or services that the local school system may provide or make available to community groups or independent secular entities.

I. Any school board that awards academic credit for a released time course shall do both of the following:

(1) Require that each instructor for such course satisfy qualification standards that are the same as the qualifications established by the school board for substitute teachers employed within that school system.

(2) Require that the instructor or sponsoring entity providing the released time course agree to report student grades, attendance, and any other information required by the school board to the school in the manner and format prescribed by the school board.

J. Nothing in this Section shall prohibit a school board from offering or recognizing a virtual released time course provided through the internet or other electronic medium in a manner consistent with R.S. 17:236.3.

§288.4. Credit for released time courses

A. The department shall provide a course credit code that participating schools may use to award academic credit for the completion of a released time course.

B. Nothing in this Subpart shall prohibit a participating school from using the course credit code for high school students associated with the academic course taught on the history and literature of the Bible, pursuant to R.S. 17:282.

§288.5. Rules of construction; constitutional protections preserved

Nothing in this Subpart shall be construed to supersede, limit, or diminish the rights guaranteed under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of Louisiana, or the Preservation of Religious Freedom Act, R.S. 13:5231 et seq., all of which shall prevail in the event of any conflict with any provision of this Subpart.

* * *

§3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements

* * *

B. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and except as may be otherwise specifically provided for in an approved charter,

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words under-scored (House Bills) and underscored and **boldfaced** (Senate Bills) are additions.

a charter school established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter and its approved charter and the school’s officers and employees shall be exempt from all statutory mandates or other statutory requirements that are applicable to public schools and to public school officers and employees except for the following laws otherwise applicable to public schools with the same grades:

* * *

(92) Released time, R.S. 17:288.1 et seq.

Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 462

SENATE BILL NO. 124
BY SENATOR TALBOT
AN ACT

To amend and reenact the introductory paragraph of R.S.13:3715.3(A), 3715.3(A)(2), (B), and (G)(1)(b) and to enact R.S. 13:3715.3(G)(1)(c) and (d) and (H), relative to peer review records; to provide for peer review records of health systems; to provide for definitions; to provide for confidentiality; to provide for sharing of information; to provide for liability; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. The introductory paragraph of R.S.13:3715.3(A), 3715.3(A)(2), (B), and (G)(1)(b) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 13:3715.3(G)(1)(c) and (d) and (H) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§3715.3. Peer review committee records; confidentiality

A. Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S. 44:7(D) or any other law to the contrary, all records, ~~notes, data, studies, analyses, exhibits, and proceedings,~~ **as defined in this Section,** of:

* * *

(2) Any hospital committee, **health system committee,** the peer review committees of any medical organization, dental association, professional nursing association, nursing home association, social workers association, group medical practice of twenty or more physicians, nursing home, ambulatory surgical center licensed pursuant to R.S. 40:2131 et seq., ambulance service company, health maintenance organization, any nationally recognized improvement agency or commission, including but not limited to the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), or any committee or agency thereof, or any healthcare licensure agency of the Louisiana Department of Health, or healthcare provider as defined in R.S. 40:1299.41(A), or extended care facility committee, including but not limited to the credentials committee, the medical staff executive committee, the risk management committee, or the quality assurance committee, **and any peer review committee of a health system,** ~~any committee determining a root cause analysis of a sentinel event, established by the peer review committees of a medical organization, dental organization, group medical practice of twenty or more physicians, social workers association, ambulatory surgical center licensed pursuant to R.S. 40:2131 et seq., ambulance service company, health maintenance organization, or healthcare provider as defined in R.S. 40:1299.41(A), or private hospital licensed under the provisions of R.S. 40:2100 et seq., shall be confidential wherever located and shall be used by such committee and the members thereof only in the exercise of the proper functions of the committee and shall not be available for discovery or court subpoena regardless of where located, except in any proceedings affecting the hospital staff privileges of a physician, dentist, psychologist, or podiatrist the records forming the basis of any decision adverse to the physician, dentist, psychologist, or podiatrist may be obtained by the physician, dentist, psychologist, or podiatrist only. However, no original record or document, which is otherwise discoverable, prepared by any person, other than a member of the peer review committee or the staff of the peer review committee, may be held confidential solely because it is the only copy and is in the possession of a peer review committee.~~

B. No employee, physician, dentist, public or private hospital, organization, **health system,** or institution furnishing information, data, reports, or records to any such committee with respect to any patient examined or treated by such physician or dentist or confined in such hospital or institution shall be liable in damages to any person by reason of furnishing such information.

* * *

G.(1) As used in this Subsection, the following terms shall mean:

* * *

(b) “Health system” shall mean any of the following:

(i) **A group of two or more hospitals that are owned, operated, sponsored, or managed by a single entity, or that are subject to the control and direction of a common owner or parent company.**

(ii) **Any parent entity, holding company, or affiliated group of entities under common ownership or control that owns, operates, manages, or is affiliated**

with one or more hospitals, clinics, physician practices, or other healthcare providers.

~~(b)(c)~~ “Licensee” means an individual who possesses a license, certificate, or registration duly issued by a board, or an individual who has made application for such a license, certificate, or registration.

(d) “Records and proceedings” shall mean and include, without limitation, all records, notes, data, reports, memoranda, analyses studies, exhibits, minutes, draft documents, emails, electronic communications, and work product generated by, for, or at the direction of a committee covered by this Section.

* * *

H.(1) A health system or hospital within a health system that conducts as part of its regular business activities any form of professional credentialing or quality review activities involving the competence of, professional conduct of, or quality of care provided by healthcare providers identified in Subsection A of this Section, may share such peer review records as described in Subsection A of this Section within a health system or among hospitals within the same health system so long as such peer review records are used only for credentialing, quality review, competency purposes, professional conduct purposes, or patient safety activities as defined by the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act of 2005, 42 U.S.C. 299b-21 through 299b-26.

(2) When disclosure is requested and made in a manner authorized in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, the verbal, written, or other disclosure of peer review records and proceedings by any person, committee, hospital, health system, or other peer review entity described in Subsection A of this Section within the same health system or among or between hospitals within the same health system shall not constitute a waiver of any legal or evidentiary privilege, nor form the basis of any claim or suit for damages or injunctive relief of whatsoever kind or nature, including breach of confidentiality or invasion of privacy or otherwise, and the person, hospital, health system, or other peer review entity making the disclosure shall be entitled to the benefit of the immunities otherwise provided for in Subsections B and C of this Section.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 463

SENATE BILL NO. 129
BY SENATOR FOIL AND REPRESENTATIVE CHASSION
AN ACT

To amend and reenact the Section heading of R.S. 47:463.191, (A), and (C) and to enact R.S. 47:463.243, relative to motor vehicle special prestige license plates; to modify the member of congress special prestige license plate; to establish the “Master Combat Infantryman” special prestige license plate; to provide for creation, issuance, design, fees, distribution, and rule promulgation applicable to the license plate; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. The Section heading of R.S. 47:463.191, (A), and (C) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 47:463.243 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§463.191. Special prestige license plate; member of congress; **designated state officials**

A. Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S. 47:463(A)(3)(b), the secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections shall establish a special prestige license plate for motor vehicles, restricted to passenger cars, pickup trucks, motorcycles, recreational vehicles, and vans, which may be issued upon application of any Louisiana member of congress, **to members of the Louisiana Supreme Court, or upon written request of the clerk of court, for official vehicles used by duly commissioned officers in the course and scope of their official duties.**

* * *

C. The secretary shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this Section, including rules and regulations governing the **issuance,** transfer, and disposition of the license plates upon the death of the recipient and governing the design of the plate.

* * *

§463.243. Special prestige license plate; “Master Combat Infantryman”
A.(1) The secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections shall establish a special prestige motor vehicle license plate to be known as the “Master Combat Infantryman” plate. The license plate shall be restricted to use on passenger cars, pickup trucks, recreational vehicles, motorcycles, and vans.
(2) The Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of motor vehicles, shall create the special prestige license plate when the applicable statutory provisions are met and the department’s electronic vehicle and title registration system is updated to accommodate the creation of new plates.

B. Provided the design is in compliance with R.S. 47:463(A)(3), the design shall bear a likeness of the United States Army Master Combat Infantryman Badge as set forth in Department of the Army MILPER 25-093, centered on the left side of the license plate and the words “Master Combat Infantryman” centered on the bottom of the plate under the license plate number. The colors of the plate shall be light blue and gold.

C. The special prestige license plate shall be issued, upon application, to any person having been awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge and one of

the following expert badges: the Expert Infantryman Badge, the Expert Field Medical Badge, or the Expert Soldier Badge which shall be sufficient to show the applicant is authorized to wear the Master Combat Infantryman Badge.

D. The fee for the license plate shall be pursuant to R.S. 47:463 and 490.1.
E.(1) The secretary shall promulgate and adopt rules and regulations as are necessary to implement the provisions of this Section.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this Paragraph, each military honor license plate issued pursuant to this Section shall be returned to the secretary upon the death of the person to whom the plate was issued. A surviving spouse of a person to whom a license plate was issued pursuant to this Section may retain a license plate issued pursuant to this Section, provided the surviving spouse has not remarried and provided the surviving spouse applies to the secretary for a transfer of the license plate to the surviving spouse. A military honor license plate transferred pursuant to this Paragraph to a surviving spouse shall be returned to the secretary upon the death or remarriage of the surviving spouse.

Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 464

SENATE BILL NO. 133
BY SENATOR CLOUD
AN ACT

To amend and reenact the introductory paragraph of R.S. 32:296(A), 400.2(B), 400.3(C) and 400.7(B), relative to the Department of Transportation and Development and the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of state police; to provide for vehicles on state highway shoulders; to provide for proper agency oversight; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. The introductory paragraph of R.S. 32:296(A), 400.2(B), 400.3(C) and 400.7(B) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§296. Stopping, parking, or standing upon the highway shoulder; driving upon the highway shoulder

A. No person shall stop, park, or leave standing any ~~unattended~~ vehicle on any state highway shoulder, unless such stopping, parking, or standing is made necessary by an emergency, except:

* * *

§400.2. Controlling authority; compliance

* * *

B. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the ~~Department of Transportation and Development shall be the~~ **state of Louisiana shall possess** sole and exclusive ~~agency with~~ jurisdiction over autonomous commercial motor vehicles and automated driving systems and ~~the Department of Transportation and Development and the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of the state police,~~ shall implement the provisions of this Part.

* * *

§400.3. Operation; criteria

* * *

C. Prior to commencing the operation of an autonomous commercial motor vehicle without a conventional driver present in the cab, a person or entity shall submit a written statement to the ~~Department of Transportation and Development~~ **Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of state police** certifying that the vehicle meets the requirements of this Section.

* * *

§400.7. Teleoperations; operation; criteria

* * *

B. Prior to commencing the operation of a commercial motor vehicle equipped with a teleoperation system without a conventional driver present in the cab, an owner, a remote driver, or the remote driver's employer shall submit a written statement to the ~~Department of Transportation and Development~~ **Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of state police** certifying that the vehicle meets the requirements of this Section.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 465

SENATE BILL NO. 151
BY SENATOR MIZELL AND REPRESENTATIVES MANDIE LANDRY
AND SPELL
AN ACT

To enact R.S. 15:609(K), relative to drawing or taking of DNA samples; to provide for rules to flag a driver's license for certain persons under certain

circumstances; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 15:609(K) is hereby enacted to read as follows:
§609. Drawing or taking of DNA samples

* * *

K. (1)Any person required by law to submit a DNA sample and who has failed to provide that sample, shall be considered noncompliant.

(2) Upon notification of noncompliance by the appropriate agency, the office of motor vehicles shall place a flag on the person's driving record. The office of motor vehicles shall not issue, renew, or reinstate any driver's license for the person until proof of compliance with the DNA submission requirement has been received.

(3) No later than January 1, 2027, the state police shall promulgate rules to flag a driver's license for outstanding Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) hits and persons that lawfully owe the state a DNA sample in order to complete their full DNA profile.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 466

SENATE BILL NO. 156
BY SENATOR KLEINPETER
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 14:32(C)(1) and (2), relative to negligent homicide; to provide relative to penalties; to increase the maximum term of imprisonment for negligent homicide under certain circumstances; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 14:32(C)(1) and (2) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§32. Negligent homicide

* * *

C.(1)~~(a)~~ Except as provided for in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection, whoever commits the crime of negligent homicide shall be ~~imprisoned with or without hard labor for not more than ten years; fined not more than five thousand dollars, or imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not more than fifteen years, or both.~~

(b) If the court does not order the offender to a term of imprisonment when the following two factors are established, the court shall state, both orally and in writing at the time of sentencing, the reasons for not sentencing the offender to a term of imprisonment:

(i) The fatality was caused by a person engaged in the operation of, or in actual physical control of, any motor vehicle, aircraft, watercraft, or other means of conveyance; and

(ii) The offender's blood alcohol concentration contributed to the fatality.

~~(2)(a)~~ If the victim ~~killed~~ was under the age of ~~ten~~ **thirteen** years, the offender shall be imprisoned at hard labor, without benefit of probation, parole, or suspension of sentence, for not less than two **years** nor more than ~~ten~~ **twenty** years.

~~(b) If the court does not order the offender to a term of imprisonment when the following two factors are established, the court shall state, both orally and in writing at the time of sentencing, the reasons for not sentencing the offender to a term of imprisonment:~~

~~(i) The fatality was caused by a person engaged in the operation of, or in actual physical control of, any motor vehicle, aircraft, watercraft, or other means of conveyance; and~~

~~(ii) The offender's blood alcohol concentration contributed to the fatality.~~

* * *

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 467

SENATE BILL NO. 164
BY SENATOR MCMATH AND REPRESENTATIVE CARVER
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 23:1017.1(6) and R.S. 29:739(C) and to enact R.S. 29:723(21), relative to first responders; to expand the definition of "first responder" to include public works employees; to provide for a definition of "public works employee"; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 23:1017.1(6) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§1017.1. Definitions

Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following words and terms, when used in this Part, shall have the following meanings:

* * *

(6) "First responder" means a volunteer engaged in activities involving

the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness pursuant to R.S. 29:721 et seq., and first responders as defined in R.S. 29:723 including but not limited to medical personnel, emergency and medical technicians, volunteer firemen, auxiliary law enforcement officers, state agency essential workers, emergency service dispatchers, emergency response operators, electrical linemen as defined by R.S. 29:723, **public works employees as defined in R.S. 29:723**, and members of the Civil Air Patrol.

Section 2. R.S. 29:739(C) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 29:723(21) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§723. Definitions

As used in this Chapter:

(21)(a) “Public works employee” means an employee of a municipal or parish public works department who is responsible for the maintenance and improvement of municipal or parish infrastructure. Public works employees shall be considered first responders only in instances involving emergencies as declared by the governor pursuant to R.S. 29:721 et seq.

(b) The term “first responder” may be displayed on the uniform of a public works employee.

§739. Intrastate Mutual Aid Compact

C. Definitions

As used in this Section, “first responder” refers to those individuals who in the early stages of an incident are responsible for the protection and preservation of life, property, evidence, and the environment, including emergency response providers as defined in Section 2 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, 6 U.S.C. 101, as well as emergency management, public health, clinical care, public works, and other skilled support personnel, such as equipment operators, and electrical linemen, **and public works employees** that provide immediate support services during prevention, response, and recovery operations consistent with Homeland Security Presidential Directive 8.

Section 3. This Act shall be known as and may be cited as the “Shelby LaSalle Act”.

Section 4. The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby authorized and directed to renumber the definitions in R.S. 29:723 to ensure that the definitions are in alphabetical order.

Section 5. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 468

SENATE BILL NO. 165
BY SENATOR ABRAHAM
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 9:4757, 4758.1(A)(2) and (B), and 4759(3), (5)(a), and (9) and to enact R.S. 9:4759.1 and 4759.2, relative to self-service storage facilities; to provide relative to the rental agreement; to provide for default of rental agreement by lessee; to provide relative to delivery of notice of privilege; to provide for the sale or other disposition of certain movable property; to provide for definitions and procedures; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 9:4757, 4758.1(A)(2) and (B), and 4759(3), (5)(a), and (9) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 9:4759.1 and 4759.2 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§4757. Definitions

As used in this Part, unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

(1) **“Default” means the failure by the lessee to perform, on time, any obligation or duty set forth in the rental agreement or pursuant to this Part.**

(2) “Electronic mail” means an electronic message that is transmitted between two or more telecommunications devices, computers, or electronic devices capable of receiving electronic messages, whether or not the message is converted to printed format after receipt or is viewed upon transmission or stored for later retrieval. “Electronic mail” includes electronic messages that are transmitted through a local, regional, or global computer network.

(3)(3) “Electronic mail address” means a destination, commonly expressed as a string of characters, to which electronic mail can be sent or delivered. An “electronic mail address” may include a user name or mailbox and a reference to an Internet domain.

(3)(4) “Last known address” means the mailing address or the electronic mail address provided by the lessee in the latest rental agreement or, **subject to any requirements in the rental agreement**, the mailing address or the electronic mail address provided by the lessee in a subsequent written notice

of a change of address.

(4)(5) “Lessee” means a person, his sublessee, successor, or assign, entitled to the use of storage space at a self-service storage facility under a rental agreement, to the exclusion of others.

(5)(6) “Owner” means the owner, operator, lessor, or sublessor of a self-service storage facility, his agent, or any other person authorized by him to manage the facility or to receive rent from a lessee under a rental agreement.

(6)(7) “Rental agreement” means any agreement or lease, written or oral, entered into between the owner and a lessee, that establishes or modifies the terms, conditions, rules, or any other provisions concerning the use of self-service storage facility. **The rental agreement may be delivered and accepted electronically.**

(7)(8) “Self-service storage facility” means any real property designed and used for the purpose of renting or leasing individual storage space to lessees who are to have access to such for the purpose of storing and removing movable property. No lessee shall use a self-service storage facility for residential purposes. A self-service storage facility shall not be considered as a warehouse subject to the provisions of Title 10 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes **of 1950**; however, if an owner issues any warehouse receipt, bill of lading, or other document of title for the movable property stored, the owner and the lessees shall be subject to the provisions of Title 10 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes **of 1950** and the provisions of this Part shall not apply.

(8)(9) “Verified mail” means any method of mailing that is offered by the United States Postal Service or a private delivery service that provides evidence of mailing.

(9)(10) “Wireless telecommunications device” means a cellular telephone, a text messaging device, a personal digital assistant, a stand-alone computer, or any other substantially similar wireless device.

§4758.1. Notice of privilege

A. A lessee shall be notified of the privilege created by this Part before enforcement of the privilege by an owner. Notification of the privilege created by this Part shall be satisfied by either of the following:

(2) A written notification of the privilege sent to the lessee by verified mail to the last known address of the lessee, ~~by electronic mail to a primary and secondary email address of the lessee, and by text message to the wireless telecommunications device of the lessee provided the email addresses and number of the wireless telecommunications device are listed in the rental agreement~~ **and by electronic mail to the email address provided by the lessee and listed in the rental agreement.**

B. An owner who does not have a written rental agreement that includes a notice of the privilege created by this Part shall not initiate an enforcement action as provided in this Part until thirty days after the written notice of a privilege is ~~mailed~~ **sent** to the lessee as required by Paragraph (A)(2) of this Section.

§4759. Options of owner upon lessee’s default

In the event of default by the lessee, the owner of a self-service storage facility has the option to enforce judicially all of his rights under the rental agreement, including, if the agreement so provides, his right to accelerate all rentals that will become due in the future for the full term of the lease or to cancel the lease and enforce his privilege for the debt due him, as follows:

(3) The notice shall be delivered in person to the lessee or sent by verified mail to the last known address of the lessee, ~~by electronic mail to a primary and secondary email address of the lessee, and by text message to a wireless telecommunications device provided the email addresses and number of the wireless telecommunications device are listed by the lessee in the rental agreement~~ **and by electronic mail to the email address provided by the lessee and listed in the rental agreement.**

(5)(a) Actual receipt of the notice made pursuant to this Section shall not be required. At least ten days after its mailing, or at least ten days after the date that payment is demanded, whichever is later, an advertisement of the sale or other disposition of movable property subject to the privilege shall on at least one occasion be published in a newspaper of general circulation where the self-service storage facility is located or on a publicly accessible website that **regularly advertises or** conducts personal property auctions **or sales.**

(9) If the property upon which the lien is claimed is a motor vehicle, watercraft, or trailer, ~~and rent and other charges remain unpaid for sixty days and the lessee is in default for sixty days~~, the owner may have the property towed in lieu of foreclosing on the lien. If a motor vehicle, watercraft, or trailer is towed pursuant to the provisions of this Paragraph, the owner shall not be liable for the motor vehicle, watercraft, or trailer or for any damages to the motor vehicle, watercraft, or trailer once the tower takes possession of the property. Any tower shall be licensed pursuant to the Louisiana Towing and Storage Act, R.S. 32:1711 et seq.

§4759.1. Termination of rental agreement

A. An owner may terminate a rental agreement in accordance with the provisions of the rental agreement or as authorized by law by delivering to the lessee a written notice of termination. The notice shall include all of the following information:

(1) The lessee shall have fifteen days after the date of delivery of the notice

as provided by this Subsection to remove all personal property from the self-service storage facility.

(2) The owner may limit access to the self-service storage facility to the owner's posted business hours.

(3) Failure of the lessee to remove all personal property as provided by this Subsection shall constitute a default of the rental agreement by the lessee.

B. Upon default of the lessee as provided in Subsection A of this Section, the owner may assert a lien privilege on any personal property remaining at the self-service storage facility and may enforce the lien by sale or public auction in accordance with this Part, except the requirement to advertise in accordance with this Part shall not apply.

§4759.2. Nonrenewal of rental agreement; abandonment

A. If the owner provides written notice to the lessee that the rental agreement shall not be renewed upon expiration of its term, the lessee shall remove all personal property from the self-service storage facility on or before the date of expiration of the rental agreement.

B. Any personal property remaining at the self-service storage facility fifteen days after expiration of the rental agreement shall be deemed abandoned. Upon determination that the storage space is abandoned, the owner shall have the right to dispose of the personal property without further notice to the lessee.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 469

SENATE BILL NO. 169

**BY SENATOR TALBOT AND REPRESENTATIVE CHASSION
AN ACT**

To amend and reenact R.S. 22:1028.5(D) and to enact R.S. 22:1028.5(F), relative to biomarker testing; to prevent coverage from being nullified through lab classification; to provide for construction of laws; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 22:1028.5(D) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 22:1028.5(F) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§1028.5. Required coverage for biomarker testing

* * *

D.(1) A health coverage plan shall ensure that the coverage prescribed in Subsection B of this Section is provided in a manner that limits disruptions in care, including the need for multiple biopsies or biospecimen samples.

(2) Coverage required under Subsection B of this Section shall apply to the covered biomarker test itself and shall not be conditioned on laboratory classifications or credentialing standards unrelated to the performance of the covered test.

* * *

F. To the extent there is a conflict between the provisions of this Section and R.S. 22:1028.3, the provisions of this Section shall prevail.

Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 470

SENATE BILL NO. 170

**BY SENATORS PRESSLY AND BASS
AN ACT**

To amend and reenact R.S. 34:3158, relative to the Caddo-Bossier Parishes Port Commission; to provide for confirmation of commissioners by the Senate; to provide for requirements for commissioners; to modify term limits; and to provide for related matters.

Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 34:3158 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows: §3158. Creation of commission; membership; qualifications; tenure

A. There is hereby created a commission to be known as the Caddo-Bossier Parishes Port Commission. It shall be composed of nine members who shall;

(1) serve Serve without compensation, as follows;

(2) Be appointed subject to Senate confirmation.

(3) Have expertise in economic development, transportation, logistics, or commercial real estate.

B.(1)(a) Two of the commissioners shall be appointed by the governing authority of the parish of Caddo as follows:

(i) One of the commissioners shall reside in the parish of Caddo outside of the city limits of Shreveport.

(ii) One of the commissioners shall reside in the parish of Caddo within the

city limits of Shreveport.

(b) Any commissioner appointed pursuant to this Paragraph shall serve a term of six years.

(2) One of the commissioners shall be appointed by the governing authority of the parish of Bossier.

(a) The commissioner shall reside in the parish of Bossier.

(b) The commissioner appointed pursuant to this Paragraph shall serve a term of six years.

(c) The commissioner appointed pursuant to this Paragraph may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms.

(3) Four of the commissioners shall be appointed by the governing authority of the city of Shreveport as follows:

(a) Three commissioners shall reside within the city limits of Shreveport and each shall serve a term of six years and may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms.

(b) One commissioner shall be at-large and reside within the city limits of Shreveport and shall serve a term concurrent with the term of the mayor.

(4)(a) Two of the commissioners shall be appointed by the governing authority of the city of Bossier City.

(b) Any commissioner appointed pursuant to this Paragraph shall reside within the city limits of Bossier City and shall serve a term of six years.

(c) The commissioners appointed pursuant to this Paragraph may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms.

~~B.C.~~ A vacancy on the commission for any reason shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments and for the unexpired term of office. Each commissioner shall be a citizen of the United States and a qualified voter and property taxpayer of the parish of Caddo or Bossier, as the case may be, and of the state of Louisiana.

~~E.D.~~ The governing authorities, in making appointments, shall endeavor to provide for racial diversity of the board and to ensure that the racial proportion of the appointees shall reflect the same racial proportion of the geographical area which they represent. Except, the governing authority of the parish of Caddo, in making appointments, shall endeavor to provide for racial diversity of the board and to ensure that the racial proportion of their appointees shall reflect the same racial proportion of the governing authority of the parish of Caddo.

~~D.E.~~ The term of each commissioner serving on June 18, 2006, shall expire as follows:

(a) The term of the commissioner appointed by the governing authority of the parish of Caddo shall expire on June 30, 2007. His successors shall be appointed pursuant to the provisions of Item ~~(A)(B)~~(1)(a)(i).

(b) The term of the commissioner appointed by the governing authority of the parish of Bossier shall expire on February 15, 2009. His successors shall be appointed pursuant to the provisions of Paragraph ~~(A)(B)~~(2).

(c) The term of the commissioners appointed by the governing authority of the city of Shreveport shall expire as follows:

(i) The term of the commissioner whose term began on April 1, 2003, and would have expired on June 28, 2011, shall expire on such date. His successors shall be appointed pursuant to the provisions of Subparagraph ~~(A)(B)~~(3)(a).

(ii) The term of the commissioner whose term would have expired on March 31, 2007, shall expire on such date. His successors shall be appointed pursuant to the provisions of Item ~~(A)(B)~~(1)(a)(ii).

(iii) The term of the commissioner whose term would have expired on July 26, 2007, shall expire on June 30, 2007. His successors shall be appointed pursuant to the provisions of Subparagraph ~~(A)(B)~~(3)(a).

(iv) The term of the commissioner whose term would have expired on July 27, 2009, shall expire on such date. His successors shall be appointed pursuant to the provisions of Subparagraph ~~(A)(B)~~(3)(a).

(v) The commissioner whose term began July 18, 1997, and would have expired on June 28, 2011, shall serve a term concurrent with the term of the mayor who appointed him. His successors shall be appointed pursuant to the provisions of Subparagraph ~~(A)(B)~~(3)(b).

(d) The term of the commissioners appointed by the governing authority of the city of Bossier City shall expire as follows:

(i) The term of the commissioner whose term would have expired on March 29, 2012, shall expire on such date. His successors shall be appointed pursuant to the provisions of Paragraph ~~(A)(B)~~(4).

(ii) The term of the commissioner whose term would have expired on February 16, 2007, shall expire on such date. His successors shall be appointed pursuant to the provisions of Paragraph ~~(A)(B)~~(4).

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 471

**SENATE BILL NO. 174
BY SENATOR PRESSLY
AN ACT**

To authorize and provide for the transfer of certain state property; to authorize the transfer of state property in Rapides Parish and Caddo Parish; to provide for the property description; to provide for reservation of mineral rights; to provide terms and conditions; to provide for an effective

date; and to provide for related matters.
Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. The president of Louisiana Tech University, as authorized by the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System, and the commissioner of administration, notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, are hereby authorized and empowered to convey, transfer, assign, or deliver any interest, excluding mineral rights, the state may have to all or any portion of the following described parcel of property to the Caddo Parish School Board:

Lot 1, Shreve Park Industrial Campus, Unit No. 1, per plat in Conveyance Book 2500, Pages 34-38, recorded June 6, 1997 under Registry No. 1561114 of the Records of Caddo Parish, Louisiana.

Section 2. The president of Louisiana Tech University, as authorized by the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System, and the commissioner of administration are hereby authorized to enter into such agreements, covenants, conditions, and stipulations and to execute such documents as necessary to properly effectuate any conveyance, transfer, assignment, lease, or delivery of title, excluding mineral rights, to the property described in Section 1 of this Act, and as more specifically described in any such agreements entered into and documents executed by and between the president of Louisiana Tech University, as authorized by the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System, and the commissioner of administration and the Caddo Parish School Board, in exchange of consideration proportionate to the appraised value of the property.

Section 3. The commissioner of administration, notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, is hereby authorized and empowered to convey, transfer, assign, lease, or deliver any interest, excluding mineral rights, the state may have to all or any portion of the following described property to Old Cypress Club, LLC, Charter No. 42098023K:

Five (5) acres adjudicated to the State of Louisiana for non-payment of ad valorem taxes for tax year 1958 out of the name of Littleton Dennis, described in said adjudication record as 5 acs. Bd on all sides by Ida Peagram & Imps., bearing Rapides Parish Assessor Parcel No. 2100164037001601, Parcel I.D. #21-1-64037-16, located in Section 1, Township 1 North, Range 1 West, Rapides Parish.

Section 4. The commissioner of administration is hereby authorized to enter into such agreements, covenants, conditions, and stipulations and to execute such documents as necessary to properly effectuate any conveyance, transfer, assignment, lease, or delivery of title, excluding mineral rights, to the property described in Section 3 of this Act, and as more specifically described in any such agreements entered into and documents executed by and between the parties, in exchange of consideration proportionate to the appraised value of the property.

Section 5. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 472

SENATE BILL NO. 181
BY SENATOR FOIL
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 4:707(E)(5) through (9) and to enact R.S. 4:707(E)(10) and (H)(5), relative to charitable raffles, bingo, and keno licensing; to provide for authorization to license certain organizations; to provide for definitions; to provide for exceptions; to provide for notice; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 4:707(E)(5) through (9) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 4:707(E)(10) and (H)(5) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§707. Authorization to license certain organizations; exemption; requirement for state license

* * *

E. In addition to the provisions of R.S. 4:703, the following definitions shall apply for the purposes of this Section:

* * *

(5) **“Nonprofit healthcare organization” shall mean any organization that provides healthcare services, together with its parent organization, affiliates, subsidiaries and foundations, that is licensed or chartered in this state, is affiliated with a hospital that meets the definition of “hospital” as provided by R.S. 40:2102(2), and is exempt from federal and state taxation pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code and applicable provisions of Louisiana law.**

(6) **“Parent-teacher association” shall mean an organization which is comprised of teachers and parents of children enrolled in a public or a private nonprofit elementary or secondary school in this state and which has been designated by the school board of the parish or city in which such school is located to collect funds in the name of that school.**

~~(6)(7)~~ **“Private nonprofit elementary or secondary school” includes every**

nonprofit private elementary or secondary school within the state of Louisiana.

~~(7)(8)~~ **“Public elementary or secondary school” includes every public elementary or secondary school within the state of Louisiana.**

~~(8)(9)~~ **“Public institution of higher education” includes every in-state public graduate and undergraduate institution, public junior and community college, public technical institute, and each separate school or department of the institution, college, or institute when the entire net proceeds are devoted to support the institution.**

~~(9)(10)~~ **“Volunteer fire company” shall mean an organization which has been engaged by the governing authority of a parish, municipality, or fire protection district to provide fire protection services to the area of this state under its jurisdiction and which is comprised predominantly of individuals who provide such services voluntarily and without compensation.**

* * *

H.

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* * *

(5)(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph (2) of this Subsection, all nonprofit healthcare organizations as defined in Subsection E of this Section that are part of a single health system may obtain and operate under a single state charitable gaming license, provided that each participating entity is otherwise eligible for a license pursuant to this Chapter. The parent organization shall annually notify the office of charitable gaming of the names of the organizations that will operate under the single license.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S. 4:707.1(B), a nonprofit healthcare organization shall be eligible for a limited raffle license.

* * *

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 473

SENATE BILL NO. 190
BY SENATOR MIZELL
AN ACT

To enact R.S. 40:2009.10.2, relative to nursing facilities; to provide for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Special Focus Facility Program; to provide for state requirements for nursing facilities; to provide for the duties and responsibilities of the Louisiana Department of Health; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 40:2009.10.2 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§2009.10.2. Special Focus Facility Program; state requirements

A. Any nursing facility licensed by the Louisiana Department of Health that is selected for participation in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Special Focus Facility Program shall be subject to enhanced state oversight.

B. Any nursing facility identified in Subsection A of this Section shall do all of the following:

(1) Provide notice to both prospective and current residents that the facility is in the Special Focus Facility Program due to the scope and severity of noncompliance with state and federal requirements.

(2) Provide current residents the opportunity to transfer to another available facility if the resident can be transferred safely and there is an alternative nursing facility with availability that meets the resident’s geographical, physical health, and mental health needs.

(3) Comply with all of the following state requirements in addition to any requirements imposed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services:

(a) Attend an in-person meeting with the Louisiana Department of Health within forty-five days of being selected to participate in the Special Focus Facility Program to discuss increased state monitoring and other state-imposed requirements.

(b) Enter into an agreement with the Louisiana Department of Health to address the noncompliance of the nursing facility. At the discretion of the department, the agreement may include any of the following requirements for the nursing facility:

(i) Being subject to additional state monitoring, including additional in-person unannounced inspections at the expense of the nursing facility.

(ii) Implementing directed plans of correction.

(iii) Implementing directed, in-service trainings.

(iv) Hiring consultants or subject matter experts, subject to approval by the department, at the expense of the nursing facility.

(v) Being subject to a root cause analysis to determine the basis for the noncompliance.

(vi) Engaging with a Quality Improvement Organization approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

(vii) Being subject to an owner or license holder analysis to identify a pattern of poor performance.

(viii) Implementing staffing adjustments and increases as directed by the department to address deficiencies.

(ix) Being subject to fines and penalties.

(x) Complying with alternate remedies or other provisions intended to deter noncompliance, correct deficiencies, and address quality, health, safety, and

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underlined (House Bills) and underscored and **boldfaced** (Senate Bills) are additions.

welfare issues, imposed by the department.

C. If a nursing facility is selected for the Special Focus Facility Program and fails to meet the requirements for graduation from the program and the additional requirements imposed by the department in accordance with Subsection B of this Section within eighteen months, the Louisiana Department of Health shall revoke the facility's license. However, nothing in this Section shall prohibit the department from issuing a license revocation to a nursing facility prior to the expiration of the eighteen-month period, if the nursing facility violates the provisions of the settlement agreement and the violations or noncompliance with federal or state regulations has placed residents at risk for serious harm or death.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 474

SENATE BILL NO. 200

BY SENATORS HODGES, ALLAIN, BARROW, BASS, CATHEY, CLOUD, CONNICK, EDMONDS, FESI, HENRY, JACKSON-ANDREWS, KLEINPETER, LAMBERT, MIGUEZ, MILLER, MIZELL, MORRIS, OWEN, PRESSLY, PRICE, REESE, SELTERS, STINE, WHEAT AND WOMACK AND REPRESENTATIVES AMEDEE, BAYHAM, DICKERSON, EDMONSTON, EGAN, FIRMENT, HORTON, OWEN, SCHAMERHORN, SPELL AND WYBLE

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 29:43, relative to foreign adversaries and agents of foreign adversaries; to provide for the protection of military bases; to provide with respect to the ownership of immovable property by foreign adversaries and agents of foreign adversaries; to provide for the expropriation of property owned or controlled by foreign adversaries or agents of foreign adversaries under certain circumstances; to provide with respect to the constitutional police powers of the state; to provide with respect to threats to public health and safety; to provide for processes; to provide for voluntary divestment of immovable property; to provide for definitions; to provide for declarations; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 29:43 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§43. Protection of military bases; prohibited ownership of immovable property by foreign adversaries and agents of foreign adversaries

A. The legislature hereby declares it is the policy of this state that ownership of immovable property in proximity to military bases by foreign adversaries or agents of foreign adversaries presents a threat to public health and safety that warrants reasonable statutory restrictions and the reasonable exercise of the constitutional police powers of the state.

B. Any immovable property that is purchased, leased, possessed, owned, held in interest, or in any manner under the control of a foreign adversary or an agent or mandatory of a foreign adversary that is located within fifty miles of a military base may be expropriated by the Military Department, state of Louisiana, regardless of the date that the immovable property was acquired.

C. If the Military Department, state of Louisiana, files a petition to expropriate against immovable property pursuant to Subsection B of this Section, the expropriation shall be filed and conducted in the same manner and by the same method provided for in Part I of Title 19 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, except that the petition shall also contain all of the following:

(1) A statement demonstrating compliance with the requirements of this Section.

(2) A statement detailing the description and nature of the threat to public health and safety that will be removed by the expropriation.

D. Property acquisitions conducted pursuant to this Section shall be subject to the provisions of R.S. 38:3101 et seq.

E.(1) Notwithstanding any provision of this Section to the contrary, any foreign adversary or any agent or mandatory of a foreign adversary, as defined in this Section, that owns or holds any immovable property subject to the provisions of Subsection (B) of this Section may, prior to the final judgement of expropriation, voluntarily divest itself of such property by bona fide sale, transfer, or conveyance to a natural person or juridical person that is not a foreign adversary and is not an agent or mandatory of a foreign adversary.

(2) Upon completion of a valid transfer of the immovable property in accordance with this Paragraph, the Military Department, state of Louisiana shall notify the court that the property shall no longer be subject to expropriation under this Section and the court shall dismiss the suit, provided that the transferee is not acting, directly or indirectly, on behalf of or under the direction or control of a foreign adversary.

F. Notwithstanding any provision of this Section to the contrary, no immovable or movable property shall be taken, damaged, or expropriated by the state or any of its political subdivisions pursuant to this Section except in accordance with Louisiana Constitution Article I, Section 4, which requires that property shall not be taken or damaged except for public purposes and with just compensation paid to the owner. Therefore, any expropriation authorized herein shall be conditioned upon the payment of just compensation to the full extent of the owner's loss and no transfer of ownership shall be effective until such compensation has been paid.

G. Unless otherwise indicated, the following definitions shall apply to this

Section:

(1) “Agent of a foreign adversary” or “mandatory of a foreign adversary” means a juridical person or a natural person that serves as a mandatory, as provided in Louisiana Civil Code Article 2989, for a principal that is a foreign adversary and meets one or more of the following criteria:

(a) Is under direction of a foreign adversary that has the power to direct or cause the direction of the management or policies of the juridical person whether through ownership of securities, by contract, or otherwise.

(b) Directly or indirectly has the right to vote fifty percent or more of the voting interests of an entity that is owned or controlled by a foreign adversary or is entitled to fifty percent or more of its profits and is, therefore, presumed to have the power to direct or cause the direction of the management or policies of the juridical person.

(c) Is a juridical person that meets any of the following:

(i) Is headquartered in a country identified as a foreign adversary.

(ii) Is held or controlled, either directly or indirectly, by a government of a foreign adversary.

(iii) Is owned by, or the majority of stock or other ownership interest is held or controlled by, any person who is a citizen of a foreign adversary, unless that person is a legal permanent resident of the United States.

(d) Is a juridical person or a subsidiary that is owned by, or the majority of stock or other ownership interest of which is held or controlled by, a corporation or entity described in Subparagraph (c) of this Paragraph.

(e) Any individual person who is a citizen of a foreign adversary, unless that person is a legal permanent resident of the United States and does not otherwise meet any of the criteria provided in Subparagraphs (a) through (d) of this Paragraph.

(2) “Foreign adversary” means any foreign government or foreign nongovernmental person determined by the United States secretary of commerce to have engaged in a long-term pattern or serious instances of conduct significantly adverse to the national security of the United States or security and safety of United States persons as listed in 15 CFR 791.4 (Determination of Foreign Adversaries), as amended or renumbered, and identified in the database maintained by the United States Department of the Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control.

(3) “Military base” means any of the following immovable properties:

(a) A military base or facility, reservation, camp, post, base, installation, armory, or training area and any weather station operated by the armed forces of the United States.

(b) A military base, facility, reservation, camp, post, installation, armory, or training area that is operated by the state military.

(c) Any facility operated by the Civil Air Patrol.

Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 475

SENATE BILL NO. 203
BY SENATOR LAMBERT

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 56:325(B)(4) and 325.1(A)(4), relative to possession of recreational fish; to provide for a geographic location; to provide for possession limits; to provide for fishing licenses; to provide for largemouth bass and spotted bass; to provide for red drum and spotted sea trout; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 56:325(B)(4) and 325.1(A)(4) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§325. Daily take, possession, and size limits; freshwater recreational fish; possession of finfish filets prohibited

* * *

B.(1)

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* * *

(4) The possession limit for largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) and spotted bass (*Micropterus punctulatus*) taken south of U.S. Highway 90 shall be three times the daily take limit when the fisherman holds and is in possession of a valid recreational fishing license and can show demonstrate to the department's satisfaction a landing receipt from a public boat launch located south of U.S. Highway 90 that demonstrates to the satisfaction of the department that the fisherman has been actively on the water or at a remote camp that can be accessed only by water for two days or more. The fish shall be kept whole or whole gutted in separate bags for each species of fish. The bags shall be marked with the date the fish were taken, the species, the number of fish contained in the bag, and the name and license number of the person taking the fish. The fish shall only be in the possession of the person who took the fish. However, no fisherman shall be actively fishing or engaged

in fishing while in possession of more than the daily take limit.

§325.1. Size and possession limits; recreational saltwater finfish; penalties
A.(1)

(4) The possession limit for red drum and spotted sea trout taken south of U.S. Highway 90 shall be three times the daily take limit when the fisherman holds and is in possession of a valid recreational fishing license and can show ~~demonstrate to the department's satisfaction a landing receipt from a public boat launch located south of U.S. Highway 90 that demonstrates to the satisfaction of the department~~ that the fisherman has been actively on the water or at a remote camp that can be accessed only by water for two days or more. The fish shall be kept whole or whole gutted ~~in separate bags for each species of fish. The bags shall be marked with the date the fish were taken, the species, the number of fish contained in the bag, and the name and license number of the person taking the fish.~~ The fish shall only be in the possession of the person who took the fish. However, no fisherman shall be actively fishing or engaged in fishing while in possession of more than the daily take limit.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.
A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 476

SENATE BILL NO. 222
BY SENATOR PRESSLY
AN ACT

To enact Chapter 2 of Title 28 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 28:301 through 308, relative to Medicaid behavioral health services; to provide for administrative requirements; to provide for certain behavioral health telehealth services; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Chapter 2 of Title 28 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 28:301 through 308, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

CHAPTER 2. MEDICAID BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

§301. Legislative findings and purpose

A. The Legislature finds that administrative duplication, workforce shortages, and regulatory inconsistencies reduce access to behavioral health services in Louisiana.

B. The purpose of this Chapter is to eliminate unnecessary administrative barriers, align behavioral health program requirements with federal standards and licensing board supervision requirements, and expand workforce flexibility while maintaining patient safety and quality of care.

§302. Definitions

As used in this Chapter, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) “Cardiopulmonary resuscitation” or “CPR” means an emergency procedure combining chest compressions and breaths to maintain blood flow and oxygenation during cardiac arrest.

(2) “Community psychiatric support and treatment services” or “CPST” services, means CMS-approved Medicaid mental health rehabilitation services designed to reduce disability from mental illness, restore functional skills of daily living, build natural supports, and achieve identified person-centered goals or objectives through counseling, clinical psycho-education, and ongoing monitoring needs as set forth in an individualized treatment plan.

(3) “CMS” means the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

(4) “Department” means the Louisiana Department of Health.

(5) “Psychosocial rehabilitation services” or “PSR” services, means CMS-approved Medicaid mental health rehabilitation services designed to assist the individual with compensating for or eliminating functional deficits and interpersonal or environmental barriers associated with mental illness through skill building and supportive interventions to restore and rehabilitate social and interpersonal skills and daily living skills.

§303. Pre-employment reference letters; prohibition

A. Notwithstanding any provision of law or administrative rule to the contrary, the Louisiana Department of Health and any managed care entity administering Medicaid behavioral health services shall not require pre-employment reference letters as a condition of provider enrollment, staff credentialing, or the delivery of Medicaid behavioral health services.

B. Nothing in this Section shall prohibit verification of employment history, licensure status, education, or required work experience through primary source verification.

§304. CPR, first aid, and seizure assessment training; approved programs

A. The Louisiana Department of Health and any managed care entity administering Medicaid behavioral health services shall not require CPR, first aid certification, or seizure assessment training for behavioral health staff as a condition of provider enrollment, staff credentialing, or reimbursement, except as provided in Subsection B of this Section.

B. The department may require CPR, first aid certification, or seizure assessment training only for staff who provide services in settings where

* As it appears in the enrolled bill

such training is required by federal law, state law, or applicable licensing requirements for a residential facility, inpatient facility, or medication administration program.

§305. Supervision of licensed staff; alignment

A. For purposes of Medicaid behavioral health programs administered by the Louisiana Department of Health, supervision required for staff who are provisionally licensed or otherwise under supervision pursuant to the requirements of a Louisiana licensing board shall be deemed to satisfy clinical supervision requirements when such supervision meets or exceeds applicable program standards.

B. The department shall not require duplicative supervision for the same staff member when supervision required by the relevant licensing board overlaps with program requirements.

§306. Documentation timeliness; CMS alignment; exceptions

A. The Louisiana Department of Health shall revise Medicaid behavioral health provider progress note documentation requirements for CPST and PSR services to align with federal guidance stating that documentation shall be completed during the service or as soon as practicable after the service is provided.

B. The department may establish a general progress note documentation timeliness standard. However, reasonable exceptions shall be permitted, including but not limited to a state or federal declared emergency or any other exception as defined by the department.

C. When documentation is completed outside the general standard, the provider shall include a late-entry attestation stating the date of entry and the reason for the delay.

§307. Nursing requirement; provider equivalency

A. When a Medicaid behavioral health provider of CPST or PSR services is required by rule to maintain a nurse on staff or to maintain a written agreement for nursing services solely for the purpose of medication administration, such requirement shall be satisfied by the presence of a licensed physician, psychiatrist, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant whose duties shall include medication administration.

B. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to authorize any individual to perform acts outside the scope of professional licensure.

§308. Medical director; inclusion of physician assistants

A. A medical director for a Medical behavioral health provider of CPST or PSR services may be any of the following:

- (1) A physician.**
- (2) An advanced practice registered nurse.**
- (3) A medical psychologist.**
- (4) A physician assistant.**

B. Any healthcare provider serving as medical director pursuant to this Section shall satisfy all of the following criteria:

- (1) Have a current, unrestricted license to practice in this state.**
- (2) Have a minimum of two years of qualifying experience in treating psychiatric disorders.**
- (3) Be practicing pursuant to a collaborative practice agreement or supervision arrangement as required by state law.**

C. The Louisiana Department of Health shall revise all applicable rules and provider manuals to reflect the eligibility provided for in this Section.

Section 2. The Louisiana Department of Health shall promulgate rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act as necessary to implement the provisions of this Chapter.

Section 3.(A) The Louisiana Department of Health shall submit to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, no later than October 1, 2026, any necessary state plan amendment, waiver, or other request to authorize reimbursement for psychosocial rehabilitation services delivered via telehealth.

(B) No later than thirty days after submission to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the department shall provide written notice to the House Committee on Health and Welfare and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.

(C) If the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services requests additional information or denies the submission, the department shall report such request or denial to the committees within thirty days of the submission.

Section 4. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 477

SENATE BILL NO. 233
BY SENATOR MIZELL
AN ACT

To enact Subpart F of Part I of Chapter 1 of Subtitle 1 of Title 39 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 39:18.1 through 18.3, relative to data exchange; to establish the Louisiana Statewide Data

Exchange Compact; to provide for authorization and purpose; to provide for definitions; to provide for terms, conditions, administration, and procedure; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Subpart F of Part I of Chapter 1 of Subtitle 1 of Title 39 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 39:18.1 through 18.3, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

SUBPART F. LOUISIANA STATEWIDE DATA EXCHANGE COMPACT

§18.1. Louisiana Statewide Data Exchange Compact: authorization and purpose

The office of technology services is authorized to create the Louisiana Statewide Data Exchange Compact pursuant to the provisions of this Subpart. The Louisiana Statewide Data Exchange Compact shall establish a single legal and technical framework for secure, privacy-compliant interagency data sharing between the office of technology services and agencies as defined in this Subpart. The Louisiana Statewide Data Exchange Compact shall facilitate disclosure of confidential information and describe each participating agency's rights and obligations with respect to confidential information and the limited purposes for which each agency may use or have access to confidential information.

§18.2. Definitions

As used in this Subpart, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(1) "Agency" means either of the following:

(a) A department, board, bureau, commission, office, authority, council, or institution of state government.

(b) A state university or college, a community or technical college, or any service or part of a state institution of higher education.

(2) "Data exchange" means the secure and structured process of sharing information between agencies, involving transforming data into compatible formats to ensure seamless transfer, interoperability, and usability, allowing agencies to gain insights, improve operations, and foster collaboration.

(3) "Louisiana Statewide Data Exchange Compact" means a collective of data sharing and data security agreements entered into between participating agencies and the office of technology services to facilitate an efficient and consistent method of compliance with state and federal laws regarding data sharing and data security.

§18.3. Administration of the Louisiana Statewide Data Exchange Compact: office of technology services

A. The office of technology services shall serve as the Louisiana Statewide Data Exchange Compact administrator and shall develop a template for the Louisiana Statewide Data Exchange Compact.

B. The office of technology services shall establish a committee of participating agencies that shall advise the office on the Louisiana Statewide Data Exchange Compact and provide input on the establishment of the template of the Louisiana Statewide Data Exchange Compact. The committee shall review the Louisiana Statewide Data Exchange Compact at least biannually to correspond with any changes to state and federal laws and the evolving data security landscape and shall report any recommended changes to the template or any rules adopted pursuant to this Section to the office of technology services.

C. The use of the Louisiana Statewide Data Exchange Compact by the agency is voluntary and each participating agency at any time may determine that the use of the Louisiana Statewide Data Exchange Compact is no longer appropriate for the specific data and may amend its agreement, terminate its participation in the Louisiana Statewide Data Exchange Compact, or pursue an alternate approach to protecting data shared by the agency.

D. Each participating agency shall sign the Louisiana Statewide Data Exchange Compact to serve as the primary governance document for the safeguarding of data shared among agencies.

E. The Louisiana Statewide Data Exchange Compact shall specify that the receiving agency shall establish, implement, and maintain administrative, physical, and technical safeguards to preserve and maintain the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of the confidential information disclosed to it by another agency.

F. The office of technology services shall not acquire any ownership rights or interest in data shared pursuant to the Louisiana Statewide Data Exchange Compact. Each participating agency shall retain the ownership rights of any data shared by the agency pursuant to the Louisiana Statewide Data Exchange Compact.

G. The office of technology services shall promulgate rules, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, to implement the provisions of this Subpart. Any proposed rules shall be submitted to the committee for approval by a majority vote of the participating agencies prior to adoption and implementation.

Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 478

SENATE BILL NO. 236
BY SENATOR OWEN AND REPRESENTATIVE CHASSION
AN ACT

To enact R.S. 46:450.5.1, relative to kidney disease; to provide for legislative intent; to provide for requirements for the Louisiana Department of Health; to provide for annual reviews; to provide for reporting; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 46:450.5.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§450.5.1. Chronic and rare kidney diseases; coverage; annual review

A. The legislature hereby finds all of the following:

(1) More than thirty-five million Americans currently suffer from kidney disease and millions more may not be aware that they are at risk for developing kidney disease in the future.

(2) There is a new era emerging of clinical innovation in kidney disease treatment, with the first-ever treatments approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration to slow the decline of kidney function in patients with chronic and rare kidney diseases.

(3) Although the main causes of kidney disease are diabetes and high blood pressure, kidney disease also has genetic and hereditary causes, including rare diseases that cause glomerulonephritis.

(4) According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as many as nine out of ten Americans with chronic kidney disease are unaware they have it.

(5) If kidney disease is detected early through blood, urine, or other tests, it may be possible to slow its progression and delay the need for dialysis or transplant through lifestyle changes and pharmacological treatments.

(6) Dialysis and later stages of kidney disease are costly to the state and its healthcare system and often result in a patient leaving the workforce.

B. The legislature further finds that, considering the detrimental health effects of kidney disease in this state and the United States, its enormous impact on the lives of patients and their caregivers, and the avoidable costs to the state, its workforce, and the healthcare system of undetected or undertreated kidney disease, it is in the interest of the state to encourage the prevention, early screening, diagnosis, treatment, disparity of impact, and overall awareness and understanding of kidney disease in Louisiana.

C.(1) The Louisiana Department of Health shall conduct an annual review of all medications and forms of treatment for chronic and rare kidney diseases and services for enrollees with a diagnosis of chronic or rare kidney disease that are eligible for coverage under Medicaid. The purpose of the annual review is to determine if the available covered medications, treatments, and services are adequate to meet the needs of enrollees with a diagnosis of chronic or rare kidney disease, and whether the department should seek to add additional medications, treatments, or services.

(2) When conducting the annual review required by this Subsection, the department shall solicit and consider input from the general public, with specific emphasis on attempting to receive input from persons or groups with knowledge and experience in the area of chronic and rare kidney diseases.

D. The department shall examine and pursue strategic partnerships with state-based entities who represent or provide services to individuals living with chronic and rare kidney diseases for the purpose of increasing education, awareness, and diagnostic screening for chronic and rare kidney diseases, through new or existing initiatives including but not limited to Well-Ahead Louisiana.

E. On or before July 1, 2027, and on or before July first each year thereafter, the department shall submit a report to the president of the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, the House Committee on Health and Welfare, and the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:771 and 772. The report shall detail the department's findings from the annual review required by this Section, as well as any recommendations to the legislature based upon the department's findings. The department shall publish the annual report on its website in a manner accessible by the general public.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 479

SENATE BILL NO. 258
BY SENATOR LAMBERT
AN ACT

To enact Children's Code Art. 951.1, relative to juvenile traffic violations; to provide for definitions; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Children's Code Art. 951.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

Art. 951.1. Definitions

As used in this Title, "child" means any person under the age of twenty-one, including an emancipated minor, who commits a traffic violation before attaining seventeen years of age.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 480

SENATE BILL NO. 273
BY SENATOR ABRAHAM
AN ACT

To enact R.S. 40:2009.26, relative to inpatient licensed facilities; to provide for hospice care; to provide for legislative intent; to provide for definitions; to provide for patient care plans; to provide for facility requirements; to provide for Louisiana Department of Health oversight; to provide for violations; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 40:2009.26 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§2009.26. Hospice care in inpatient licensed facilities

A. The legislature hereby finds and declares all of the following:

(1) Patients receiving hospice care are among the most medically vulnerable residents of this state.

(2) If hospice services are provided to a patient in a licensed facility other than an inpatient hospice facility, there may be multiple providers sharing responsibility for the patient which can create potential confusion regarding accountability, communication, and care coordination.

(3) Families play an essential role in safeguarding patient dignity and ensuring proper communication between providers.

(4) When patients in licensed facilities are receiving hospice care, there must be additional patient protections implemented to protect the hospice patient from neglect, miscommunication, or loss of continuity of care, particularly when patients are transferred between one or more licensed facilities.

B. For purposes of this Section:

(1) "Facility" means a nursing facility, assisted living facility, or licensed residential care setting providing inpatient care.

(2) "Hospice provider" means any licensed hospice agency operating within this state in accordance with R.S. 40:2181 et seq.

C. Patients receiving hospice care in a facility shall have the right to all of the following:

(1) Comfort-focused care consistent with medical judgment.

(2) Respectful communication among providers and families.

(3) Clear explanation of care decisions affecting hydration, nutrition, or visitation.

D.(1) When a patient in a facility is enrolled in hospice care, a patient specific written care plan shall be completed and maintained in the patient record identifying, at a minimum all of the following:

(a) The patient's hospice provider.

(b) The provider that controls medical orders.

(c) The provider responsible for daily hydration, nutrition, and routine care.

(d) The authorized point of contact for the patient's family or patient's authorized representative.

(2) The care plan shall be made available to the patient and the patient's authorized family member or patient's authorized representative upon request.

E.(1) If a hospice patient is transferred or relocated from one facility to another, the transferring facility shall notify the patient's hospice provider and the patient's family or patient's authorized representative as soon as practicable.

(2) The notification shall include the patient's current care plan and a notice that a new care plan shall be developed within twenty-four hours of the patient being transferred to the receiving facility.

(3) Failure to execute the notice provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall constitute a reportable incident that the transferring facility submits to the department.

(4) Failure to execute the new care plan provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall constitute a reportable incident that the receiving facility submits to the department.

F.(1) Every facility with a patient receiving hospice care shall maintain a detailed patient log of all of the following:

(a) Any offer of food and fluid.

(b) Patient acceptance or refusal of the offer of food and fluid.

(c) The provider issuing a directive or order and his clinical justification for hydration or nutrition being withheld from a hospice patient.

(2) The patient log required by Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall be made available to the patient's hospice provider and to the patient's family or patient's authorized representative, upon request.

G.(1) A facility shall not retaliate against or restrict access to a patient's family or patient's authorized representative because concerns were raised regarding patient care.

(2) Any facility restriction on visitation or access to a hospice patient shall be ordered by a provider who is identified, clinically justified, documented in writing, and communicated to the patient's family or patient's authorized representative prior to the restriction being implemented.

H. If the Louisiana Department of Health receives a complaint alleging a violation of this Section, the department may conduct a complaint survey that may include a review of the facility's care plans. The provider shall issue a plan of correction to any deficiencies cited by the department. The department may issue directed plans of correction or assess administrative penalties as determined by the department.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry

Secretary of State

ACT No. 481

SENATE BILL NO. 280
BY SENATOR ABRAHAM
AN ACT

To enact R.S. 37:2150.1(25) and (26) and 2156.5, relative to the state Licensing Board for Contractors; to provide relative to water well drilling; to provide relative to environmental wells or holes; to provide for licensure and registration requirements; to provide for contractor classifications; to provide for terms and definitions; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 37:2150.1(25) and (26) and 2156.5 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§2150.1. Definitions

As used in this Chapter, the following terms have the following meanings:

* * *

(25) "Environmental well or hole" is a specialized boring that includes but is not limited to observation, monitor, piezometer, recovery, horizontal boring, cathodic protection, or geotechnical boreholes for the purposes of environmental assessment, sampling, or analyzation.

(26) "Water well drilling" means drilling for the purposes of extracting ground water which includes but is not limited to the drilling, construction, maintenance, repair, abandoning, plugging, or sealing water wells for potable and nonpotable water.

* * *

§2156.5. Water well drilling

A. Any person who advertises, solicits, undertakes, attempts, offers, or submits a price, bid, quote, or estimate to construct, supervise, direct, oversee, or perform any construction, modification, repair, or maintenance of any portion of any water well, or environmental well or hole for which the project value is one dollar or more shall hold the appropriate license and classification.

B. A water well contractor and environmental well or hole contractor shall pass the appropriate examination, be registered with the State Licensing Board for Contractors, be in good standing with the Department of Conservation and Energy, and meet all other licensure requirements of a contractor pursuant to this Chapter.

C. A water well contractor and environmental well or hole contractor shall complete five hours of continuing education annually from a provider approved by the board and maintain well registration with the Department of Conservation and Energy pursuant to R.S. 38:3097.3.

Section 2. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2026.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry

Secretary of State

ACT No. 482

SENATE BILL NO. 287
BY SENATOR REESE
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 6:1389(B), 1393.1(E)(6), (F)(4), the introductory paragraph of 1393.1(H), and 1393.1(H)(1), (2), (3), and (6) and to enact R.S. 6:1389 (C), (D), and (E) and 1393.1(E)(7), relative to virtual currency; to provide for virtual currency kiosks; to provide for cancellation and refund of transactions; to provide for reporting and disclosures; to provide for terms, conditions, and procedures; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 6:1389(B), 1393.1(E)(6), (F)(4), the introductory paragraph of 1393.1(H), and 1393.1(H)(1), (2), (3), and (6) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 6:1389(C), (D), and (E) and 1393.1(E)(7) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§1389. Virtual currency kiosks; maximum daily transaction limit; cancellation and refund

* * *

B.(1) The owner or operator of a virtual currency kiosk shall wait seventy-two hours before processing a user's virtual currency kiosk transaction or shall, at such owner's or operator's cost and within seventy-two hours after a virtual currency kiosk transaction, allow the user to cancel and receive a full refund for the virtual currency kiosk transaction.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection or any other provision of law to the contrary, the owner or operator of a virtual currency kiosk shall, at the owner or operator's cost, allow the user to cancel and receive a full refund for a virtual currency kiosk transaction at any time if the owner or operator was not licensed in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter at the time of the transaction.

C.(1) A virtual currency kiosk owner or operator shall acknowledge and respond to a cancellation and refund request made pursuant to the provisions of Subsection B of this Section within ten business days. A virtual currency kiosk owner or operator's response shall clearly disclose all requirements for a refund.

(2) For a refund request for suspected fraudulent activity, an owner or operator may require a user to provide proof of a police report or other governmental entity report of the suspected fraudulent activity and proof of identification. Submitting either a police report or proof of a complaint submitted to the Internet Crime Complaint Center to the owner or operator of a virtual currency kiosk shall constitute suspected fraudulent activity.

(3) Any refund requested pursuant to this Subsection shall be processed and completed either within ninety calendar days from the user's initial request or ninety calendar days from when the user submitted proof of a police or other governmental entity report of the suspected fraudulent activity and proof of identification, if such requirements are part of the owner or operator's refund policy and these requirements were clearly communicated to the user in compliance with Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, whichever is later.

D. Each virtual currency kiosk owner or operator shall offer, during the hours of operation of the virtual currency kiosk, live customer support by telephone from a toll-free number prominently displayed on the virtual currency kiosk. The toll-free number shall also be provided on the customer receipt to a transaction as provided in R.S. 6:1393.1(H).

E. Each virtual currency kiosk owner or operator shall submit quarterly reports to the commissioner of all cancellation and refund requests made by residents pursuant to the provisions of this Section. The report shall include the name and contact information of the customer who made the request, the transaction date, and the amount of the transaction that was requested to be cancelled.

* * *

§1393.1. Required disclosures

* * *

E. When opening a new account, and prior to entering into an initial transaction with, for, or on behalf of a resident, each licensee shall disclose in clear, conspicuous, and legible writing in the English language all relevant terms and conditions associated with its virtual currency products, services, and activities and virtual currency generally, including but not limited to the following:

* * *

(6) The resident's right to contact the office of financial institutions with complaints or questions about the virtual currency kiosk operator's services. The licensee shall include in this disclosure the telephone number for the office of financial institutions.

(7) Any other disclosures as are customarily given in connection with the opening of resident accounts.

F. Prior to each transaction in virtual currency with, for, or on behalf of a resident, each licensee shall furnish to each such customer or account holder a written disclosure in clear, conspicuous, and legible writing in the English language containing the terms and conditions of the transaction, including but not limited to the following:

* * *

(4) A notice that once executed, the transaction is not reversible may be cancelled within seventy-two hours and a full refund may be received pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 6:1389(B).

* * *

H. Upon completion of any transaction, each licensee shall provide to the resident, **both in paper and electronic form**, a receipt containing all of the following information:

(1) The name and contact information of the licensee, **including but not limited to the licensee's business address and a customer service toll-free telephone number established by the licensee** to answer questions, **to allow residents to cancel transactions and receive a full refund for a virtual currency kiosk transaction as provided in R.S. 6:1389(B)**, and **to allow residents to register complaints.**

(2) The type, value, date, and precise time of the transaction **and the unique identifier of the virtual currency kiosk operator.**

(3) The **full amount of each fee charged, including but not limited to a fee charged directly or indirectly by the virtual currency kiosk operator or a third party involved in the virtual currency transaction.**

* * *

(6) A statement of the refund policy of the licensee **in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 6:1389.**

* * *

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 483

SENATE BILL NO. 288
BY SENATOR REESE
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 15:587(A)(1)(b) and (F)(1), 587.2(B), and 587.7(B)(3), relative to criminal history background checks; to provide for the Louisiana Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information; to provide for the duty to provide certain information to the Louisiana State Board of Private Security Examiners and employers; to provide for the release of expunged criminal history record information under certain circumstances; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 15:587(A)(1)(b) and (F)(1), 587.2(B), and 587.7(B)(3) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§587. Duty to provide information; processing fees; Louisiana Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information

A.(1)

* * *

(b) The Louisiana State Board of Private Security Examiners shall be entitled to the criminal history record and identification files of the bureau on those persons seeking to be licensed ~~or registered~~ by the board as a means of performing background checks on those individuals. In addition, in order to determine an applicant's eligibility or suitability for licensure ~~or registration~~ under the provisions of the Private Security Regulatory and Licensing Law, each applicant shall be fingerprinted, and the fingerprints shall be forwarded by the bureau to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history record check.

* * *

F.(1) An employer or his representative shall be entitled to obtain conviction records of an applicant seeking employment, directly from the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information in order to further qualify the applicant for the position being sought, if the applicant has signed a consent form authorizing the employer to obtain such conviction records. Upon written request and upon presentation of a consent form prepared by the bureau and executed by the applicant, the bureau shall provide conviction records of the applicant to the employer or his representative in a timely manner. In addition, each applicant shall be fingerprinted, ~~and the fingerprints shall be forwarded by the bureau to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history check or shall submit fingerprints to the bureau.~~ Records obtained pursuant to the provisions of this Subsection shall not include those records which have been ordered expunged pursuant to R.S. 44:9. The provisions of Subsection B of this Section shall apply to any request made pursuant to this Subsection. The bureau shall not be liable civilly or criminally for the release of information released pursuant to the provisions of this Subsection.

* * *

§587.2. Institutions of postsecondary education; criminal history information

* * *

B. When a criminal history records check is requested pursuant to Subsection A of this Section, the institution of postsecondary education shall be provided with state ~~or~~ **and** national criminal history record information, ~~or both~~, from the Louisiana Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information and **from** the Federal Bureau of Investigation relative to the applicant prospective employee whose fingerprints have been obtained by the institution pursuant to this Section. The Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information shall, upon request and after receipt of fingerprint cards and other identifying information as required by the bureau from the institution, make available to the institution all prior arrests for any sex offense, aggravated offense, or any sexual offense against a victim who is a minor as defined in R.S. 15:541 or any crime of violence as enumerated in R.S. 14:2(B) and conviction information for any offense contained in the bureau's criminal history record and identification files, which pertains to the applicant or prospective employee, including convictions dismissed pursuant to Code of Criminal Procedure Article 893 or 894. In addition, when the institution of postsecondary education requests such criminal history record information, the bureau shall forward the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history check and make such conviction information available to the institution, which pertains to the applicant or prospective employee.

* * *

§587.7. Volunteer and employee criminal history system

* * *

B.

* * *

(3)(a) When a criminal history records check is requested by a qualified entity pursuant to Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, the bureau shall provide the qualified entity with the state criminal history record information of the individual subject to the inquiry. In addition, when the qualified entity requests national criminal history records checks, the bureau shall forward the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history records check and shall provide the qualified entity with the national criminal history record information of the individual subject to the inquiry.

(b) The bureau may provide expunged criminal history record information from the state's criminal history record repository to public qualified entities at its discretion based upon strong evidence provided by the public qualified entity that its possessing of the expunged information would be in the best interest to protect the children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities, served by the public qualified entity. Private qualified entities shall be prohibited from receiving expunged criminal history record information.

* * *

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 484

SENATE BILL NO. 291
BY SENATOR ABRAHAM
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 37:141 through 154, 156, 157, and 158 and to repeal R.S. 37:146.1, relative to architects; to provide for licensing of entities engaged in architecture; to provide for composition of the State Board of Architectural Examiners; to provide for the powers, duties, and functions of the board; to provide for licensing requirements; to provide for initial licenses and qualifications; to provide for issuance of reciprocal licenses; to provide for board approval to revoke, rescind, and suspend licenses; to provide for violations and enforcement of board actions; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 37:141 through 154, 156, 157, and 158 are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§141. Policy and definitions

~~A. In order~~ **The legislature finds that the practice of architecture by qualified individuals with professional expertise is necessary** to safeguard life, health, and property and to promote the public welfare, ~~the practice of architecture in this state is reserved to those persons who have the proper qualifications and have been registered by the board.~~

B. The legislature further finds that the practice of architecture by individuals and firms should be regulated in the public interest.

C. Therefore, it is the legislative intent and the purpose of this Chapter to promote, preserve, and protect the public health, safety, and welfare by regulating the practice of architecture and ensuring that any individual or firm practicing or offering to practice architecture shall be registered with and licensed by the board before engaging in the practice. In furtherance of this purpose, this Chapter creates the State Board of Architectural Examiners whose members, authority, functions, and procedures shall be established in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter. This Chapter shall be liberally construed to carry out these objectives and purposes.

D. As used in this Chapter:

(1) **“Applicant” means an individual who seeks a license in accordance with the process set forth by the board.**

(2) **“Approved educational program” means an educational program for architecture that is accepted by the board.**

(3) **“Approved examination” means an examination for architecture that is accepted by the board.**

(4) **“Approved experience program” means an experience program for architecture that is accepted by the board.**

(5) **“Architect” means a person who is technically and legally qualified to practice architecture an individual currently licensed by the board who demonstrates competence to engage in the practice of architecture as provided in this Chapter.**

~~(2)(6)~~ **“Board” means the State Board of Architectural Examiners.**

(7) **“Competence” means the knowledge, experience, and skill required by an architect for the practice of architecture in accordance with the accepted standard of care.**

(8) **“Firm” means any legally formed business entity registered with the board through which architectural services are provided.**

(9) **“Jurisdiction” means any state, commonwealth, the District of Columbia, or other insular territory of the United States.**

(10) **“License” means an approval granted by the board to an individual or a firm to engage in the practice of architecture.**

(11) **“Licensing authority” means the public board, agency, or body which has been authorized by a jurisdiction’s governing authority to grant licenses and regulate the practice of architecture in that jurisdiction.**

(12) **“NCARB” means the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards.**

(13) **“Person” means any individual, firm, partnership, association, joint venture, cooperative, corporation, or other group or combination acting in concert.**

~~(3)(14)~~ The “practice of architecture” is the rendering or offering of the services specified in this Paragraph in connection with the design, construction, enlargement, or alteration of a building, a group of buildings, or the space within and surrounding buildings which have human occupancy or habitation as their principal purpose. Such services shall include the following: planning; providing preliminary studies, designs, drawings, specifications, and other technical submissions; administration of construction contracts; and the coordination of any element of technical submissions prepared by others, including but not limited to engineers and landscape architects, as appropriate. The practice of architecture shall not include the practice of engineering as defined in R.S. 37:682; however, a registered architect may perform such engineering work as is incidental to the practice of architecture.

(15) **“Responsible control” means responsibility for exercising the ultimate authority over, and possessing the knowledge and ability to oversee, delegate, and integrate the design and technical decisions related to the preparation of the project’s instruments of service and the project’s implementation in conformance with the standard of care.**

(16) **“Technical submissions” means the documents necessary to demonstrate compliance with applicable regulatory requirements or to fabricate or construct a project including but not limited to drawings, specifications, performance criteria, and installation requirements.**

~~C.E.~~ The definition of the practice of architecture set forth in Paragraph B(3)

~~(D)(14)~~ of this Section may include, but shall not be construed as precluding nonlicensed persons from performing the following services: project development; feasibility studies; planning; energy consumption analysis; and interior design.

§142. Board appointed by governor; removal

A.(1) The State Board of Architectural Examiners is hereby created within the office of the governor and shall consist of seven members, five of whom shall be architects selected by the governor as provided for in Subsection B **of this Section**, one selected by the governor as provided for in Subsection C **of this Section**, and one selected by the governor as provided for in Subsection D **of this Section**. All nominees and appointees shall be domiciled in the state of Louisiana. The five architect members shall be appointed, one each, from the five districts provided for in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection. The governor has the right to remove any or all members of the board for inefficiency or neglect of duty.

(2) The districts shall be composed as follows:

(a) District 1: Orleans, Plaquemines, and St. Bernard.

(b) District 2: Assumption, Jefferson, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Tammany, Terrebonne, and Washington.

(c) District 3: Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Livingston, St. Helena, St. Martin, Tangipahoa, West Baton Rouge, and West Feliciana.

(d) District 4: Acadia, Allen, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Evangeline, Grant, Iberia, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, Natchitoches, Pointe Coupee, Rapides, Sabine, St. Landry, St. Mary, Vermilion, and Vernon.

(e) District 5: Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Caldwell, Catahoula, Claiborne, Concordia, DeSoto, East Carroll, Franklin, Jackson, LaSalle, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Red River, Richland, Tensas, Union, Webster, West Carroll, and Winn.

(3) Changes by the legislature in the composition of any of the districts provided for in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection made after an appointment of a member to the board shall not affect an appointment in any way, and any member lawfully appointed prior to such changes shall be allowed to serve the full term for which the member was appointed.

B.(1) The five architect members shall be and shall remain domiciled in this state and in the district from which ~~he~~ **the member** is nominated and appointed. Each shall be a licensed architect and shall have practiced architecture for at least seven years. Each architect member shall be appointed by the governor from a list of ~~three~~ **no more than five** nominees elected from each of the five districts. **An eligible architect desiring nomination shall write a letter to the board so stating. If letters from five or fewer eligible architects are received, no election shall be held, and the board shall submit the names of all eligible architects who have sought nomination from the governor for consideration. If letters from more than five eligible architects are received, an election conducted by the board shall be held to determine the five eligible architects to be included on the list of nominees.** The board shall not adopt any rule or regulation which imposes further eligibility requirements for membership on the board.

(2) In order to determine the list of nominees for the architect members, there shall be a statewide election to elect ~~three~~ **no more than five** nominees from each district. Any licensed architect who wishes to be a candidate and have his name placed on the ballot shall send a letter by certified mail to the director of the board indicating his intent to be a candidate. The letter shall be accompanied by a curriculum vitae and shall certify that, if elected, the architect will serve.

(3) The election for nominees shall be by **either** mail ballot **or online voting**, and only one architect shall be a candidate for nomination from the same architectural firm, corporation, agency, partnership, or other entity. After the election, the ~~three~~ **five** candidates from each district who received the highest numbers of votes shall have their names submitted to the governor as nominees. All licensed architects residing in this state shall be eligible to vote in the election.

(4) The initial and subsequent elections shall be to fill vacancies as they occur. The elections shall be completed by the board within ninety days of the effective vacancy.

C. The governor shall appoint one member of the board who shall be an architect who for seven years prior to appointment has been employed full time in architectural education, or who for seven years prior to appointment, has been an administrator of building design, construction, or design standards for government at the local, state, or national level.

D. The governor shall appoint one **public** member of the board who shall be a citizen of the United States who is not actively engaged in or retired from the professions of architecture, engineering, interior design, or landscape architecture, or the occupation of a contractor, or the design or construction of buildings.

E. Each board member shall at all times maintain eligibility to serve on the board by avoiding relationships that would interfere with the board’s mission of public protection.

F. No board member shall be an officer or hold any leadership position in this state’s professional association or the national professional association serving architects for the term of the board member’s appointment to the board.

G. Any vacancy that occurs in the board membership for any reason, including expiration of a term, removal, resignation, death, disability, or disqualification, shall be filled as prescribed in this Section in a timely manner so that the board may fulfill its duties as charged.

H. The board may recommend removal of a board member to the governor

upon an affirmative vote of a majority of members otherwise eligible to vote upon one or more of the following grounds:

(1) The refusal or inability for any reason of a board member to perform the duties required of a board member in an efficient, responsible, and professional manner.

(2) The misuse of a board member's position to obtain, or attempt to obtain, any financial or material gain, or any advantage personally or for another, through the office.

(3) A final adjudication by a recognized body, including any court, that there has been a violation of the laws governing the practice of architecture by the board member.

(4) Conviction of a felony or misdemeanor other than a minor traffic offense.

~~§143. Term of office~~
A. Each member shall serve six years; or until his successor is duly appointed; ~~except the initial educational or regulatory member appointed pursuant to R.S. 37:142(C) shall serve a term of four years and the initial public member appointed pursuant to R.S. 37:142(D) shall serve a term of five years and confirmed.~~

B. In the event of the death or resignation of any board member, the appointment by the governor of his successor shall be only for the remainder of the unexpired term.

C. Each appointment by the governor shall be submitted to the Senate for confirmation.

D. The board shall advise the governor of the expiration of the term of the board members. All vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as prescribed for new members in R.S. 37:142.

~~§144. Powers, authority, and domicile of board~~
A. Four members of the board constitute a quorum for the purpose of holding examinations; ~~meetings and hearings, adjudicating, granting certificates, and renewing licenses, engaging in rule making, and~~ transacting other business within the scope of this Chapter.

B. The board shall elect from its members a president, secretary, and other officers as it deems appropriate and necessary to conduct its business. The president shall preside at all meetings of the board, sign all certificates of licensure, and perform those duties customarily associated with the position and any other duties assigned from by the board. The president may establish board committees as appropriate and necessary for the furtherance of board business and may designate or remove board members as committee members.

C. The secretary shall be the official custodian of the records of the board, sign minutes of the board meetings, sign the president's certificates of licensure, and perform the duties of the president when the president is unable to do so.

D. The board may delegate authority to its executive director as is customary and necessary to properly fulfill the board's duties. The executive director shall perform such administrative and ministerial duties as the board authorizes.

~~E. The certificate of issuance of a license by the board to an individual or a firm shall entitle the holder to practice as an architect architecture in Louisiana.~~

E-F. The board shall have the power powers and duties as may be necessary to carry out the purposes and enforce any provision of this Chapter and any rule promulgated by the board, including granting and renewing licenses, regulating individuals and firms engaged in the practice of architecture, establishing by rule the requirements and procedures for use of the title "Architect Emeritus". The board shall also have the power to adopt and amend such rules and regulations as are reasonably necessary for the proper performance of its duties, for carrying out the purposes of this Chapter, for continuing education, for the regulation of the proceedings before it, and for the regulation of the practice of architecture under the laws of this state.

~~D-G.~~ The procedure for the adoption, amendment, and repeal of any rule or regulation shall be in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., and the rules and regulations which may be adopted by the board shall be available for public inspection at the office of the State Board of Architectural Examiners.

~~E-H.~~ The board may employ executive, clerical, ~~or other~~ and office assistants as are necessary, including an executive director, for the proper performance of its work; may make expenditures from its funds for any purpose which is reasonably necessary for the proper performance of its duties under this Chapter; and may, if necessary, or upon advice of the attorney general, hire counsel for advice, for the representation of the board against violators of this Chapter and for the defense of any action brought against the board or its members or staff.

~~F-I.~~ The domicile of the board shall be Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

J. The board, its members, and its agents shall be immune from personal liability for actions taken in good faith in the discharge of the board's responsibilities. The state shall hold the board, its members, and its agents harmless from all costs, damages, and attorney fees arising from claims and suits against them with respect to matters to which the immunity applies.

~~G-K.~~(1) The board may allocate up to ten percent of all license renewal and delinquent fees each fiscal year to a fund to be named the Louisiana Architecture Education and Research Fund. The purpose of the fund is to better prepare students for internships and future careers as architects by authorizing the board to make awards to universities in this state accredited by and in good standing with the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB).

(2) The fund shall be used exclusively for one or more of the following in order to improve architectural education and the licensure of student interns in this state:

(a) Integration of practice and education in the professional NAAB degree curriculum.

(b) Implementation of a path to licensure resulting in an architectural license at the time of graduation from a NAAB-accredited professional degree program.

(c) Facilitation of enrollment and completion of training requirements for the ~~Intern Development Program (IDP)~~ approved experience program as administered by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB).

(d) Assistance of students and interns in preparation for the taking of the ~~Architectural Registration Exam (ARE)~~ approved examination.

(e) Methods for raising awareness of the responsibilities of architects and of the ways that public health, safety, and welfare are impacted by architects.

(3) An accredited university architectural program shall submit an annual proposal and budget, including any information deemed necessary by the board, to be considered for any award from the board.

(4) The board shall submit an annual report to the appropriate legislative oversight committee regarding its allocation of monies from the fund for the preceding fiscal year.

~~§145. Architects; requirements for; certificate~~ license; continuing education

A. No person shall practice architecture in this state or use the title "architect", or any term derived therefrom, or display or use any title, sign, advertisement, or other device to indicate that ~~such the~~ person practices or offers to practice architecture, or renders architectural services, or is an architect, unless ~~such the~~ person shall have has registered with and secured from the board a ~~certificate of registration and~~ license in the manner hereinafter provided, and shall thereafter comply with the provisions of the laws of the state of Louisiana governing the registration and licensing of architects and architectural firms.

B. Persons licensed by the board to practice architecture may, by rule of the board, be required to earn annually up to twelve hours of board-approved continuing education pertaining to building design in connection with public health, safety, or welfare. The board may, by rule, establish procedures and requirements for continuing education by an architect to demonstrate continuing competence in the practice of architecture for the protection of the public. The requirements shall include a description of acceptable activities and appropriate documentation required for license renewal.

~~§146. Examination before board; Initial license~~ qualifications

A. Unless previously registered and currently licensed on September 1, 1972, no person shall practice architecture until he has passed an examination approved by the board.

B. For the purpose of qualifying for the examination, the applicant shall present satisfactory evidence to the board that he:

(1) Is of good moral character.

(2) Has paid his debt to society if he has ever been convicted of a felony.

(3) Holds a professional degree from a school whose curriculum has been accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board.

(4) Is enrolled in the Intern Development Program administered by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards.

C. Any applicant not the holder of a first professional degree from a school whose curriculum has been accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board may take the examination if he has done all of the following:

(1) Has made formal application for examination to the board prior to April 1, 1984; and

(2) Has completed all of the education equivalency requirements for qualifying for the examination as delineated in the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards' "Circular of Information Number One"; and

(3) Has furnished evidence to the board that he has had practical architectural work experience, requirements for which are delineated by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards or the board.

D. The board may adopt rules and regulations in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act governing the approval, selection, administration, participation, and completion of the examination and the Intern Development Program.

A. To obtain an initial license to practice architecture in Louisiana, an applicant shall satisfy all of the following requirements:

(1) Provide documentation satisfactory to the board that the applicant has successfully completed all of the following:

(a) An approved education program.

(b) An approved experience program.

(c) An approved examination.

(2) Submit to the board a completed application and pay the required fee.

(3) Paid restitution if the applicant has ever been convicted of a felony.

B. Any of the following acts may preclude an applicant's eligibility as a candidate for initial licensure:

(1) Conviction by any court for the commission of any felony.

(2) Conviction by any court of a misdemeanor involving fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.

(3) Misstatement or misrepresentation of fact by the applicant in connection with the applicant's application for registration in this state or another jurisdiction.

(4) Violation of any of the rules of conduct required of applicants or architects as adopted by the board.

(5) Practicing architecture, or holding oneself out as capable of practicing architecture, in this state in violation of this Chapter.

§147. Rules governing examinations Reciprocal license qualifications

A. The board will make all necessary rules and regulations governing the time, place, and method of conducting examinations and the grading of them, and prescribe the types of examinations to be given. The examination shall consist of technical and professional subjects that the board may prescribe.

B. Copies of board examinations and answers of applicants shall be maintained for one year. The board examinations and the answers of applicants shall be exempt from disclosure pursuant to the Public Records Law as provided for in R.S. 44:1 et seq.

To obtain a reciprocal license to practice architecture in Louisiana, an applicant shall satisfy both of the following requirements:

(1) Provide documentation satisfactory to the board that the applicant holds both of the following:

(a) A current and valid license issued by another jurisdiction or licensing authority recognized by the board.

(b) A current NCARB certificate.

(2) Submit to the board a completed application and pay the required fee.

§148. Examinations; persons exempt Firm regulation

A. Upon application and the payment of a fee equivalent to that required for written examination and certificate and upon certification issued by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, the board may issue a certificate of registration and license to practice the profession of architecture in this state to any person who has passed a standard National Council of Architectural Registration Boards' examination if such examination is equivalent to that prescribed by the board.

B. The board may review the examination referred to in this section to determine and decide whether the examination is equivalent to that prescribed by the board.

C. The board may also require that the applicant under this section submit other proper evidence of his ability to engage in the practice of architecture and evidence of his continued honorable professional conduct after passing the examination before the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards.

To offer or perform architectural services as a firm in this state, a legally formed business entity shall meet the rule requirements adopted by the board.

§149. Fees

The applicant shall pay the actual cost of the examination. Upon passing all divisions of the examination, a fee to be determined by the board, not to exceed two hundred dollars, shall be charged to **an individual domiciled in this state** for issuing a **becoming registered and obtaining an initial license to practice architecture in this state**. A registration fee to be determined by the board, not to exceed five hundred dollars, shall be charged to an individual domiciled outside Louisiana seeking to be **for becoming registered and obtaining an initial or reciprocal license to practice architecture** in Louisiana. A fee to be determined by the board, not to exceed three hundred dollars, shall be charged to any corporation, professional architectural corporation as defined in R.S. 12:1086, architectural-engineering corporation as defined in R.S. 12:1171, or partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, association, sole proprietorship, or other entity seeking to obtain a certificate of authority **firm for becoming registered and obtaining an initial license** to practice architecture in Louisiana, unless such entity **the firm** is exempted **exempt** from the fee by the **rules of the** board. The board may not increase the fee for issuing a **charged to an individual or firm domiciled in Louisiana for becoming registered and obtaining an initial or reciprocal license** or a certificate of authority by more than thirty dollars during any three-year period, and the board may not increase the registration fee charged to an individual **or firm** domiciled outside of Louisiana seeking to be **for becoming registered and obtaining an initial or reciprocal license** in Louisiana by more than fifty dollars during any three-year period.

§150. Renewal of license; renewal fees

A. Every licensed architect domiciled in this state who desires to continue his license in force shall **submit to the board a completed application** and annually pay, during the month of **November or** December, a fee to be determined by the board, not to exceed two hundred dollars. Upon **certification of completion of the continuing education requirement set forth by the board in its rules** and payment of the renewal fee, the secretary of the board shall issue **him the licensee** a renewal certificate **license** for the year due. **The board may decline to renew a license if the architect's continuing education activities do not meet the standards set forth in the board's rules.**

B. Every licensed architect domiciled outside Louisiana who desires to continue his license in force in Louisiana shall **submit to the board a completed application** and annually pay, during the month of **November or** December, a renewal registration fee to be determined by the board, not to exceed five hundred dollars. Upon **certification of completion of the continuing education requirements set forth by the board in its rules** and payment of the renewal fee, the secretary of the board shall issue **him the licensee** a renewal certificate **license** for the year due. **The board may decline to renew a license if the architect's continuing education activities do not meet the standards set forth in the board's rules.**

C. The **An architect's** failure to renew his license in proper time shall **by the designated renewal date shall result in the expiration of the architect's license. This expiration shall** not deprive the architect of the right of renewal thereafter. The delinquent fee to be paid upon the renewal of a license by an architect domiciled in Louisiana at any time after the month of December in the year when such renewal fee first became due shall be determined by the board, not to exceed two hundred dollars. This delinquent fee shall be

in addition to the renewal registration fee set forth in Subsection A of this Section.

D. The delinquent fee to be paid upon the renewal of a license by an architect domiciled outside Louisiana at any time after the month of December in the year when such renewal fee first became due shall be determined by the board, not to exceed five hundred dollars. This delinquent fee shall be in addition to the renewal registration fee set forth in Subsection B of this Section.

E. Every corporation, professional architectural corporation as defined in R.S. 12:1086, architectural-engineering corporation as defined in R.S. 12:1171, or any partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, association, sole proprietorship, or other entity seeking to **firm desiring to continue its license in force in Louisiana** shall renew its certificate of authority **license** in Louisiana shall **and**, unless exempted by the board, annually pay a renewal fee to be determined by the board, not to exceed three hundred dollars, during the month of **May or** June. The board shall issue a renewal certificate of authority **license** for the year upon receipt of the **completed renewal application** and renewal fee payment.

F.(1) The delinquency **delinquent** fee to be paid by any corporation, professional architectural corporation as defined in R.S. 12:1086, any architectural-engineering corporation as defined in R.S. 12:1171, or any partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, association, sole proprietorship, or other entity **firm**, when the renewal fee set forth in Subsection E of this Section is paid at any time after June in the year the fee first became due, shall be determined by the board, not to exceed three hundred dollars.

(2) The payment of any delinquency **delinquent** fee shall be paid in addition to the annual renewal fee **set forth in Subsection E of this Section.**

G. The board may not increase the renewal fees or the delinquency **delinquent** fees set forth in this Section by more than thirty dollars during any three-year period.

§151. Roster of architects to be published annually

The board shall publish annually a roster of registered architects with their addresses. This published roster shall be received as evidence in court that the names it contains are duly registered architects of this state as of a specific date on the roster **maintain on its website a public, searchable roster for verification of licensure, which shall contain the name, license number, license status, initial licensure date, current expiration date, and work address of each licensee.**

§152. Use of title "architect"; seal or stamp architect seal

A.(1) The name of the architect followed by the title "architect" shall appear on every publication, announcement, and letterhead used by a person practicing architecture in connection with his practice.

(2) Every registered architect shall have a seal or stamp. This shall contain his name, the words "Registered Architect, State of Louisiana," and the architect's license number **an image authorized by the board**. All contract drawings and specifications issued by the architect for use in this state shall be stamped or sealed. The removal of an architect's seal or stamp, and/or use of an architect's plans, **or both**, unless otherwise provided by law or by written approval of the architect, shall be a violation of this Chapter and shall be subject to the penalties delineated in R.S. 37:154(B) **and (D).**

B. Except in the cases contemplated by R.S. 38:2317, no architect shall affix his seal or stamp or permit it to be affixed to any specification, drawing, or other related document which was not prepared either by **him the architect** or under **his the architect's** responsible supervision **control**. In those cases contemplated by R.S. 38:2317, the design professional reviewing state-owned plans, designs, specifications, or other construction documents shall remove the stamp or seal of the original architect and shall affix his stamp or seal to those documents that **he the professional** has reviewed and approved for reuse. The design professional affixing his stamp or seal to documents approved for reuse shall assume all responsibilities for the documents which bear his stamp or **the professional's** seal. No architect shall use his seal or stamp or do any other act as an architect unless **he the architect** is at the time duly registered **and licensed**.

§153. Board; disciplinary actions; revocation; **rescission**; suspension; probation; reprimand; admonishment; fine

A. The board may participate in a proceeding to revoke, rescind, or suspend the certificate of, **registration or license, or both**, place on probation, reprimand, admonish, or fine in an amount not to exceed five thousand dollars per violation, any **individual or firm** registrant or certificate holder **licensee** found by the board to have committed any of the following acts:

(1) Engaging in any fraud, deceit, gross incompetence, dishonesty, misrepresentation, misconduct, or gross negligence in the practice of architecture **material misstatement, perjury, or giving any false or forged evidence in applying for a license, taking an examination, or in applying for any renewal license provided for in this Chapter.**

(2) Engaging in any fraud, deceit, gross incompetence, dishonesty, material misrepresentation, misconduct, or gross negligence in the practice of architecture.

(3) Affixing his **the licensee's** seal, stamp, or name to any specification, drawing or other related document which was not prepared by **him the licensee** or under **his the licensee's** responsible supervision and control, or permitting his **the licensee's** seal, stamp, or name to be affixed to any such document.

③(4) Using **his the licensee's** seal or stamp or engaging in any other act constituting the practice of architecture **or violating any order or term of**

~~probation imposed by the board at a time when his the licensee's certificate of registration or license is rescinded, suspended, or revoked, or at a time when his the registrant's current renewal has not been obtained in accordance with the law, or when the license is expired for more than ninety days or in emeritus status.~~

~~(4)(5) Conviction of a felony or entry of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to a felony charge under the laws of the United States or any state, territory, or district of the United States, in which case a certified copy of the record of conviction shall be conclusive evidence of such conviction.~~

~~(5)(6) Willfully misleading or defrauding any person employing him the licensee as an architect.~~

~~(7) Knowingly making or signing any false statement, certificate, or affidavit in connection with the practice of architecture.~~

~~(6) Violating the provisions of this Chapter or any lawful rule or regulation adopted by the board pursuant to law.~~

~~(7) Practicing any fraud, deceit, material misstatement, or perjury in applying for a certificate of licensure or registration or in taking any examination or in applying for any renewal certificate provided for in this Chapter.~~

~~(8) Being convicted Conviction of any civil or criminal violation crime or entering entry of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to any criminal charge an element of which is fraud or which arises out of such individual's practice of architecture, in which case a certified copy of a record of conviction shall be conclusive evidence of such conviction.~~

~~(9) The refusal of the licensing authority of another state, territory, or district of the United States to issue or renew a license, permit, or certificate to practice architecture, or the revocation or suspension or other restriction imposed on a license, permit, or certificate issued by such licensing authority, on the grounds other than non-payment of a registration fee, or a finding by such licensing authority that a person has engaged in the unlicensed practice of architecture; provided that the reason for the action taken by the other licensing authority was recognized by the Louisiana board as a ground for the disciplinary action taken.~~

~~(10) Providing false testimony before the board.~~

~~(11) Failing to provide, within thirty calendar days of mailing the notice receipt of a request by certified or registered mail, or personal service, information or documents requested by the executive director as a result of a formal complaint to the board relating to an alleged alleging a violation of this Chapter.~~

~~(12) Using any advertising or solicitation which is false or misleading.~~

~~(13) Aiding or assisting another person in violating any provision of this Chapter or any rule adopted and promulgated by the board.~~

~~(14) Declaration of insanity or incompetence by a court of competent jurisdiction.~~

~~(15) Presenting or attempting to use as one's own the license, certificate, or seal of another person.~~

~~(16) Falsely impersonating any other licensee or certificate holder of a like or different name.~~

~~(17) Violating or not complying with any order, ruling, or decision of the board.~~

~~(18) Violating the provisions of this Chapter or any lawful rule or regulation adopted by the board pursuant to law.~~

~~B. Each day that a violation under Subsection A of this Section occurs shall may be considered a separate violation.~~

~~C. The board may rescind, suspend, refuse to renew, or revoke a certificate of the registration or license, or both, place on probation, reprimand, admonish, or fine in an amount not to exceed five thousand dollars per violation, any foreign or domestic corporation firm as defined in R.S. 37:141(D)(8) if the firm or if one or more of its officers, directors, employees, agents, or representatives has violated any of the above provisions of this Section.~~

~~D. In addition to any other action, the board may assess all reasonable costs incurred in connection with a disciplinary proceeding, including investigator fees, stenographer fees and attorney fees, and court costs as a condition of probation or reinstatement of any certificate or registration or license rescinded, suspended, or revoked pursuant to this Section. The assessment of fees and costs may be considered disciplinary action.~~

~~E. The All disciplinary action assessed taken shall be published in the annual Roster of Architects on the official website and in the official newsletter of the board and may be released to other professional organizations relating to architecture or to the news media.~~

~~F. Proceedings under this Section shall be begun by any person filing a written complaint with the board against the registrant or certificate holder licensee in the form of a sworn affidavit. The board, upon its own motion, may investigate the actions of any registrant or certificate holder licensee and file a complaint against him the licensee or registrant.~~

~~G. If in the opinion of the board, a hearing is warranted, a time and place for the hearing of the charges shall be fixed by the board. A copy of the complaint shall be sent by the board by registered or certified mail, through electronic means, or by personal service to the registrant or certificate holder licensee against whom a complaint has been filed at his last known address by registered or certified mail at least thirty days prior to the hearing together with a notice of the time and place of the meeting of the board at which the complaint shall be heard. Notwithstanding the provisions of this Subsection, the board may summarily suspend a license if it finds that public health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action and incorporates a finding to that effect in its order, as authorized by R.S. 49:977.3(C). Any summary suspension shall be for a maximum period of thirty days.~~

~~H. At the hearing the registrant or certificate holder licensee against whom~~

~~a complaint has been filed shall have the right to cross-examine witnesses against him, to produce witnesses in his defense, and to appear personally or by counsel.~~

~~I. If the accused person or business entity firm fails or refuses to appear, the board may proceed to hear and determine the validity of the charges.~~

~~J. No disciplinary action shall be taken hereunder unless a quorum of the board is present at the hearing.~~

~~K. If the board determines to suspend the certificate of licensure license or registration of any licensee or registrant or certificate holder, it shall fix the duration of the period of the suspension. If the board determines to issue a fine against the registrant or certificate holder licensee, it shall fix the amount of such fine.~~

~~L. The executive director of the board shall give written notice of its action by registered or certified mail, through electronic means, or by personal service to the registrant or certificate holder licensee against whom the complaint was filed at his last known address.~~

~~M. The board may require the production of books, papers, or other documents and may issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses to testify and to produce any relevant books, papers, or other documents in their possession before the board in any proceeding concerning any violation. The subpoenas shall be served by the sheriff of the parish or private process server where the witness resides or may be found. If any person refuses to obey any subpoena so issued, or refuses to testify or to produce any books, papers, or other documents required to be produced, the board may present its petition to the district court of the parish in which that person was served with the subpoena setting forth the facts. The court shall then issue a rule to that person requiring him that person to obey the subpoena or show cause why he that person fails to obey it. Unless that person shall show sufficient cause for failing to obey the subpoena, the court shall direct him that person to obey the subpoena and, upon his refusal to comply, he that person shall be adjudged in contempt of court and punished therefor, as the court may direct.~~

~~N. Any registrant or certificate holder licensee who has been subjected to disciplinary action by the board shall have the right to appeal to the district court of the parish in which the hearing was held. The appeal shall be governed by the Administrative Procedure Act R.S. 49:950 et seq. may appeal the board's decision pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act.~~

~~O. The board shall have the power to issue a new certificate of registration or license, change a revocation to a suspension, or shorten a period of suspension, or otherwise amend any disciplinary action taken hereunder upon satisfactory evidence that proper reasons for such action exist. Any person whose certificate of registration or license has been suspended shall have his certificate of registration or license automatically reinstated by the board at the end of his period of suspension upon payment of the renewal fee. No delinquent fee shall be charged for reinstatement of certificate of registration or license under the provisions of this Chapter.~~

~~§154. Violations and penalties~~

~~A. Any The board shall have the power to take enforcement action against any person, corporation, company, partnership, firm, business entity, or individual, found by the board to be guilty of any of the following acts:~~

~~(1) who shall practice, or offer to practice, Practicing or offering to practice architecture in this state without being certified registered and licensed in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter,~~

~~(2) or any person presenting or attempting Attempting to use as his own the certificate of registration, license, or the seal of another,~~

~~(3) Engaging in any fraud, deceit, material misstatement, perjury, or giving any false or forged evidence in taking any examination.~~

~~(4) or any person who shall give Giving any false or forged evidence of any kind to the board, or to any member thereof, in obtaining a certificate of registration; or a license.~~

~~(5) or any person who shall falsely impersonate Falsely impersonating any other registrant or certificate holder licensee of like or different name,~~

~~(6) or any person who shall attempt Using or attempting to use an expired or revoked certificate of registration; or license.~~

~~(7) Using or attempting to use a seal which is deceptively similar to any seal authorized by the board for use by a licensee.~~

~~(8) Using the title or the words "architect", "architecture", or "architectural", or any modification or derivative thereof, or displaying or using any title, sign, advertisement, or other device to indicate that the person practices or offers to practice architecture, or renders architectural services, unless the user is duly registered and licensed pursuant to this Chapter.~~

~~(9) Falsely claiming that a person is registered or licensed pursuant to this Chapter.~~

~~(10) Violating or failing to comply with any order, ruling, or decision of the board.~~

~~(11) Failing to provide, within thirty calendar days of receipt of a request by certified or registered mail or personal service, information or documents requested by the board relating to an alleged violation of this Chapter.~~

~~B. or any Any person, applicant, registrant, or certificate holder who shall violate any of the provisions of this Chapter; shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. An individual who violates any part of this Chapter shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than three hundred dollars, nor more than fifteen one thousand five hundred dollars, or be imprisoned for a period not to exceed three months, or both. Any person, other than an individual, who violates any provision of this Chapter shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than fifteen one thousand five hundred dollars, nor more than five thousand dollars. Each day the violation occurs shall constitute a~~

separate offense.

~~B-C.~~ It shall be the duty of the attorney general, all district attorneys, and all duly constituted officers of the law of this state, or any political subdivision thereof, to enforce the provisions of this Chapter and to prosecute any persons violating the provisions of this Chapter. The attorney general, or ~~his~~ **the attorney general's** assistant, shall act as legal advisor to the board if requested by the board and render such legal assistance as may be deemed necessary by the board in carrying out the provisions of this Chapter; however, this shall not relieve the local prosecuting officers of any duty to prosecute a violation of this Chapter.

~~E-D.~~(1)(a) The board shall ensure enforcement of the provisions of this Chapter. The board may investigate any complaint relating to a violation of this Chapter and, depending upon the result of its investigation, the board may, after notice and hearing and by a majority vote of its entire membership authorized to participate in the proceeding, issue an order prohibiting the person from committing a violation of this Chapter or fine any such person for any violations of this Chapter, or both. The fine shall not exceed one thousand five hundred dollars per violation in the case of an individual or five thousand dollars per violation in the case of a person other than an individual.

(b) The time and place for said hearing shall be fixed by the board and a copy of the charges, together with a notice of the time and place of the hearing, shall be personally served; on or mailed by certified mail; to the last known address of such person at least thirty days before the date fixed for hearing.

(c) At the hearing, the accused shall have the right to appear in person, or by counsel, or both, to ~~cross-examine~~ **cross-examine** witnesses in his or its defense, and to produce evidence and witnesses in his or its defense.

(d) If the accused person or business entity fails or refuses to appear, the board may proceed to hear and determine the validity of the charges.

(2) Any person who violates any order of the board issued ~~under~~ **pursuant to** this Chapter shall be subject to a civil penalty not in excess of ~~fifteen one thousand five~~ hundred dollars per violation, in the case of an individual, or five thousand dollars per violation, in the case of a person other than an individual. If the penalty imposed is not paid within sixty days after the order becomes final, then the order shall constitute a judgment and shall be filed and execution issued upon in the same manner as a judgment of a court of record. Any civil penalty imposed by the board ~~under~~ **pursuant to** this Section may, at its discretion, be suspended in whole or in part.

(3) All funds derived from fines as provided in this Subsection shall be deposited in the state general fund.

(4) Any person aggrieved by any action of the board in assessing a fine ~~under~~ **pursuant to** this Subsection may appeal such action pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act.

~~D-E.~~ In the alternative, after completion of any investigation by the board concerning a violation of this Chapter by a nonregistrant, the board may present its findings to the district attorney in whose district the violation occurred and shall aid in any criminal prosecution for a violation, or the board may, if it deems necessary, initiate any civil proceeding for a violation of this Chapter directly and in its own name in any district court. This action may be instituted by any member, officer, attorney, or agent of the board.

~~E-F.~~ In addition to any other fine or penalty imposed ~~under~~ **pursuant to** this Chapter, the board may assess all reasonable costs incurred in connection with a disciplinary proceeding, including investigator fees, stenographer fees, and attorney fees, and court costs against any person found to have violated any order of the board **provision of this Chapter**.

* * *

§156. Suits by board; injunction

~~A.~~ The board shall have the right to go into court in the jurisdiction in which the provisions of this Chapter are being violated **a court of competent jurisdiction** and, upon affidavit or other proof, secure a temporary restraining order, preliminary injunction, or permanent injunction restraining and prohibiting any violation of this Chapter and the performance of any work then being done or about to be commenced in violation of this Chapter.

~~B.~~ Any person found guilty of violating any provision of this Chapter in any such proceeding shall pay to the board a civil penalty in an amount determined by the court which may include the board's attorneys fees, costs, investigation, and other expenses, but in no event shall the fine be less than the sum of one thousand dollars.

~~C.~~ **The trial of the proceeding for an injunction shall be summary, with preference over ordinary proceedings, and tried by a judge without a jury.**

~~D.~~ **A violation of an injunction shall be considered as a contempt of court and punished in accordance with law.**

§157. Annual report

The board shall make an annual report to the governor of its ~~transactions; with any recommendations for the advancement and betterment of the profession~~ **primary activities during the previous calendar year.**

§158. Firm practice; licensure; promulgation of rules and regulation

A. All domestic firms and foreign firms qualifying to do business in the state of Louisiana, which practice or offer to practice architecture in the state of Louisiana are subject to regulation and supervision by the board, and the board, in implementation of this Section, may issue rules and regulations further governing the conduct and activities of such firms.

B. Within thirty days after the issuance by the secretary of state of a certificate of incorporation of a Louisiana corporation formed pursuant to the Louisiana Business Corporation Law, R.S. 12:1-~~101~~ et seq., the Louisiana Nonprofit Corporation Law, R.S. 12:201 et seq., or the Louisiana Architectural-Engineering Corporation Law, R.S. 12:1171 et seq., or the issuance by the

secretary of state of a certificate of organization of a Louisiana limited liability company formed pursuant to the Louisiana Limited Liability Company Law, R.S. 12:1301 et seq., or the qualification of a foreign corporation or foreign limited liability company in the state of Louisiana which practices or offers to practice architecture in the state of Louisiana, the firm shall file an application for **registration and** licensure with the board on a form provided by the board.

C. Within sixty days after the firm files with the board the application required above, the board, in the event the firm is otherwise in compliance with the provisions of this Chapter and the rules and regulations issued by the board governing firms, shall issue a license. Any firm having been so licensed by the board shall have the authority to contract to ~~deliver such~~ **provide** architectural services **in Louisiana**, and therefore ~~it~~ shall be subject to disciplinary action as provided in this Chapter.

Section 2. R.S. 37:146.1 is hereby repealed.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 485

SENATE BILL NO. 303
BY SENATOR CLOUD
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 39:1702(A)(1) and to enact R.S. 39:1702(D), relative to the Louisiana Procurement Code; to provide for cooperative purchasing for information technology systems; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 39:1702(A)(1) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 39:1702(D) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§1702. Cooperative purchasing authorized; participation in federal General Services Administration vendor list

A.(1) Any public procurement unit may either participate in, sponsor, conduct, or administer a cooperative purchasing agreement for the acquisition of any supplies, services, personal, professional, consulting, and social services, major repairs, or construction with one or more public procurement units or external procurement activities or one or more private procurement units in accordance with an agreement entered into between the participants. ~~Such cooperative purchasing may include but is not limited to joint or multi-party contracts between public procurement units and open-ended state public procurement unit contracts which are made available to local public procurement units.~~ **Procurement units within the executive branch of state government which are subject to the authority of the Office of Technology Services pursuant to R.S. 39:15.1 may also utilize this Part for the procurement of information technology systems and information technology services as provided in Part V-A of Chapter 1 of Subtitle I of this Title. Nothing in this Part shall be construed to expand or limit the authority of the Office of Technology Services as established in R.S. 39:15.1 through 15.3. Such cooperative purchasing may include but is not limited to:**

(a) Joint or multi-party contracts between public procurement units.

(b) Open-ended state public procurement unit contracts which are made available to public procurement units.

(c) Contracts between a public procurement unit and an external procurement activity under which the public procurement unit accesses and utilizes an existing information technology system belonging to the external procurement activity in exchange for payment of a share of the costs associated with the system. The public procurement unit shall not be required to participate in a competitive procurement process for such contracts, provided that the external procurement activity originally acquired the system by means of a contract procured through a competitive procurement process.

* * *

~~D.~~ **Procurement units within the executive branch of government which are subject to the authority of the Office of Technology Services pursuant to R.S. 39:15.1 may procure information technology systems and services as provided in Part V-A of Chapter 1 of Subtitle I of this Title from the General Services Administration supply schedules. Such purchases need not comply with the competitive bidding requirements of this Chapter.**

Section 2. This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Interstate Technology Collaboration Act".

Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 486

SENATE BILL NO. 304
BY SENATOR EDMONDS
AN ACT

To enact R.S. 17:3125.1 and Chapter 25-B of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 17:3171 through 3176, relative to public post secondary institutions and governing boards; to authorize the Board of Regents to set policy regarding accreditation of public postsecondary institutions; to authorize public postsecondary management boards to select an accreditor under certain circumstances; to provide for coordination between the Board of Regents and public postsecondary management boards; to provide for implementation; to provide for electronic notification by certain institutions of higher education; to provide for powers; to provide for duties; to provide for prohibitions; to provide for definitions; to direct the Louisiana State Law Institute to make technical changes; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters. Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:3125.1 and Chapter 25-B of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 17:3171 through 3176, are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§3125.1. Accreditation; powers of the Board of Regents
The Board of Regents shall have the power to set policy regarding the accreditation of all public postsecondary institutions, as provided in Chapter 25-B of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950.

* * *

**CHAPTER 25-B. ACCREDITATION OF
PUBLIC POST SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS**

§3171. Application
Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, this Chapter shall govern the accreditation of all public postsecondary institutions.

§3172. Definitions
As used in this Chapter, the following terms have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

(1) “Board of Regents” means the coordinating body for public postsecondary education that oversees policies, budgets, academic program approval, and facility planning for all Louisiana universities, community colleges, and technical schools, pursuant to Article VIII, Section 5 of the Constitution of Louisiana and R.S. 17:3121.

(2) “Management board” means a governing board of a public postsecondary education institution that is responsible for supervising the day-to-day operations of such institutions under the overall jurisdictional planning and budgetary authority of the Louisiana Board of Regents. Article VIII of the Constitution of Louisiana provides that the management boards are the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System, the Board of Supervisors of Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, and the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges.

(3) “Public postsecondary institution” or “institution” means a public college or university that is under the jurisdiction of a management board for postsecondary education created by or under authority of the Constitution of Louisiana.

§3173. Powers of the Board of Regents: coordination with management boards
A. In coordination with each management board of a public postsecondary institution, the Board of Regents shall have the power to set policy regarding each of the following:

(1) Accreditation of public postsecondary institutions.
(2) Specialized accreditation of any individual program or unit at a public postsecondary institution where such accreditation is required.

B. The Board of Regents shall adopt policies to allow a public postsecondary institution, subject to the approval of the institution’s management board, to seek a new institutional accreditor from a list of accreditors recognized by the United States Department of Education or to seek a new specialized accreditor from a list of specialized accreditors maintained by the Board of Regents.

C. The Board of Regents, in coordination with the management boards, shall develop a process of changing an institutional accreditor in a manner that ensures that a public postsecondary institution remains accredited at all times by an accreditor recognized by the United States Department of Education.

D. With respect to specialized accreditation of an individual program or unit, the Board of Regents shall do all of the following:

(1) Identify a list of units, programs, and professional schools that require specialized accreditation and a corresponding list of recognized accreditors.

(2) Adopt policies, in coordination with the management boards, to ensure that each program or unit requiring specialized accreditation remains accredited at all times by an accreditor from the list of accreditors maintained by the Board of Regents.

§3174. Process for accreditation; applications; accreditors
A. A public postsecondary institution may seek a new accreditor for the institution or for a specialized program or unit so long as the selection of an accreditor and the process of seeking accreditation complies with this Chapter.

B. If a public postsecondary institution seeks a new accreditor, the institution shall apply for approval with the institution’s management board.

C. The public postsecondary institution shall seek an accreditor that prioritizes all of the following:

(1) Promotes credential success and workforce outcomes.
(2) Promotes educational quality and affordability.
(3) Promotes financial stability of the public postsecondary institutions.
(4) Ensures appropriate accountability through a rigorous annual review of

the faculty.

D. The management board may not approve an accreditor unless the accreditor has agreed, in writing, that the accreditor will not condition the initial accreditation and will not condition any continued accreditation upon any violation of law, as prohibited in R.S. 17:3176.

§3175. Management boards of public postsecondary institutions
A. If a public postsecondary institution applies for a new accreditor, as provided in R.S. 17:3174, the management board shall do all of the following:

(1) Review the institution’s application and determine if the proposed accreditor meets the standards and requirements set forth in this Chapter.

(2) Determine if the application for a new accreditor complies with the policies set forth by the Board of Regents, as provided in R.S. 17:3173.

B. With respect to a public postsecondary institution’s accreditor or any application for a new accreditor, the management board shall, in coordination with the Board of Regents, do all of the following:

(1) Ensure that each public postsecondary institution that is under the management board’s jurisdiction shall post on the institution’s website the status of its accreditation and other documentation that the management board deems relevant that has been submitted to the accreditor to gain or maintain accreditation.

(2) Specify the manner and frequency that the institution is to notify or update the public on the progress of reaccreditation with the same accreditor or the process of accreditation with a new accreditor through the institution’s website.

§3176. Prohibited accreditors
Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, no accreditor may be chosen that conditions accreditation upon any violation of the Constitution of Louisiana or any state law.

Section 2. The Louisiana State Law Institute, pursuant to its statutory authority, is hereby directed to delete “Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges” and replace with “accreditor recognized by the United States Department of Education” in R.S. 17:3164, 3223, 3351.17, and 5029 and in any other Section in Title 17 or in any other Section or Code of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950.

Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 487

SENATE BILL NO. 307

BY SENATORS EDMONDS AND HODGES AND REPRESENTATIVES
ADAMS, AMEDEE, BACALA, BAMBURG, BAYHAM, BEAULLIEU,
BILLINGS, BOUDREAUX, BOYER, BUTLER, WILFORD CARTER,
CHENEVERT, COATES, CREWS, DESHOTEL, DEWITT, EGAN,
FARNUM, FIRMINT, FONTENOT, HORTON, ILLG, MIKE JOHNSON,
MACK, MCCORMICK, MOORE, OWEN, SAWYER, SCHAMERHORN,
THOMAS, VENTRELLA AND WYBLE

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 25:1281, 1282(A), (B), and (C), and 1283 and to enact R.S. 49:150.1(J) and (K), relative to educational documents and monuments; to provide with respect to the educational public displays of certain documents and monuments related to the religious history of the nation and the state’s culture, tradition, and codes of law; to provide with respect to certain historical documents and monuments; to authorize the Ten Commandments monument on the Louisiana State Capitol grounds; to provide that the commissioner of administration shall select a proposal and arrange for installation; to provide for design, construction, and installation of the monument without cost to the state; to provide for content and limitations; to authorize delegation of the commissioner’s responsibilities; to provide for legislative intent; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 25:1281, 1282(A), (B), and (C), and 1283 are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

**CHAPTER 32. DISPLAY OF RELIGIOUS DOCUMENTS
AS CULTURE, TRADITION, AND THE HISTORY OF LAW**

§1281. Legislative finding
The Legislature of Louisiana finds that:

(1) There is a need to educate and inform the public as to the history and background tradition of American law and Louisiana law.

(2) America and Louisiana’s religious history plays an important role in the background of our American law and Louisiana law.

(3) The role of religion in the constitutional history of both the United States of America and Louisiana is acknowledged by historians as part of our culture, tradition, and history.

(4) The basic Basic knowledge of American legal history is important to the formation of civic virtue in our society and, therefore, recognizing the historical role of the Ten Commandments, the Mayflower Compact, the Declaration of Independence, and the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 accords with the nation’s

history and reflects the founders’ understanding of the necessity of civic morality to a functional self-government.

(5) The courts have provided vital direction to the Legislature of Louisiana on how to approach the display of historical documents.

(6) In 2005, the Supreme Court of the United States recognized that it is permissible to display the Ten Commandments on government property in Van Orden v. Perry, 545 U.S. 677, 688 (2005).

(7) In 2019, the Supreme Court of the United States further recognized that the Ten Commandments “have historical significance as one of the foundations of our legal system. . .”, in American Legion v. American Humanist Association, 588 U.S. 29, 53 (2019) and, the court also ruled that the displaying of the Ten Commandments on public property may have “multiple purposes” such as “historical significance as one of the foundations of our legal system” and represents a “common cultural heritage”. Id. at 54.

(8) The Mayflower Compact of 1620 was America’s first written constitution and made a Covenant with Almighty God to “form a civil body politic”. This was the first purely American document of self-government and affirmed the link between civil society and God.

(9) The Declaration of Independence, adopted by Congress on July 4, 1776, provides that “(we) hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness”.

(10) The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 provided a method of admitting new states to the Union from the territory as the country expanded to the Pacific. The Ordinance “extended the fundamental principles of civil and religious liberty” to the territories and stated that “(r)eligion, morality, and knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged”.

(11) The Legislature of Louisiana now endorses the prolongation of a uniform, sound, distinct, and appropriate presentation of the story of the role of religion in the constitutional history of the United States of America and Louisiana, which may be publicly displayed in court houses, and other state and local buildings, at the Louisiana State Capitol, and throughout the state of Louisiana.

(12) The text of the Ten Commandments set forth in R.S. 25:1282(C) is identical to the text of the Ten Commandments monument that was upheld by the Supreme Court of the United States in Van Orden v. Perry, 545 U.S. 677, 688 (2005).

(13) It is the legislature’s intent to apply the decision set forth by the Supreme Court of the United States in Van Orden v. Perry, id. to continue the rich tradition and ensure that the public has an opportunity to understand and appreciate the foundational documents of our state and national government.

(14) The Supreme Court of the United States acknowledged that the Ten Commandments may be displayed on government property when a private donation is made for the purchase of the historical monument. Pleasant Grove City v. Summum, 555 U.S. 460 (2009).

(15) It is the intention of the Legislature of Louisiana that this Section shall not create an unfunded mandate on any public governing authority. Government agencies are encouraged to use documents that are printed, or displays that are produced, and made available to the agency at no cost.

§1282. Public displays of religious history impacting the law
A. Public displays with acknowledged religious history may include, but shall not be limited to, any of the items in this Section.

B. The Mayflower Compact, written and adopted in 1620, the text of which reads as follows:

Mayflower Compact (1620 A.D.)
Agreement Between the Settlers at New Plymouth: 1620
IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN. We, whose names are underwritten, the Loyal Subjects of our dread Sovereign Lord, King James, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith. Having undertaken for the Glory of God, and Advancement of the Christian Faith, and the Honour of our King and Country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the northern Parts of Virginia; do by these presents, solemnly and mutually, in the Presence of God and one another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil Body Politick, for our better Ordering and Preservation, and Furtherance of the Ends aforesaid: And by Virtue hereof do enact, constitute, and frame, such just and equal Laws, Ordinances, Acts, Constitutions and Offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the General good of the Colony; unto which we promise all due submission and obedience. In Witness whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names at Cape Cod the eleventh of November, in the Reign of our Sovereign Lord King James, of England, France, and Ireland, the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fifty-fourth, Anno Domini; 1620.

C. The Ten Commandments, as extracted from the Bible. The text shall read as follows:

“The Ten Commandments
I AM the LORD thy God.
Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven images.
Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain.
Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.
Thou shalt not kill.
Thou shalt not commit adultery.
Thou shalt not steal.

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s house.
Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant,
nor his cattle, nor anything that is thy neighbor’s.”

* * *

§1283. Context of public display
Public displays set forth in R.S. 25:1282(B), (C), (D), and (E) shall be accompanied by a document entitled “Context for Acknowledging America’s Religious History as Culture, Tradition, and the History of Law” which shall read as follows:

(1) Some documents stand out as pivotal in the religious history of America and Louisiana’s legal system, among which are the Mayflower Compact, The Declaration of Independence as a legal foundation for the United States Constitution, the Ten Commandments as one of the foundations of our legal system, and the Northwest Ordinance, which was a primary document affirming faith and the first congressional act legally prohibiting slavery. It is hoped that their study and relation to each other and the history of our state and nation will foster an appreciation for the role that religion has played in the culture, tradition, and legal history of the law of America and the state of Louisiana and prompt further public study.

(2) American law, constitutionalism, and political theory have deep roots in religion. American ideals about liberty, freedom, equality, legal responsibility and codes of law, to mention a few, have roots and underpinnings in religion and biblical literacy. The Ten Commandments, which are found in the Book of Exodus in the Old Testament of the Bible, were one of the earliest written expressions of law to be incorporated in American legal systems. The Ten Commandments, or the law of nature, also impacted the Declaration of Independence which refers to the “laws of nature and of Nature’s God.”

Section 2. R.S. 49:150.1(J) and (K) are hereby enacted to read as follows:
§150.1. State capitol complex; allocation of space; maintenance; law enforcement officer and firefighter memorial; Gold Star Families monument; African-American military service members monument; the Ten Commandments

* * *

J.(1) The commissioner of administration shall permit and arrange for the placement on the Louisiana State Capitol grounds of a suitable monument displaying the Ten Commandments. The commissioner shall designate the location of the monument, which shall be among other monuments, and shall oversee its installation. The design, construction, placement, and maintenance of the monument shall be free of charge to the state. The commissioner may delegate his responsibilities provided in this Subsection to the office of state buildings.

(2) The commissioner shall accept and consider proposals for the monument from private entities and shall select the proposal for the monument that will be installed. In selecting a proposal, the commissioner shall consider the appropriateness of the proposed design, the demonstrated ability of the responsible entity to pay the cost of design, construction, installation, and maintenance of the monument, and any other factor he deems appropriate. The commissioner shall make such selection by December 31, 2026; however, if he has not received an acceptable proposal by that date, he shall select the first acceptable proposal he receives after that date.

(3)(a) The overall dimensions of the monument shall not exceed six feet in height, four feet in width, and four feet in depth, including any base on which the monument sits.

(b) The monument shall use the same text provided in R.S. 25:1282, which is the same text that was used in Van Orden v. Perry, 545 U.S. 677 (2005), that was ruled constitutional by the Supreme Court of the United States.

(c) The monument shall include a plaque that includes the text of the “Context for Acknowledging America’s Religious History as Culture, Tradition, and the History of Law” as set forth in R.S. 25:1283.

K.(1) An outdoor display or monument authorized pursuant to this Section shall be maintained in a manner that preserves the structural integrity, legibility, and respectful appearance of the display or monument.

(2) The commissioner shall ensure that each outdoor display or monument is maintained in accordance with this Subsection, including providing for any necessary cleaning, repair, or restoration resulting from weathering, vandalism, or other damage. Responsibility for such maintenance shall be assigned to the private entity selected to provide the display or monument or to another private entity selected by the commissioner.

(3) If the entity responsible for maintenance fails to maintain the display or monument in accordance with this Subsection, the commissioner of administration shall provide written notice of the deficiency and a reasonable opportunity to cure the deficiency. If the deficiency is not timely cured and the commissioner is unable to secure another private entity to assume responsibility for maintenance, the commissioner may remove the display or monument.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.
A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 488

SENATE BILL NO. 320
BY SENATOR MIZELL AND REPRESENTATIVE MANDIE LANDRY

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 15:605.1, relative to DNA detection of sexual and violent offenders; to provide reporting of outstanding CODIS hit data; to provide for a central repository; to provide for an outstanding CODIS hits tracking system; to provide for reporting; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 15:605.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§605.1. Outstanding CODIS hit data; reporting

A. The legislature recognizes the importance of improving the collective response of the criminal justice system to criminal investigations, including sexual assault investigations; therefore, measures shall be taken to create accountability in the CODIS hit notification and resolution process. Tracking of outstanding CODIS hits is essential to ensuring that scientific work done in the crime laboratories successfully translates into justice in the state, and that future convictions or exonerations in older cases are not lost or buried under new caseloads.

B. As used in this Section, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) “CODIS hit” means a confirmed database match that aids a criminal investigation and one or more of the investigations involved in the match are unsolved.

(2) “CODIS hit notification” means a formal communication sent by a CODIS-participating laboratory to a criminal justice agency when a DNA profile from an unsolved case is confirmed to have matched a DNA profile already in the CODIS database.

(3) “CODIS hit resolution” means that an agency has taken steps to determine if the investigative lead provided by the CODIS-participating laboratory is probative to the case at hand. The ultimate disposition of the CODIS hit should be either a communication to the CODIS-participating laboratory that the lead has been exhausted or that the lead has probative value and shall be followed up on by collection and submission of a reference DNA sample to the laboratory from the associated individual, if applicable.

(4) “Outstanding CODIS hit” means that a criminal justice agency has officially received a CODIS hit notification and that investigative lead has not been cleared, acted upon, or resolved by that agency within ninety days of receipt.

C. The state police shall serve as the central repository for tracking of outstanding CODIS hits in Louisiana.

D. The state police shall create and operate a statewide outstanding CODIS hit tracking system. The state police may contract with public or private entities, including but not limited to private software and technology providers, for the creation and maintenance of the system.

E. The statewide outstanding CODIS hit tracking system shall accomplish all of the following:

(1) Track the status of the CODIS hits sent to criminal justice agencies that have not been resolved within ninety days.

(2) Allow criminal justice agencies to update and track the status of outstanding CODIS hits.

(3) Use electronic technology in order to allow continuous access.

(4) Provide for cross-jurisdictional data sharing with law enforcement agencies.

F. The state police may use a phased implementation process in order to launch the system and facilitate entry and use of the system for required participants. The state police may phase in initial participation according to the region or volume.

G. All law enforcement agencies that receive CODIS hit notifications, including CODIS-participating laboratories, investigating law enforcement agencies, district attorneys’ offices, and agencies that aid in the identification of missing persons and human remains, shall provide all required information to the tracking system and fully participate in the system no later than January 1, 2027.

H.(1) After implementation of the tracking system, the state police shall submit an annual report on the statewide outstanding CODIS hit tracking system to the Senate Committee on Judiciary C, the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, the governor, and the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library pursuant to R.S. 24:771 and 772 no later than March first of each year. The state police shall make public the current report on its website. The report shall include all of the following:

(a) The total number of outstanding CODIS hits in the system statewide and by jurisdiction.

(b) The number of outstanding CODIS hits added to the system in the reporting period statewide and by jurisdiction.

(c) The total number of outstanding CODIS hits that have been resolved in the system statewide and by jurisdiction.

(2) For the purpose of the report required by this Subsection, an outstanding CODIS hit shall be assigned to the jurisdiction associated with both the CODIS-participating laboratory who processed the evidence associated with the unsolved case that received the CODIS hit, as well as the criminal justice agency that submitted the applicable evidence to the CODIS-participating laboratory.

I. The state police shall adopt rules as necessary to implement the provisions of this Section.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

SENATE BILL NO. 321
BY SENATOR KLEINPETER
AN ACT

To amend and reenact Code of Criminal Procedure Art. 328(C) and R.S. 22:822(A), relative to electronic bonds; to provide for certain conditions on the use of electronic bonds; to provide for requirements on electronic bonds; to provide for a parish registry of electronic bond agents; to provide for procedures for the issuance of electronic bonds; to provide for types of payment; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Code of Criminal Procedure Art. 328(C) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

Art. 328. Bail undertaking

* * *

C.(1) An electronic bond ~~may~~ **shall only** be executed in a parish where the sheriff has electronic bond software in place. ~~Agents~~ **Only agents may** be approved by the sheriff to ~~shall~~ execute an electronic bond. A licensed bail bond producer applying for electronic bond authority ~~may~~ **shall** make an application to the sheriff and shall be domiciled and maintain a principal place of business in this state and possess a Louisiana bail bond producer license for at least three years preceding the date of application.

(2) The approving sheriff authority may require any documents deemed necessary to verify the information contained in the application ~~and may establish additional requirements for approval of electronic bond authority within the parish, including but not limited to geographic limitations, proof of local domicile or principal place of business within the parish, geofencing parameters, or other requirements that the sheriff deems appropriate for the administration of electronic bonds within the parish.~~

(3) Any parish that elects to implement electronic bonds shall allow both in-person and electronic methods of posting bail bonds.

(4)(a) The electronic bond provider shall maintain a registry of agents approved by each participating parish sheriff to execute electronic bonds within that parish.

(b) Prior to permitting the execution of any electronic bond, the provider shall verify that the agent seeking to post the bond is listed in the approved agent registry for the parish in which the bond is to be posted. The provider shall deny electronic bond access to any agent who does not appear in the applicable registry.

(c) The sheriff shall provide the electronic bond provider with timely notice of any additions to or removals from the approved registry.

(5) When an electronic bond is used, all of the following procedures shall be followed:

(a) The electronic bond provider shall implement multi-factor authentication for each individual bond posting transaction, which shall include at a minimum both of the following:

(i) Facial recognition liveness verification linked to the identity of the approved licensed agent executing the bond.

(ii) A secondary authentication factor independent of the agent’s account login credentials.

(b) The electronic bond provider shall ensure that the authentication required by Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph is performed personally by the approved agent of record at the time of each individual bond posting. The provider shall not permit the use of shared login credentials, shared authentication devices or factors, or proxy authentication by any person other than the approved agent of record.

(c) The approving sheriff may, as a condition of authorizing electronic bond posting within the parish, require the electronic bond provider to incorporate a geographic restriction, including a geofence, limiting electronic bond posting to a defined geographic area within or proximate to the parish.

(d) The electronic bond provider shall offer automated clearing house (ACH) electronic funds transfer as a method of payment for fees associated with the posting of an electronic bond.

Section 2. R.S. 22:822(A) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§822. Criminal bail bond annual license fee

A.(1) On premiums for all commercial surety underwriters who write criminal bail bonds in the state of Louisiana, there shall be a fee equal to two dollars for each one hundred dollars worth of liability underwritten by the commercial surety. Except as authorized under the provisions of R.S. 13:718(I) (2), this shall be the exclusive fee or tax on any criminal bail bond premium, including thereto premium taxes owed. In furtherance of the payment of this premium fee all commercial surety underwriters underwriting criminal bail bonds in the state of Louisiana shall, upon submitting the appearance bond and their power of attorney, simultaneously pay to the sheriff of the parish, a fee of two dollars for each one hundred dollars worth of liability on the bail bond being presented for the release of a person on bail. Failure to pay the fee shall prevent the sheriff from accepting the appearance bond and power of attorney. The sheriff may receive the fee by check, ~~or cash,~~ **or automated clearing house (ACH)** and shall ~~only~~ **accept it only** from the surety or the agent of the surety.

(2)(a) When an electronic bond is posted pursuant to Code of Criminal Procedure Article 328, the sheriff shall accept payment of the fee by ACH electronic funds transfer, and a licensed bail bond producer may collect from the defendant, principal, or indemnitor any fees associated with the posting of an electronic bond that are authorized by law, including but not limited to platform access fees, transaction fees, and ACH processing fees.

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underlined (House Bills) and underscored and **boldfaced** (Senate Bills) are additions.

(b) The fees shall not exceed the actual cost charged to the producer by the electronic bond provider.

(c) In the event a surety or agent of the surety presents payment of the fee by an instrument which is returned for insufficient funds, the agent or the agent of the surety shall be prevented from presenting the appearance bonds with their power of attorney attached until the outstanding fees are paid to the sheriff.

* * *

Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 490

SENATE BILL NO. 322

BY SENATORS DUPLESSIS, BARROW, BARTHELEMY, BOUDREAUX, CARTER, FESI, HARRIS, JENKINS, KLEINPETER, MYERS, PRESSLY, PRICE, SELDERS, STINE AND TALBOT AND REPRESENTATIVES BAMBURG, CARVER, CHASSION, CREWS, GLORIOSO, HORTON, LARVADAIN, MARTINEZ, MELERINE, MENA, PHELPS AND WILDER
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 23:386, relative to apprentices; to provide eligibility requirements for the Louisiana Youth Apprentice program; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 23:386 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§386. Apprentice defined; **Louisiana Youth Apprentice**

A. The term “apprentice” as used in this Chapter is defined as a worker at least sixteen years of age, except where a higher minimum age standard is otherwise fixed by law, who is employed to learn an apprenticeable occupation pursuant to the standards of apprenticeship as provided for in LAC 40:IX.317 in order to fulfill the requirements of LAC 40:IX.301 and who has entered into a written apprentice agreement with an employer, an association of employers, or an organization of employees, providing for a time-based program model with not less than two thousand hours of reasonably continuous employment, a competency-based program model, or a hybrid program, and for participation in an approved program of training through employment and through education in related and supplemental subjects.

B. A Louisiana Youth Apprentice is an apprentice, as provided in Subsection A of this Section, who meets all of the following criteria:

(1) Is no older than twenty-four years of age.

(2) Has entered into a written registered apprenticeship agreement that both:
(a) Provides for not less than three hundred seventy-five hours of reasonably continuous employment.

(b) Provides for participation in an approved program of training through paid employment and through education in related and supplemental subjects that results in a high school diploma or equivalent and an advanced industry-based credential, certificate of technical studies, or an equivalent or more advanced credential.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 491

SENATE BILL NO. 325

BY SENATOR REESE

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 27:27.2, relative to the Louisiana Gaming Control Board; to provide for exclusion of certain persons from participating in sports wagering; to provide for rules to exclude certain persons that threaten violence or harm against any person who is involved in a sporting event; to provide for terms and conditions; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 27:27.2 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§27.2. Board designated excluded persons

A. The board shall adopt rules to provide for the establishment of a list of persons who are to be excluded from any room, premises, or designated gaming area of any establishment where gaming is conducted pursuant to a license or contract issued pursuant to the provisions of this Title. The rules shall define the standards for exclusion and include standards relating to the following persons:

(1) Those who are career or professional offenders as defined by the rules of the board.

(2) Those who have been convicted of a criminal offense as specified by the

board.

(3)(a) Those whose presence in a gaming establishment operated by a licensee or the casino operator would be adverse to the interests of Louisiana or gaming operations. For purposes of this Paragraph, the following persons may be excluded:

(i) Persons suspected of cheating.

(ii) Persons whose gaming privileges, permits, or licenses have been suspended, revoked, or denied.

(iii) Persons who pose a threat to the safety of the patrons or employees of the casino operator or casino manager or any casino gaming licensee.

(iv) Persons with a documented history of conduct involving the disruption of the gaming operations in any jurisdiction.

(v) Persons subject to an order of a Louisiana court excluding such persons from any gaming establishment.

(vi) Persons with pending charges for a gaming or gambling crime or a crime related to the integrity of gaming operations.

(b) A person may not be excluded from a gaming establishment operated by a licensee or the casino operator for reasons based solely on the skill level of the person.

B. The board shall adopt rules to provide for the establishment of a list of persons who are to be excluded from or ejected from a retail sports book and from participating in the play or operation of mobile wagering pursuant to a license or contract issued pursuant to the provisions of this Title. The rules shall define the standards for exclusion or ejection and include standards relating to the following persons:

(1) Those persons excluded as provided in Subsection A of this Section.

(2) Those persons who, before, during, or after a sporting event, threaten violence or harm against any person who is involved in the sporting event, where the threat is related to sports gaming.

(3) Those persons whose presence in a retail sports book or whose participation in the play or operation of mobile wagering in this state is determined by the board to pose a threat to the interests of the state, to achieving the intents and purposes of this Title, or to the strict and effective regulation of sports wagering.

C. The board and the division shall have the authority to place persons on the excluded list. The board or division may not place a person on the list required by this Section due to the person's race, color, creed, national origin, sex, or disability, as defined in R.S. 51:2232.

D. Whenever the name and description of any person is placed on an excluded person's list pursuant to this Title, except at that person's request, the division shall serve notice of such fact to such person by either of the following:

(1) By personal service.

(2) By certified mail to the last known address of such person.

D-E. A person may petition the board for removal of his name from the list. The petitioner has the burden of proving he does not meet the criteria of ~~Paragraph (A)(1), (2), or (3)~~ **Subsection A** of this Section.

E-F. Any person who has been placed on the list of persons to be excluded or ejected from any gaming establishment pursuant to this Title may be imprisoned for up to six months or fined not more than five hundred dollars, or both if he thereafter enters or attempts to enter the premises of a gaming establishment without first having obtained a determination by the board that he should not have been placed on the list of persons to be excluded or ejected.

F-G. (1) The board may impose sanctions on a licensee, permittee, or casino gaming operator under this Title, if the licensee, permittee, or casino gaming operator willfully fails to exclude from the licensed gaming establishment a person placed on the exclusion list.

(2) The board may seek revocation or suspension of a license, permit, or casino operating contract if the licensee, permittee, or casino gaming operator engages in a pattern of willful failure to exclude from the licensed gaming establishment persons placed on the exclusion list.

G-H.(1) A person who is placed on the list is entitled to a hearing for review of the listing, unless otherwise agreed by the board or division and the named person, the hearing shall be held by the hearing officer in accordance with R.S. 27:25 not later than thirty days after the receipt of the petition.

(2) If upon completion of the hearing, the hearing officer determines that the rule does not or should not apply to the person listed, the division shall notify all licensees, casino gaming operator, and permittees of the determination.

H-I. The provisions of this Section shall not apply to persons licensed pursuant to the provisions of the Video Draw Poker Devices Control Law as provided in Chapter 8 of this Title.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 492

SENATE BILL NO. 330

BY SENATOR OWEN

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 32:47(A)(4) and to repeal 32:47(A)(5), relative to speed enforcement measures; to provide for pavement markings in school zones; to provide for school legends; to provide for compliance language with federal requirements; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
Section 1. R.S. 32:47(A)(4) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§47. Use of speed recording devices; restrictions
A. Automated speed enforcement devices or mobile speed cameras that are used to issue a citation of an alleged violation by mail shall only be used by local municipal authorities or local parish authorities in the following instances:

* * *

~~(4)(a) Upon the entrance to each school zone, there shall be painted a two-foot wide yellow stripe completely across the roadway with “Entering School Zone” painted in twelve inch white lettering visible therein. Upon entrance to any school zone equipped with automated speed enforcement devices, the word “SCHOOL” shall be proportionately striped across the lane adjacent to the S1-1 school sign and the lettering shall be white in color in accordance with the current edition of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. The word “SCHOOL” shall not be required on nonasphaltic, nonconcrete roads, or any roads determined unsuitable by the appropriate state agency.~~

~~(b) Pavement markings installed before August 1, 2026, on a roadway not in the state highway system and in compliance with R.S. 32:47(A)(4) and (5) as in effect before August 1, 2026, shall satisfy the pavement-marking requirements of Subparagraph (4)(a) of this Subsection until the roadway is resurfaced or the markings are otherwise replaced.~~

* * *

Section 2. R.S. 32:47(A)(5) is hereby repealed in its entirety.
Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.
A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 493

SENATE BILL NO. 331
BY SENATOR OWEN
AN ACT

To enact R.S. 56:1855(Q), relative to the Louisiana Scenic Rivers Act; to provide for natural and scenic rivers; to provide for exceptions; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
Section 1. R.S. 56:1855(Q) is hereby enacted to read as follows:
§1855. Exceptions

* * *

Q. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law to the contrary, beginning August 1, 2026, through August 1, 2031, no provision of this Part shall:

(1) Prohibit the channelization, clearing and snagging, channel realignment, or dredging operations for drainage purposes in the West Pearl River and its tributaries from Lock 1 to the Rigolets.

(2) Require a permit pursuant to R.S. 56:1849 for the channelization, clearing and snagging, channel realignment, or dredging operations for drainage purposes in the West Pearl River and its tributaries from Lock 1 to the Rigolets.

(3) Allow for any new commercial development or clustered residential development along a designated scenic river during the period and at the location authorized by this Subsection.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.
A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 494

SENATE BILL NO. 339
BY SENATOR REESE
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 15:587(C), R.S. 27:15(B)(1), and R.S. 47:9065(B) and to enact R.S. 4:147.3 and 705.1, R.S. 27:20.1, and R.S.47:9065(C) and (D), relative to background checks for entities associated with gaming; to provide for the authority to obtain criminal history record information; to provide for the duty to provide information; to provide for the authority and responsibilities of the Louisiana Gaming Control Board; to provide for criminal background investigations; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
Section 1. R.S. 4:147.3 and 705.1 are hereby enacted to read as follows:
§147.3. Authority to obtain criminal history record information

A. The legislature hereby finds and declares that it is vitally important to the public safety, interest, and welfare of the state to protect Louisiana residents and their residences, businesses, and other property, as well as visitors to the state, by reasonably regulating the licensing of persons participating in the horse racing industry in the state.

B. As used in this Section:
(1) “Bureau” means the Louisiana Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information of the office of state police within the Department of Public Safety and Corrections.

(2) “Commission” means the Louisiana State Racing Commission.
(3) “Criminal history record information” means all state records of arrest,

prosecution, and conviction, including those that have been expunged or dismissed pursuant to Code of Criminal Procedure Articles 893 and 894, and national records which include fingerprints of the applicant and other identifying information, if so requested by the commission.

(4) “FBI” means the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the United States Department of Justice.

(5) “Licensee” means any person, partnership, corporation, or business entity receiving a license, permit, or privilege from the commission to conduct a race meeting or meetings.

C.(1) Pursuant to this Section, the commission may request and obtain state and national criminal history record information from the bureau and the FBI regarding each applicant.

(2) Notwithstanding Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, the commission’s use of fingerprints shall be for the limited purpose of determining the eligibility of each applicant and conducting directly related matters in accordance with the suitability standards outlined in R.S. 4:150.

(3) The commission shall be entitled to the criminal history record and identification files of the bureau of any person who is licensed or who is applying to be licensed. Fingerprints and other identifying information of the applicant shall be submitted to the bureau, and the bureau shall, upon request of the commission and after receipt of the fingerprint card and other identifying information from the applicant, make available to the commission all arrest and conviction information contained in the bureau’s criminal history record and identification files. In addition, the fingerprints shall be forwarded by the bureau to the FBI for a national criminal history record check.

(4) In accordance with the authority provided for in this Chapter, the costs of providing the information required by this Section shall be charged by the bureau, as specified in R.S. 15:587, for furnishing information contained in the bureau’s criminal history record and identification files, including any additional costs of providing the national criminal history record check, which pertains to the individual. All costs or fees for furnishing the information may be imposed on the individual.

D. All criminal history record information obtained by the commission shall be available for review by the Louisiana Department of Justice as part of an application for a license. The authority of this agency directly related to the issuance of licenses is provided for in R.S. 4:146.

* * *

§705.1. Authority to obtain criminal history record information

A. The legislature hereby finds and declares that it is vitally important to the public safety, interest, and welfare of the state to protect Louisiana residents and their residences, businesses, and other property, as well as visitors to the state, by reasonably regulating the licensing of persons performing charitable gaming activity in the state.

B. As used in this Section:

(1) “Bureau” means the Louisiana Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information of the office of state police within the Department of Public Safety and Corrections.

(2) “Criminal history record information” means all state records of arrest, prosecution, and conviction, including those that have been expunged or dismissed pursuant to Code of Criminal Procedure Articles 893 and 894, and national records which include fingerprints of the applicant and other identifying information, if so requested by the office.

(3) “FBI” means the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the United States Department of Justice.

(4) “Licensee” means any person applying for a license with the office.

(5) “Office” means the Louisiana office of charitable gaming.

C.(1) Pursuant to this Section, the office may request and obtain state and national criminal history record information from the bureau and the FBI regarding each applicant.

(2) Notwithstanding Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, the office’s use of fingerprints shall be for the limited purpose of determining the eligibility of each applicant and conducting directly related matters in accordance with the suitability standards outlined in R.S. 4:704, 705, 708, and 718.

(3) The office shall be entitled to the criminal history record and identification files of the bureau of any person who is licensed or who is applying to be licensed. Fingerprints and other identifying information of the applicant shall be submitted to the bureau, and the bureau shall, upon request of the office and after receipt of the fingerprint card and other identifying information from the applicant, make available to the office all arrest and conviction information contained in the bureau’s criminal history record and identification files. In addition, the fingerprints shall be forwarded by the bureau to the FBI for a national criminal history record check.

(4) In accordance with the authority provided for in this Chapter, the costs of providing the information required by this Section shall be charged by the bureau, as specified in R.S. 15:587, for furnishing information contained in the bureau’s criminal history record and identification files, including any additional costs of providing the national criminal history record check, which pertains to the individual. All costs or fees for furnishing the information may be imposed on the individual.

D. All criminal history record information obtained by the office shall be available for review by the Louisiana Department of Justice as part of an application for a license. The authority of this agency directly related to the issuance of licenses is provided for in R.S. 4:736.

Section 2. R.S. 15:587(C) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:
§587. Duty to provide information; processing fees; Louisiana Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information

* * *

C.(1) ~~The bureau shall, upon request and after receipt of fingerprint cards or, either physically or electronically, or using other identifying information from the office of state police, make available to the state police gaming division, the Louisiana Gaming Control Board, the Louisiana Lottery Corporation, the office of charitable gaming, and the Louisiana State Racing Commission, survey information contained in the bureau's criminal history record and identification files, which pertains to an applicant or prospective employee of any of them. In addition, in order to determine an applicant's suitability for a gaming or employee license or permit under the provisions of law found in Titles 4, 9, 27, 40, and 47 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, for each applicant fingerprinted, the fingerprints and thereafter make a request of the Federal Bureau of Investigation for like information from other jurisdictions to search for criminal history records. The bureau shall make such information available to:~~

~~(a) The Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of state police, gaming enforcement division, for the purposes of determining employment suitability under the provisions as provided for in R.S. 27:20, 20.1, 28, 234, 235, and 427.~~

~~(b) The Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of state police, gaming enforcement division, for the purposes of licensing vendors or retailers, or for determining employment suitability at the request of the Louisiana Lottery Corporation under the provisions as provided for in R.S. 47:9065.~~

~~(c) The office of charitable gaming, for the purpose of determining suitability for licensing under the provisions as provided for in R.S. 4:704, 705, and 708.~~

~~(d) The Louisiana State Racing Commission, for the purpose of determining suitability for licensing under the provisions as provided for in R.S. 4:147.3 and 150.~~

~~(2) Each applicant shall be fingerprinted, and the fingerprints and any other identification information as may be required shall be forwarded to the bureau and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a state and national criminal history record check.~~

* * *

Section 3. R.S. 27:15(B)(1) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 27:20.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§15. Board's authority; responsibilities

* * *

B. The board shall:

(1)(a) Have all regulatory authority, control, and jurisdiction, including investigation, licensing, and enforcement, and all power incidental or necessary to such regulatory authority, control, and jurisdiction over all aspects of gaming activities and operations as authorized pursuant to the provisions of the Louisiana Riverboat Economic Development and Gaming Control Act, the Louisiana Economic Development and Gaming Corporation Act, the Video Draw Poker Devices Control Law, the Louisiana Fantasy Sports Contests Act, and the Louisiana Sports Wagering Act, except as otherwise specified in this Title. Further, the board shall have all regulatory, enforcement, and supervisory authority which exists in the state as to gaming on Indian lands as provided in the provisions of Act No. 888 of the 1990 Regular Session of the Legislature and Act No. 817 of the 1993 Regular Session of the Legislature.

~~(b) In exercising its authority, the board shall require every applicant for a license, permit, and any person required to be found suitable under this Title, to submit a full set of fingerprints to the division for the purpose of a fingerprint-based national criminal history record check. The division shall forward the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history check. The board and the division shall be the designated recipients of the results of the national criminal history record check.~~

* * *

§20.1. Authority to obtain criminal history record information

A. The legislature hereby finds and declares that it is vitally important to the public safety, interest, and welfare to this state to protect Louisiana residents and their residences, businesses, and other property, as well as visitors to the state, by reasonably regulating the permitting, licensing, or employment of persons performing gaming activity in the state.

B. As used in this Section:

(1) "Bureau" means the Louisiana Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information of the office of state police within the Department of Public Safety and Corrections.

(2) "Criminal history record information" means all state records of arrest, prosecution, and conviction, including those that have been expunged or dismissed pursuant to Code of Criminal Procedure Articles 893 and 894, and national records which include fingerprints of the applicant and other identifying information, if so requested by the board.

(3) "Division" means the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of state police, gaming enforcement division.

(4) "FBI" means the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the United States Department of Justice.

(5) "Permit" means any permit, license, or authorization, or associated application, issued pursuant to the provisions of this Title.

(6) "Permittee" means any person who is issued or applying for a permit pursuant to the provisions of this Title.

C.(1) Pursuant to this Section, the division may request and obtain state and national criminal history record information from the bureau and the FBI regarding each applicant.

(2) Notwithstanding Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, the division's use of

fingerprints shall be for the limited purpose of determining the eligibility of each applicant and conducting directly related matters in accordance with the suitability standards outlined in R.S. 27:28, 234, 235, 306, 427, and 604.

(3) The division shall be entitled to the criminal history record and identification files of the bureau of any person who is permitted, licensed, or employed, or who is applying to be permitted, licensed, or employed. Fingerprints and other identifying information of the applicant shall be submitted to the bureau, and the bureau shall, upon request of the board and after receipt of the fingerprint card and other identifying information from the applicant, make available to the division all arrest and conviction information contained in the bureau's criminal history record and identification files. In addition, the fingerprints shall be forwarded by the bureau to the FBI for a national criminal history record check.

(4) In accordance with the authority provided for in this Chapter, the costs of providing the information required by this Section shall be charged by the bureau, as specified in R.S. 15:587, for furnishing information contained in the bureau's criminal history record and identification files, including any additional costs of providing the national criminal history record check, which pertains to the individual. All costs or fees for furnishing the information may be imposed on the individual.

D. All criminal history record information obtained by the division shall be available for review by the board and the Louisiana Department of Justice as part of an application for a license, permit, or employment. The authority of this agency directly related to the issuance of licenses or permits is provided for in R.S. 27:15 and 19.

E.(1) Criminal history record information shall be considered confidential information under R.S. 27:21, and the board, its members, its employees, and any agent authorized to act on behalf of the board shall use the criminal history record information exclusively to evaluate the applicant's eligibility or disqualification.

Section 4. R.S. 47:9065(B) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 47:9065(C) and (D) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§9065. Criminal background investigations; duties of corporation or its security division

* * *

B. The gaming enforcement division shall submit the names of applicants for licensure as vendors or retailers and potential employees to the Louisiana Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information of the office of state police within the Department of Public Safety and Corrections for criminal background checks pursuant to R.S. 15:587. Upon the gaming enforcement division's submission of a licensing applicant's fingerprints and such other identifying information as may be required, the Louisiana Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information shall survey its criminal history records and identification files and make a simultaneous request to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for similar information from other jurisdictions to search for criminal history records. The Louisiana Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information may charge the corporation or the applicant a reasonable processing fee for conducting and reporting on any such search.

C. The gaming enforcement division may share the results of the criminal history record information with the Louisiana Lottery Corporation, as they are a related agency and shall use the information to determine eligibility in accordance with the provisions of R.S.15:587 and Subsection D of this Section.

D. The corporation or its division of security shall:

(1) Conduct criminal background investigations and credit investigations on all potential retailers and investigate all potential employees of the corporation not referred to in Subsection A of this Section or not investigated by the office of state police.

(2) Supervise ticket validation and lottery drawings.

(3) Inspect at times determined solely by the division the facilities of any vendor in order to determine the integrity of the vendor's product and in order to determine whether the vendor is in compliance with its contract.

(4) Report any suspected violations of this Subtitle to the appropriate district attorney, or the attorney general and law enforcement agencies.

(5) Upon request, provide assistance to any district attorney, the attorney general, or law enforcement agency investigating a violation of this Subtitle.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 495

SENATE BILL NO. 345

BY SENATOR BARROW AND REPRESENTATIVES

CHASSION AND KNOX

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 15:933.2, relative to the office of juvenile justice; to provide for an annual report to the legislature; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 15:933.2 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§933.2. Office of juvenile justice; annual report to the legislature

The secretary of the office of juvenile justice shall submit an annual report on or before February first of each year to the Senate Committee on Judiciary B, the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, and the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library pursuant to R.S. 24:771 and 772. The

report shall, at a minimum, include the following information:
(1) Prevention and intervention programs available to juveniles, including school and community-based programs.
(2) Development of diversion programs with expanded eligibility.
(3) For juveniles in the custody of the office of juvenile justice, access to educational resources and physical and mental health resources, including but not limited to assessments and treatment.
(4)(a) The number of juveniles in the custody of the office of juvenile justice delineated by age of juvenile and facility.
(b) The number of complaints received by the office of juvenile justice from a juvenile in the custody of the office or his family delineated by type of complaint and facility.
(c) The number of investigations conducted due to a reported complaint delineated by status of investigation, resolution, and facility.
(d) The number of lawsuits delineated by case number and status.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.
A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 496

SENATE BILL NO. 346
BY SENATOR BARROW AND REPRESENTATIVES CHASSION,
FREIBERG, TERRY LANDRY, MARTINEZ, SCHLEGEL AND TAYLOR
AN ACT
To enact R.S. 17:416.14.1, relative to elementary and secondary schools; to prohibit the use of deepfake material against students; to provide for a definition; to provide for rulemaking authority; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
Section 1. R.S.17:416.14.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:
§416.14.1. Deepfake material; prohibition
A. No student, faculty member, member of the administrative staff, or other employee at an elementary or secondary school shall use material considered to be a deepfake against a student enrolled in kindergarten through grade twelve, with the intent to coerce, harass, intimidate, or maliciously disseminate or sell the material.
B. For the purposes of this Section, “deepfake” means any audio or visual media in an electronic format, including any motion picture film or video recording, that is created, altered, or digitally manipulated in a manner that would falsely appear to a reasonable observer to be an authentic record of the actual speech or conduct of the individual or that replaces an individual’s likeness with another individual as depicted in the recording. “Deepfake” does not include any material that constitutes a work of political, public interest, or newsworthy value, including commentary, criticism, satire, or parody, or that includes content, context, or a clear disclosure visible throughout the duration of the recording that would cause a reasonable person to understand that the audio or visual media is not a record of a real event.

C. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, in collaboration with the state Department of Education, shall develop and adopt rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Section.
Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.
A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 497

SENATE BILL NO. 347
BY SENATOR BARROW AND REPRESENTATIVES FREIBERG, TERRY
LANDRY, MARTINEZ, SCHLEGEL AND TAYLOR
AN ACT
To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3399.12(5) and 3399.16(A), (B), and (C), relative to the Campus Accountability and Safety Act; to provide for definitions; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
Section 1. R.S. 17:3399.12(5) and 3399.16(A), (B), and (C) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:
§3399.12. Definitions
As used in this Part, the following terms have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:
* * *

(5) “Power-based violence” means any form of interpersonal ~~violence~~ **conduct** intended to control, ~~coerce, harm, exploit~~ or intimidate another person **on the basis of sex** through the assertion of power ~~or authority~~ over the person and **which** shall include the following:
(a) Dating violence (R.S. 46:2151).
(b) **Any conduct prohibited by R.S. 14:73.13 or 73.14, or any successor statute, involving media generated by artificial intelligence or deepfake media depicting sexual imagery.**
(~~b~~)(c) Domestic abuse and family violence (R.S. 46:2121.1 and 2132). For the purposes of this Part, domestic abuse shall also include any act or threat to act that is intended to coerce, control, punish, intimidate, or exact revenge on

the other party, for the purpose of preventing the victim from reporting to law enforcement or requesting medical assistance or emergency victim services, or for the purpose of depriving the victim of the means or ability to resist the abuse or escape the relationship.
(~~e~~)(d) Nonconsensual observation of another person’s sexuality without the other person’s consent, including voyeurism (R.S. 14:283.1), video voyeurism (R.S. 14:283), nonconsensual disclosure of a private image (R.S. 14:283.2), and peeping tom activities (R.S. 14:284).
(~~a~~)(e) Sexual assault (R.S. 14:41, 42 through 43.5, 89, 89.1, and 106).
(~~e~~)(f) “Sexual exploitation” which means an act attempted or committed by a person for sexual gratification, financial gain, or other advancement through the abuse of another person’s sexuality including prostituting another person (R.S. 14:46.2 and 82 through 86).
(~~a~~)(g) “Sexual harassment” which means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, physical, or inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature when the conduct explicitly or implicitly affects an individual’s employment or education, unreasonably interferes with an individual’s work or educational performance, or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work or educational environment and has no legitimate relationship to the subject matter of a course or academic research.
(~~a~~)(h) Stalking (R.S. 14:40.2) and cyberstalking (R.S. 14:40.3).
(~~a~~)(i) Unlawful communications (R.S. 14:285(**A**)(1) and (4)).
(~~a~~)(j) Unwelcome sexual or sex- or gender-based conduct that is objectively offensive, has a discriminatory intent, and lacks a bona fide academic purpose.
* * *

§3399.16. Safety education; recognition and reporting of potential threats to safety
A. Not later than the beginning of the fall semester of ~~2022~~ **2026**, the administration of each institution, ~~in consultation with campus or local law enforcement agencies~~, shall develop and distribute, **not less than four times per academic year through in-person or online delivery or both**, information to students regarding power-based violence, campus safety, and internet and cell phone safety and online content that is a potential threat to school safety.
B. The information shall include the following:
(1) ~~Instruction on how to identify and the identification, prevent prevention, dangers, and prohibition of~~ power-based violence and how to detect potential threats to school safety exhibited online, including on any social media platform.
(2) How to report incidents of power-based violence, crimes on campus, violations of the student code of conduct, and possible threats to campus safety.
(3) Where to find reports regarding campus safety.
(4) **The information required in this Subsection shall be updated in consultation with campus or local law enforcement.**
C.(1) The information shall be distributed as part of new student orientation and shall be posted on an easily accessible page of each institution’s website.
(2) **If the student receiving the information required by Subsections B and C of this Section is a minor, the information shall also be provided to his parent or legal guardian.**
* * *

Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.
Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.
A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 498

SENATE BILL NO. 359
BY SENATOR JACKSON-ANDREWS
AN ACT
To enact R.S. 46:1053(GG), relative to hospital service districts; to provide for terms of office for certain hospital service district commissioners; and to provide for related matters.
Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
Section 1. R.S. 46:1053(GG) is hereby enacted to read as follows:
§1053. Commission; qualification of members; appointment; vacancies; compensation; removal of commissioners; certain powers
* * *

GG. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, at the expiration of the terms of office of the commissioners serving on August 1, 2026, of a hospital service district in a parish having a population in excess of twenty-five thousand but not more than twenty-six thousand persons based on the latest federal decennial census, the successors shall be appointed for a term of four years in the same manner as the predecessor appointees were selected, and no commissioner shall serve for more than two consecutive four year terms.
Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.
A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 499

SENATE BILL NO. 374
BY SENATOR CATHEY
AN ACT

To enact Chapter 51 of Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 33:9731, relative to statewide college economic development districts; to provide relative to cooperative economic development in and around universities in the state; to provide for the creation of special taxing districts; to provide relative to promulgation of rules and regulations by the district; to provide for the governance and powers and duties of the district, including the authority to levy taxes and special assessments; to authorize the district to incur debt and to pledge tax increments repayment thereof; to provide relative to sales and use tax increment; to provide for terms and definitions; to provide for procedure and requirements; to provide for term of existence of the district; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Chapter 51 of Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 33:9731, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

CHAPTER 51. STATEWIDE COLLEGE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURE

§9731. College economic development district; statewide; implementation procedure

A.(1) It is the intention of the legislature to establish a uniform procedure for the creation of college economic development districts for any college or university in Louisiana, with the consent of the appropriate local governing authority. For purposes of this Section, the “appropriate local governing authority” means the governing authority of the municipality, if the subdivision or subdivisions are located within a municipality, or the governing authority of the parish if the subdivision or subdivisions are not located within a municipality.

(2) A college economic development district, created pursuant to this Section, shall include property owned by the college or institution creating the district to provide for cooperative economic and community development among the college, the local governmental subdivision, the state, and the owners of property in the district. The terms “college economic development district” or “district” hereafter refer to a district created pursuant to this Section. Any college economic development district is a political subdivision of the state having all of the rights, powers, privileges, and immunities afforded by law and the Constitution of Louisiana to political subdivisions of the state, subject to the limitations provided for in this Section.

B. A college economic and development district, created pursuant to this Section, shall be created upon the adoption of an ordinance by the appropriate local governing authority.

C.(1) Any district created pursuant to this Section shall be a body politic and corporate and shall be known by the name provided for in the ordinance creating the district, hereinafter referred in this Section as the “district”. The district shall be a political subdivision of the state as defined in the Constitution of Louisiana.

(2) The boundaries of a district shall be coterminous with the boundaries of one or more subdivisions within a parish as established in an official subdivision plat filed with the clerk of court for the parish and shall not include any residential property.

D.(1) A college economic development district shall be administered and governed by a board of commissioners, referred to in this Section as the “board”.

(2) The board shall be comprised as follows:

(a) The highest executive officer of the college shall appoint four persons and shall serve as a member of the board and chairman of the board as long as he is the highest executive officer of the university.

(b) Two of the members of the board shall be representatives from businesses within the district.

(c) The president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives shall jointly appoint one member of the legislature to serve on the board.

(3) Members shall serve five-year terms after initial terms as provided by the ordinance creating the district. The president shall serve as long as he is president of the university. Two members shall serve an initial term of two years, and two members shall serve an initial term of three years, as determined by lot at the first meeting of the board. Each member of the board shall continue to serve until reappointed or a successor is duly appointed. Any vacancy in the membership of the board shall be filled in the manner of the original appointment for the unexpired term. If an appointment to fill a vacancy is not made within sixty days, the board shall appoint an interim successor to serve until the position is filled by the appointing authority.

(4) Any member of the board may be removed by a three-fourths vote of the remaining membership of the board for cause, which may include failure to attend at least one-half of the meetings of the board in a two-year period.

(5) The members of the board shall serve without salary or per diem. The board may reimburse any member for reasonable, actual, and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of his duties pursuant to this Section.

(6) The board shall elect from its members a president, a vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer, whose duties shall be those common to these offices. At the option of the board, the offices of secretary and treasurer may be held by one person.

(7) The board shall meet in regular session at least once per year and shall

also meet in special session as often as the president of the board convenes the board or upon the written request of at least three members. A majority of the members of the board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The board shall keep minutes of all meetings and shall make them available for inspection through the board’s secretary or secretary-treasurer, who shall also maintain the minute books and archives of the district. The monies, funds, and accounts of the district shall be in the official custody of the board.

(8) The domicile of the board shall be established by the board at a location within the district. The official journal of the district is the official journal of the parish where the domicile of the board is located.

E. A college economic development district, acting by and through its board, shall have and exercise all powers of a political subdivision necessary or convenient for the carrying out of its objects and purposes, including but not limited to the following:

(1) To sue and to be sued.

(2) To adopt, use, and alter at will a corporate seal.

(3) To acquire by gift, grant, or purchase all property, including rights-of-way, movable, immovable, or mixed, corporeal or incorporeal, or any interest therein.

(4) To enter into contracts for the purchase, acquisition, construction, and improvement of works and facilities necessary in connection with the purposes of the district.

(5) In the name of and on behalf of the district, to incur debt and to issue revenue bonds, special assessment bonds, certificates, notes, and other evidences of indebtedness and to levy and cause to be collected certain taxes as provided for in this Section and as may be provided by general law.

(6) To regulate the imposition of fees and rentals charged by the district for the facilities and services rendered.

(7) To borrow money and pledge all or part of its revenues, leases, rents, or other advantages as security for the loans.

(8) To appoint officers, agents, and employees, prescribe duties, and fix compensation.

(9) To develop public improvement projects for the benefit of the respective college, either directly with the respective college or through one or more private foundations or nonprofit corporations affiliated with the respective college, or both.

(10) To exercise any and all of the powers granted to a college economic development district as an economic development district established pursuant to Part II of Chapter 27 of this Title, including but not limited to the powers of tax increment financing pursuant to R.S. 33:9038.33 and 9038.34 and the power to levy taxes within the district pursuant to R.S. 33:9038.39. The district shall exercise the powers in accordance with the provisions of Part II of Chapter 27 of this Title.

(11) To exercise any and all of the powers granted to a community development district as a community development district established pursuant to Chapter 27-B of this Title, including but not limited to the power to levy special assessments on property within the district pursuant to R.S. 33:9039.29. The district shall exercise the powers in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 27-B of this Title.

E.(1) It is expressly provided that any sales and use tax levied by a college economic development district or any subdistrict created by the district may exceed the limitation set forth by Article VI, Section 29(A) of the Constitution of Louisiana and shall be imposed, collected, and enforced subject to the terms of the resolution imposing the tax and the provisions of Chapter 2 of Subtitle II of Title 47 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950.

(2)(a) A college economic development district and any subdistrict created by the district may levy taxes or assessments of any type only after the board has adopted an appropriate resolution giving notice of its intention to levy the taxes or assessments. The resolution shall include a general description of the taxes or assessments to be levied. The district or subdistrict shall give notice of its intention by publication once per week for two weeks in the official journal of the district, the first publication to appear at least fourteen days before the public meeting of the board at which the board shall hear any objections to the proposed taxes or assessments. The notice of intent so published shall state the date, time, and place of the public hearing.

(b) The taxes or assessments may be levied only after the board calls a special election submitting the proposition for the levy of the taxes or assessments to the qualified electors of the district or subdistrict, as applicable, and the proposition received the favorable vote of a majority of the electors voting in the election. Any election held pursuant to this Section shall be conducted in accordance with the Louisiana Election Code and held on a date that corresponds with an election date provided by R.S. 18:402(A)(1) or (B)(1). However, if there are no qualified electors in the district or subdistrict, as applicable, as certified by the registrar of voters, no election is required, but the taxes or assessments shall not be levied unless approved by the governing authority of the local governmental subdivision.

(c) The powers and rights conferred by this Paragraph shall be in addition to the powers and rights conferred by any other general or special law. This Paragraph shall be construed to provide a complete and additional method for the levy of any taxes or assessments. No election, proceeding, notice, or approval shall be required for the levy of the taxes or assessments except as provided for in this Paragraph.

G.(1) A college economic development district may create subdistricts as provided for in this Subsection. The district shall publish notice of its intent to create a subdistrict in the official journal of the district. At least ten days after publication of the notice, the board shall conduct a public hearing on the question of creating the subdistrict. Thereafter, the board may designate

one or more areas within the boundaries of the district as subdistricts of the district. Each subdistrict shall constitute a political subdivision of the state and shall be governed by the board. Each subdistrict shall have the same powers as the district and shall be given a suitable name as the board may designate. A reference to the district hereafter in this Section includes any subdistrict created by the district.

(2) The boundaries of a district may be changed in accordance with provisions of this Section dealing with the establishment of the original boundaries. If a district is expanded to include an area where qualified electors reside, no tax shall be collected in the added area unless the qualified electors of that added area approve the tax in accordance with Subparagraph (F)(2)(b) of this Section.

H.(1) The district may issue and sell from time to time bonds, notes, renewal notes, refunding bonds, interim certificates, certificates of indebtedness, certificates of participation, debentures, warrants, commercial paper, or other obligations or evidence of indebtedness to provide funds for and to fulfill and achieve its public purpose or corporate purposes, as set forth in this Section, including but not limited to the payment of all or a portion of the costs of a project, to provide amounts necessary for any corporate purposes, including necessary and incidental expenses in connection with the issuance of the obligations, the payment of principal and interest on the obligations of the district, the establishment of reserves to secure the obligations, and all other purposes and expenditures of the district incident to and necessary or convenient to carry out its public functions or corporate purposes, and any credit enhancement for the obligations.

(2) Except as may otherwise be provided by the board, all obligations issued by the district shall be negotiable instruments and payable solely from the revenues of the district as determined by the board, or from any other source that may be available to the district but shall not be secured by the full faith and credit of the state or the local governmental subdivision.

(3) The obligations shall be authorized, issued, and sold by a resolution or resolutions of the board. The bonds or obligations may be of the series; bear the date or dates; mature at the time or times; bear interest at the rate or rates, including variable, adjustable, or zero interest rates; be payable at the time or times; be in the denominations; be sold at the price or prices, at public or private negotiated sale, after advertisement as is provided for in R.S. 39:1426; be in the form; carry the registration and exchangeability privileges; be payable at the place or places; be subject to the terms of redemption; and be entitled to the priorities on the income, revenue, and receipts of, or available to, the district as may be provided by the board in the resolution or resolutions providing for the issuance and sale of the bonds or obligations of the district.

(4) The obligations of the district shall be signed by the officers of the board by either manual or facsimile signatures as shall be determined by resolution or resolutions of the board and may have impressed or imprinted thereon the seal of the district or a facsimile thereof.

(5) Any obligations of the district may be validly issued, sold, and delivered, notwithstanding that one or more of the officers of the board signing the obligations, or whose facsimile signature or signatures may be on the obligation shall have ceased to be the officer of the board at the time the obligations have been actually delivered.

(6) Obligations of the district may be sold in the manner and from time to time as may be determined by the board to be most beneficial, subject to approval of the State Bond Commission, and the district may pay all expenses, premiums, fees, or commissions which it may deem necessary or advantageous in connection with the issuance and sale thereof.

(7) The board may authorize the establishment of a fund or funds for the creation of a debt service reserve, a renewal and replacement reserve, or other funds or reserves as the board may approve with respect to the financing and operation of any project funded with the proceeds of the bonds and as may be authorized by any bond resolution, trust agreement, indenture of trust, or similar instrument or agreement pursuant to the provisions of which the issuance of bonds or other obligations of the district or subdistrict may be authorized.

(8) Any cost, obligation, or expense incurred for any of the purposes or powers of the district specified in this Subsection shall be a part of the project costs and may be paid or reimbursed as such out of the proceeds of bonds or other obligations issued by the district; however, no portion of any state sales taxes made directly available to the district pursuant to an agreement with the state shall be used by the district to pay the costs of constructing or operating any privately owned hotel located within the district without the consent of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget or its successor.

(9) For a period of thirty days from the date of publication of the resolution authorizing the issuance of bonds hereunder, any persons in interest shall have the right to contest the legality of the resolution and the legality of the bond issue for any cause, after which time no one shall have any cause or right of action to contest the legality of the resolution or of the bonds authorized thereby for any cause whatsoever. If no suit, action, or proceeding has begun contesting the validity of the bond issue within thirty days, the authority to issue the bonds and to provide for the payment thereof and the legality thereof and all of the provisions of the resolution authorizing the issuance of the bonds, shall be conclusively presumed, and no court shall have authority to inquire into the matters.

(10) Neither the members of the board nor any person executing the bonds shall be personally liable for the bonds or be subject to any personal liability by reason of the issuance thereof. No earnings or assets of the district shall accrue to the benefit of any private persons. However, the limitation of liability provided for in this Paragraph shall not apply to any gross negligence or criminal negligence on the part of any member of the board or person executing

the bonds.

(11) All obligations authorized to be issued by the district pursuant to the provisions of this Subsection, together with interest thereof, income therefrom, and gain upon the sale thereof shall be exempt from all state and local taxes.

(12) The state and all public officers; any parish, municipality, or other subdivision or instrumentality of the state; any political subdivision; any bank, banker, trust company, savings bank and institution, building and loan association, savings and loan association, investment company, or any person carrying on a banking or investment business; any insurance company or business, insurance association, and any person carrying on an insurance business; and any executor, administrator, curator, trustee, and other fiduciary; and any retirement system or pension fund may legally invest any sinking funds, monies, or other funds belonging to them or within their control in any bonds or other obligations issued by the district pursuant to the provisions of this Subsection, and the bonds or other obligations shall be authorized security for all public deposits. It is the purpose of this Section to authorize the persons, firms, corporations, associations, political subdivisions and officers, or other entities, public or private, to use any funds owned or controlled by them, including but not limited to sinking, insurance, investment, retirement, compensation, pension, and trust funds, and funds held on deposit, for the purchase of any bonds or other obligations of the district or subdistrict, and that the bonds shall be authorized security for all public deposits. However, nothing contained in this Section with regard to legal investments or security for public deposits shall be construed as relieving any person, firm, corporation, or other entity from any duty of exercising reasonable care in selecting securities.

I.(1) Notwithstanding any provision of this Section, a college economic development district and any subdistrict created by the district shall not levy or assess any property tax or fee on any property within the district or subdistrict that is owned, used, or operated by an exempt entity as defined in this Subsection, and no exempt entity shall be subject to any sales or use tax levied or assessed by a district or subdistrict. An exempt entity shall be issued a certificate of exclusion from the district or subdistrict certifying that the entity is engaged in industrial activities as defined in this Subsection and excluded from a sales or use tax levied by the district or subdistrict. The district or subdistrict shall adopt rules and regulations for the implementation and issuance of certificates of exclusion.

(2) For purposes of this Subsection, “exempt entity” means any entity engaged or any entity contractually affiliated with any entity engaged in industrial activities within a district or subdistrict.

(3) For purposes of this Subsection, “industrial activities” means manufacturing, refining, fabricating, constructing, assembling, processing, treating, power generation, storage or wholesale distribution of products, commodity, goods, materials, or articles, or procurement or service providers for these activities, including by way of illustration but without limitation:

(a) The processing of raw materials or substances.

(b) The making, manufacturing, or assembling of semi-finished or finished goods, products, or equipment.

(c) The cleaning, servicing, repairing, or testing of materials, goods, and equipment normally associated with industrial businesses or cleaning, servicing, and repair operations to goods and equipment, where the operations have impacts that would make them incompatible in nonindustrial property or areas.

(d) The storage or transshipping of materials, products, goods, and equipment.

(e) The distribution and sale of materials, products, goods, and equipment to institutions or industrial and commercial businesses for their direct use or to stores for resale to individual customers.

(f) The training of personnel in general industrial operations.

J.(1) Each college economic development district and any subdistrict created by the college district may be the recipient of a sales or use tax increment which consists of that portion of the designated incremental sales or use tax collected each year on the sale at retail, the use, the lease or rental, the consumption and storage for use or consumption of tangible personal property, and on sales of services, all as defined in R.S. 47:301 et seq., or any other appropriate provision or provisions of law as amended.

(2) The sales or use tax increment may include hotel occupancy taxes, occupancy taxes, or similar taxes, or any combination of these taxes, levied upon the use or occupancy of hotel rooms if so designated by the governing authority of the district as the tax recipient entity, from taxpayers located within a college economic development district and subdistrict which exceeds the designated sales or use tax revenues and hotel occupancy taxes, occupancy taxes, or similar taxes so designated that were collected in the year immediately prior to the year in which the college economic development district and any subdistrict was established.

K. A college economic development district shall dissolve and cease to exist upon the later to occur of either one year after the date on which all loans, bonds, notes, and other evidences of indebtedness of the district, including refunding bonds, are paid in full as to both principal and interest or fifty years from the creation of the district.

L. This Section, being necessary for the welfare of the state, the parish, and its residents, shall be liberally construed to effect the purposes thereof.

Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.
A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 500

SENATE BILL NO. 375
BY SENATOR MIZELL
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 40:1615(A)(4) and to enact R.S. 40:1615(A)(5) and (6), relative to fire fighting foam; to provide for Class B fire fighting foam containing fluorinated organic chemicals; to provide for definitions; and to provide for related matters.
Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
Section 1. R.S. 40:1615(A)(4) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 40:1615(A)(5) and (6) are hereby enacted to read as follows:
§1615. Class B fire fighting foam containing fluorinated organic chemicals;
definitions; use restrictions
A. As used in this Part, the following terms have the meaning ascribed to them in this Section, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

* * *

- (4) “Testing” means ~~calibration testing, conformance testing, or fixed system testing the evaluation of fire fighting equipment, systems, or foam concentrates for operability, performance verification, calibration, conformance to manufacturer specifications, or regulatory compliance including but not limited to discharge testing of fixed fire suppression systems, mobile apparatus testing, proportioning system calibrations, and system acceptance testing.~~ **“Testing” does not include emergency fire fighting operations.**
(5) **“Training” means instruction, drills, exercises, demonstrations, or other activities conducted to familiarize personnel with the deployment, handling, storage, mixing, proportioning, or application of fire fighting foam, including live fire exercises and simulated fire response scenarios. “Training” does not include emergency fire fighting operations.**
(6) **“Emergency fire fighting operation” includes any response to a Class B fire.**

* * *

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.
A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 501

SENATE BILL NO. 385
BY SENATOR HARRIS
AN ACT

To amend and reenact Section 1 of Act No. 130 of the 1896 Regular Session of the Legislature, as amended by Act No. 395 of the 2006 Regular Session of the Legislature, Act No. 257 of the 2020 Regular Session of the Legislature, and Act No. 613 of the 2024 Regular Session of the Legislature, and Sections 1 through 8 of Act No. 569 of the 1989 Regular Session of the Legislature, as amended by Act No. 13 of the 1998 First Extraordinary Session of the Legislature, Act No. 395 of the 2006 Regular Session of the Legislature, and Act No. 613 of the 2024 Regular Session of the Legislature, relative to the New Orleans City Park Police; to provide for the authority, duties, commissioning, and training of the New Orleans City Park Police; to provide for the administration of the New Orleans City Park Police; to provide for approval of the board of commissioners of the New Orleans City Park Improvement Association; to provide for board membership; to provide for obligations of the board; to provide for matters related to insurance for City Park; and to provide for related matters.
Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published.
Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
Section 1. Section 1 of Act No. 130 of the 1896 Regular Session of the Legislature, as amended by Act No. 395 of the 2006 Regular Session of the Legislature, Act No. 257 of the 2020 Regular Session of the Legislature, and Act No. 613 of the 2024 Regular Session of the Legislature is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:
Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Louisiana, That:
(A) The park in the City of New Orleans known as the “New Orleans City Park” be and is hereby placed under control and management of the “New Orleans City Park Improvement Association” incorporated under the laws of the State, by an act before Felix J. Dreyfous, Notary Public, on the 13th day of August, 1891.
(B) The secretary of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism shall be a member of the board of commissioners of the New Orleans City Park Improvement Association. The secretary may designate a person to serve as a member of the board of commissioners in his absence.
(C) The president of the Senate, or his designee, shall be a member of the board of commissioners of the New Orleans City Park Improvement Association for a term concurrent with his elected term.
(D) The speaker of the House of Representatives, or his designee, shall

be a member of the board of commissioners of the New Orleans City Park Improvement Association for a term concurrent with his elected term.
(E) The senator, **or his designee**, for the district in which New Orleans City Park lies shall be a member of the board of commissioners of the New Orleans City Park Improvement Association for a term concurrent with his elected term.
(F) The member of the House of Representatives, **or his designee**, for the district in which New Orleans City Park lies shall be a member of the board of commissioners of the New Orleans City Park Improvement Association for a term concurrent with his elected term.
(G) Members of the board of commissioners of the New Orleans City Park Improvement Association pursuant to Subsections (C), (D), (E), and (F) of this Section shall also serve as members of the governing authority of any nonprofit or not-for-profit firm, corporation, or entity that the New Orleans City Park Improvement Association contracts with for the operation, care, control, and management of the park and its facilities.
Section 2. Sections 1 through 8 of Act No. 569 of the 1989 Regular Session of the Legislature, as amended by Act No. 13 of the 1998 First Extraordinary Session of the Legislature, Act No. 395 of the 2006 Regular Session of the Legislature, and Act No. 613 of the 2024 Regular Session of the Legislature, is amended and reenacted to read as follows:
Section 1. A.(1) The New Orleans City Park Improvement Association, through its board of commissioners, is hereby vested with authority to and may contract with any nonprofit or not-for-profit firm, corporation, or entity, as more specifically provided in Section 2 of this Act, for the operation, care, control, and management of the park and its facilities or to contract with any such entity for any of such purposes for any or all of such facilities.
(2) The authority granted by this Section shall include but shall not be limited to the authority to contract for:
(a) The recruiting, hiring, and employing by the contractor of such kinds and numbers of non-managerial employees to be managed, supervised, directed, and/or scheduled by the board or its designee as the board or its designee may direct from time to time.
(b) The procurement by the contractor for the park or the board of such goods and/or services as the board or its designee may direct from time to time.
(3)(a) Any firm, corporation, or entity with which the board contracts as authorized by this Section shall be deemed to be a private entity and shall not be deemed to be an agent or agency of the state for purposes of provisions of law relative to procurement of goods and services, leases of facilities, or subcontracts to manage facilities or services, including but not limited to the Louisiana Procurement Code (R.S. 39:1551 et seq.); Chapter 17 of Title 39 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, relative to procurement of professional, personal, consulting, and social services; Chapter 10 of Title 38 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, relative to public contracts; and Chapter 10 of Title 41 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, relative to leases of public lands. Any such firm, corporation, or entity with which the board so contracts may be named as an additional insured on all general liability, property, automobile, employment practices liability, and workers’ compensation insurance plans that insure the New Orleans City Park Improvement Association, including participation in the state risk management program.
(b) Notwithstanding any provision of this Section or of any other law to the contrary, no contract to manage services or facilities related to golf or tennis shall be entered into by the board or by any entity contracting with the board unless the contractor with whom the board or such entity contracts has been selected pursuant to a request for proposals designed to promote competition, and the proposals have been evaluated by a multimember selection committee.
B. The board is prohibited from entering into any contract under the provisions of this Act which is for a purpose not in conformity with the master plan for New Orleans City Park required by the provisions of Act No. 865 of the 1982 Regular Session of the Legislature or which is otherwise not in conformity with such master plan.
C. Any agreement that the board may enter into in accordance with this Act may be a contract, lease, or combination contract and lease.
D. The board shall in its sole discretion determine the terms, conditions, and duration of any contract or lease entered into under the provisions of this Act. Any contract or lease entered into by the board under the provisions of this Act shall contain a provision in such contract or lease that the contract or lease may be terminated by the board, with or without just cause, upon written notification to all parties in the contract or lease, which notification shall be given not less than ninety days prior to the termination.
Section 2. Only a firm, corporation, or entity that is organized under the laws of the state of Louisiana shall be eligible to contract with the board under the provisions of this Act, and only a firm, corporation, or entity that is organized as a nonprofit or not-for-profit firm, corporation, or entity and which has as its primary purpose the betterment and improvement of New Orleans City Park and has at least five hundred members shall be eligible to contract with the board under the provisions of this Act.
Section 3. This Act shall be construed to grant the board the authority to contract in a cooperative endeavor for the operation, care, control, and management of the park and its facilities, including any or all facilities located in the park on the effective date of this Act and any future facilities located in the park. This authority shall extend to all lands and property for which management and control has been vested in the New Orleans City Park Improvement Association.

Section 4. The board shall have the right to assign any existing contracts that it may have on the effective date of this Act to any contracting party under the provisions of this Act. Contracts regarding Tad Gormley Stadium, the Pan-American Stadium, or any other stadium constructed in the future, if assigned, shall be assigned under the same terms and conditions existing on June 1, 1989.

Section 5. The board shall have full authority to delegate to the nonprofit entity its ability or authority to collect any rents, charges, admissions, or fares it may be empowered to collect.

Section 6. Any contractor shall have the full authority to hire its own employees to provide services under a contract authorized by this Act, including but not limited to any services formerly provided by the employees of the New Orleans City Park Improvement Association or its board.

Section 7. Any contract entered into under the provisions of this Act shall be deemed to be a cooperative endeavor under the provisions of Article VII, Section 14(C) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

Section 8. Nothing in this Act No. 569 of the 1989 Regular Session of the Legislature, as amended by Act No. 13 of the 1998 First Extraordinary Session of the Legislature and Section 2 of the Act which originated as House Bill No. 744 of the 2006 Regular Session of the Legislature, shall be construed to affect or diminish, in any manner whatsoever, the rights, powers, and authority otherwise granted by law to the New Orleans City Park Improvement Association and its board of commissioners to manage and control New Orleans City Park, and the authority granted to the New Orleans City Park Improvement Association and its board by this Act shall be in addition to any rights, powers, and authority otherwise granted to the association or the board by law. The provisions of this Act shall be subject to the provisions of R.S. 36:209 relative to the transfer of the New Orleans City Park Improvement Association and its board of commissioners to the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 502

SENATE BILL NO. 386

BY SENATORS CONNICK, BARROW, HENRY, JACKSON-ANDREWS,
JENKINS, LUNEAU, MILLER, PRICE, SELTERS, STINE AND WOMACK
AND REPRESENTATIVE CHASSION
AN ACT

To enact Chapter 20-B of Title 51 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 51:1780.1 through 1780.5, relative to consumer data privacy; creates the Louisiana Data Privacy Act; to provide for limitations and restrictions of the use of certain data; to provide for duties of a controller and processor; to provide for consumer rights regarding personal data; to provide for applicability and exemptions; to provide for public notice; to provide for definitions and terms; to provide for enforcement; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Chapter 20-B of Title 51 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 51:1780.1 through 1780.5, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

CHAPTER 20-B. LOUISIANA DATA PRIVACY ACT

§1780.1. Definitions

As used in this Chapter, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) “Affiliate” means a legal entity that controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with another legal entity or shares common branding with another legal entity. For purposes of this Paragraph, “control” or “controlled” means any of the following:

(a) The ownership of, or power to vote, more than fifty percent of the outstanding shares of any class of voting security of a company.

(b) The control in any manner over the election of a majority of the directors or of individuals exercising similar functions.

(c) The power to exercise controlling influence over the management of a company.

(2) “Authenticate” means to verify through reasonable means that the consumer who is entitled to exercise the consumer’s rights pursuant to R.S. 51:1780.3 is the same consumer exercising those consumer rights with respect to the personal data at issue.

(3) “Biometric data” means data generated by automatic measurements of an individual’s biological characteristics that are used to identify a specific individual. The term includes a fingerprint, voiceprint, eye retina or iris scan, or other unique biological pattern or characteristic when such data is used to identify the specific individual. The term does not include a physical or digital photograph or data generated from a physical or digital photograph or a video or audio recording or data generated from a video or audio recording, unless such data is generated to identify a specific individual. The term does not include information collected, used, or stored for health care treatment, payment, or operations under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, 42 U.S.C. 1320d et seq.

(4) “Business associate” has the same meaning assigned to the term by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, 45 CFR Part 160.103.

(5) “Child” means an individual younger than thirteen years of age.

(6) “Consent” when referring to a consumer means a clear affirmative act signifying a consumer’s freely given, specific, informed, and unambiguous agreement to process personal data relating to the consumer. The term includes a written statement, including a statement written by electronic means, or any other unambiguous affirmative action. The term does not include any of the following:

(a) Acceptance in a general or broad terms of use or similar document that contains descriptions of personal data processing along with other, unrelated information.

(b) Hovering over, muting, pausing, or closing a given piece of content.

(c) Agreement obtained through the use of dark patterns.

(7) “Consumer” means an individual who is a resident of this state acting only in an individual or household context. The term does not include an individual acting in a commercial or employment context.

(8) “Controller” means an individual or other person that, alone or jointly with others, determines the purpose and means of processing personal data.

(9) “Covered entity” has the meaning assigned to the term by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, 42 U.S.C. 1320d et seq.

(10) “Dark pattern” means a user interface designed or manipulated with the effect of substantially subverting or impairing user autonomy, decision-making, or choice, and includes any practice the Federal Trade Commission refers to as a dark pattern.

(11) “Decision that produces a legal or similarly significant effect concerning a consumer” means a decision made by the controller that results in the provision or denial by the controller of any of the following:

(a) Financial and lending services.

(b) Housing, insurance, or healthcare services.

(c) Education enrollment.

(d) Employment opportunities.

(e) Criminal justice.

(f) Access to basic necessities, such as food and water.

(12) “Deidentified data” means data that cannot reasonably be used to infer information about, or otherwise be linked to an identified or identifiable individual, or a device linked to that individual, if the controller or processor that possesses such data does all of the following:

(a) Takes reasonable measures to ensure that such data cannot be associated with an individual.

(b) Publicly commits to process such data only in a deidentified fashion and attempt to reidentify such data.

(c) Contractually obligates any recipients of such data to satisfy the criteria set forth in Subparagraphs (a) and (b) of this Paragraph.

(13) “Healthcare provider” has the meaning assigned to the term by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, 42 U.S.C. 1320d et seq.

(14) “Health record” means any written, printed, or electronically recorded material maintained by a healthcare provider in the course of providing healthcare services to an individual that concerns the individual and the services provided. The term includes either one of the following items:

(a) The substance of any communication made by an individual to a healthcare provider in confidence during or in connection with the provision of healthcare services.

(b) Information otherwise acquired by the healthcare provider about an individual in confidence and in connection with healthcare services provided to the individual.

(15) “Identified or identifiable individual” means a consumer who can be readily identified, directly or indirectly.

(16) “Institution of higher education” means either one of the following items:

(a) An institution of higher education as defined by law.

(b) A private or independent institution of higher education as defined by law.

(17) “Known child” means a child under circumstances where a controller has actual knowledge of, or willfully disregards, the child’s age.

(18) “Nonprofit organization” means any of the following:

(a) A corporation organized under the provisions of Chapter 2 of Title 12 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to the extent applicable to nonprofit corporations.

(b) An organization exempt from federal taxation under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended by being listed as an exempt organization under Sections 501(c)(3), 501(c)(6), 501(c)(12), or 501(c)(19) of that Code.

(c) A political organization.

(d) An organization that is exempt from federal taxation under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended by being listed as an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(4) of that Code.

(19) “Personal data” means any information, including sensitive data, that is linked or reasonably linkable to an identified or identifiable individual. The term does not include deidentified data or publicly available information.

(20) “Political organization” means a party, committee, association, fund, or other organization, regardless of whether incorporated, that is organized and operated primarily for the purpose of influencing or attempting to influence either of the following:

(a) The selection, nomination, election, or appointment of an individual to a federal, state, or local public office or an office in a political organization, regardless of whether the individual is selected, nominated, elected, or appointed.

(b) The election of a presidential/vice-presidential elector, regardless of whether the elector is selected, nominated, elected, or appointed.

(c) The outcome of any ballot measure, referendum, initiative, or recall election at the federal, state, or local level.

(d) Any political, legislative, or public policy matter, including public opinion relating thereto.

(21) “Precise geolocation data” means information derived from technology, including global positioning system level latitude and longitude coordinates or other mechanisms, that directly identifies the specific location of an individual with precision and accuracy within a radius of one thousand seven hundred fifty feet. The term does not include the content of communications, or any data generated by or connected to an advanced utility metering infrastructure system or to equipment for use by a utility.

(22) “Process” or “processing” means an operation or set of operations performed, whether by manual or automated means, on personal data or on sets of personal data, such as the collection, use, storage, disclosure, analysis, deletion, or modification of personal data.

(23) “Processor” means a person that processes personal data on behalf of a controller.

(24) “Profiling” means any form of solely automated processing performed on personal data to evaluate, analyze, or predict personal aspects related to an identified or identifiable individual’s economic situation, health, personal preferences, interests, reliability, behavior, location, or movements.

(25) “Protected health information” has the meaning assigned to the term by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, 42 U.S.C. 1320d et seq.

(26) “Pseudonymous data” means any information that cannot be attributed to a specific individual without the use of additional information, provided that the additional information is kept separately and is subject to appropriate technical and organizational measures to ensure that the personal data is not attributed to an identified or identifiable individual.

(27) “Publicly available information” means information that is lawfully made available through government records, or information that a business has a reasonable basis to believe is lawfully made available to the general public through widely distributed media, by a consumer, or by a person to whom a consumer has disclosed the information, unless the consumer has restricted the information to a specific audience.

(28) “Sale of personal data” means the exchange of personal data for monetary or other valuable consideration by the controller to a third party. The term does not include any of the following:

(a) The disclosure of personal data to a processor that processes the personal data on the controller’s behalf.

(b) The disclosure of personal data to a third party for purposes of providing a product or service requested by the consumer.

(c) The disclosure or transfer of personal data to an affiliate of the controller.

(d) The disclosure of information that the consumer intentionally made available to the general public through a mass media channel and did not restrict to a specific audience.

(e) The disclosure of personal data directed by a consumer or made when the consumer uses the controller to interact with a third party.

(f) The disclosure or transfer of personal data to a third party as an asset that is part of a merger, acquisition, or similar activity, or a proposed merger, acquisition, or similar activity.

(29) “Sensitive data” means a category of personal data. The term includes any of the following:

(a) Personal data revealing racial or ethnic origin, religious beliefs, mental or physical health diagnosis, sexuality, or citizenship or immigration status.

(b) Genetic or biometric data that is processed for the purpose of uniquely identifying an individual.

(c) Personal data collected from a known child.

(d) Precise geolocation data.

(30) “State agency” means a department, commission, board, office, council, authority, or other agency in any branch of state government that is created by the constitution or a statute of this state, including a university system or institution of higher education as defined by law.

(31) “Targeted advertising” means displaying to a consumer an advertisement that is selected based on personal data obtained or inferred from that consumer’s activities over time and across nonaffiliated websites or online applications to predict the consumer’s preferences or interests. The term does not include an advertisement that is:

(a) Based on activities within a controller’s own websites or online applications.

(b) Based on the context of a consumer’s current search query, visit to a website, or online application.

(c) Directed to a consumer in response to the consumer’s request for information or feedback.

(d) The processing of personal data solely for measuring or reporting advertising performance, reach, or frequency.

(32) “Third party” means a person, other than the consumer, the controller, the processor, or an affiliate of the controller or processor.

(33) “Trade secret” means all forms and types of information, including business, scientific, technical, economic, or engineering information, and any formula, design, prototype, pattern, plan, compilation, program device, program, code, device, method, technique, process, procedure, financial data, or list of actual or potential customers or suppliers, whether tangible or intangible and whether or how stored, compiled, or memorialized physically, electronically, graphically, photographically, or in writing if:

(a) The owner of the trade secret has taken reasonable measures under the circumstances to keep the information secret.

(b) The information derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable through proper means by, another person who can obtain economic value from the disclosure or use of the information.

§1780.2. Applicability; preemption

A. The provisions of this Chapter shall apply only to a person or entity that does business in the state and that satisfies one or more of the following thresholds:

(1) Has annual gross revenues in excess of twenty-five million dollars.

(2) Annually buys, receives for the business’s commercial purposes, sells, or shares for commercial purposes the personal information of seventy-five thousand or more consumers, households, or devices.

(3) Derives fifty percent or more of its annual revenues from selling consumers’ personal information.

B. The provisions of this Chapter do not apply to any of the following items:

(1) A state agency or a political subdivision of this state.

(2) A financial institution and its affiliates or data subject to Title V, Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, 15 U.S.C. 6801 et seq., and the rules and implementing regulations promulgated thereunder.

(3) A covered entity or business associate governed by the privacy, security, and breach notification rules issued by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, 45 CFR Parts 160 and 164, established under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, 42 U.S.C. 1320d et seq.

(4) A nonprofit organization.

(5) An institution of higher education.

(6) An electric public utility as defined in R.S. 45:121.

(7) A person, association, partnership, or corporation registered with the secretary of state as a conductor of public opinion polls pursuant to R.S. 14:325.

C. The following information is exempt from this Chapter:

(1) Protected health information under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, 42 U.S.C. 1320d et seq.

(2) Health records.

(3) Patient identifying information for purposes of 42 U.S.C. 290dd-2.

(4) Identifiable private information:

(a) For purposes of the federal policy for the protection of human subjects under 45 CFR Part 46.

(b) Collected as part of human subjects research under the good clinical practice guidelines issued by The International Council for Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Pharmaceuticals for Human Use, otherwise known as ICH, or of the protection of human subjects under 21 CFR Parts 50 and 56.

(c) That is personal data used or shared in research conducted in accordance with the requirements set forth in this Chapter or other research conducted in accordance with applicable law.

(5) Information and documents created for purposes of the Health Care Quality Improvement Act of 1986, 42 U.S.C. 11101 et seq.

(6) Patient safety work product for purposes of the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act of 2005, 42 U.S.C. 299b-21 et seq.

(7) Information derived from any of the healthcare-related information listed in this Section that is deidentified in accordance with the requirements for deidentification under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, 42 U.S.C. 1320d et seq.

(8) Information originating from, and intermingled to be indistinguishable with, or information treated in the same manner as, information exempt under this Section that is maintained by a covered entity or business associate as defined by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, 42 U.S.C. 1320d et seq., or by a program or a qualified service organization as defined by 42 U.S.C. 290dd-2.

(9) Information that is included in a limited data set as described by 45 CFR 164.514(e), to the extent that the information is used, disclosed, and maintained in the manner specified by 45 CFR 164.514(e).

(10) Information collected or used only for public health activities and purposes as authorized by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, 42 U.S.C. 1320d et seq.

(11) The collection, maintenance, disclosure, sale, communication, or use of any personal information bearing on a consumer’s creditworthiness, credit standing, credit capacity, character, general reputation, personal characteristics, or mode of living by a consumer reporting agency or furnisher that provides information for use in a consumer report, and by a user of a consumer report, but only to the extent that the activity is regulated by and authorized under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.

(12) Personal data collected, processed, sold, or disclosed in compliance with the Driver’s Privacy Protection Act of 1994, 18 U.S.C. 2721 et seq.

(13) Personal data regulated by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, 20 U.S.C. 1232g.

(14) Personal data collected, processed, sold, or disclosed in compliance with the Farm Credit Act of 1971, 12 U.S.C. 2001 et seq.

(15) Data processed or maintained in the course of an individual applying to, being employed by, or acting as an agent or independent contractor of a controller, processor, or third party, to the extent that the data is collected and used within the context of that role.

(16) Data processed or maintained as the emergency contact information of an individual under this Chapter that is used for emergency contact purposes.

(17) Data that is processed or maintained and is necessary to retain to administer benefits for another individual that relates to an individual described by R.S. 51:1780.1(15) and used for the purposes of administering those benefits.

D. The provisions of this Chapter shall not apply to the processing of personal data by a person in the course of a purely personal or household activity.

E. A controller or processor that complies with the verifiable parental consent requirements of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998, 15 U.S.C. 6501 et seq., and its rules, regulations, and exemptions with respect to data collected online is considered to be in compliance with any requirement to obtain parental consent under this Chapter.

§1780.3. Consumer rights; requests; appeals

A.(1) A consumer is entitled to exercise the consumer rights authorized by this Section at any time by submitting a request to a controller specifying the consumer rights the consumer wishes to exercise. With respect to the processing of personal data belonging to a known child, a parent or legal guardian of the child may exercise the consumer rights on behalf of the child.

(2) A controller shall comply with an authenticated consumer request to exercise the right to do any of the following:

(a) Confirm whether a controller is processing the consumer's personal data and to access the personal data.

(b) Correct inaccuracies in the consumer's personal data, taking into account the nature of the personal data and the purposes of the processing of the consumer's personal data.

(c) Delete personal data provided by or obtained about the consumer.

(d) If the data is available in a digital format, obtain a copy of the consumer's personal data that the consumer previously provided to the controller in a portable and, to the extent technically feasible, readily usable format that allows the consumer to transmit the data to another controller without hindrance.

(e) Opt out of the processing of the personal data for purposes of:

(i) Targeted advertising.

(ii) The sale of personal data.

(iii) Profiling in furtherance of a decision that produces a legal or similarly significant effect concerning the consumer.

(3) Nothing in this Section shall require the controller to reveal a trade secret.

B.(1) Except as otherwise provided by this Chapter, a controller shall comply with a request submitted by a consumer to exercise the consumer's rights pursuant to Paragraph (A)(1) of this Section.

(2) A controller shall respond to the consumer request without undue delay, which may not be later than the forty-fifth calendar day after the date of receipt of the request. The controller may extend the response period once by an additional forty-five days when reasonably necessary, taking into account the complexity and number of the consumer's requests, so long as the controller informs the consumer of the extension within the initial forty-five day response period, together with the reason for the extension.

(3) If a controller declines to take action regarding the consumer's request, the controller shall inform the consumer without undue delay, which may not be later than the forty-fifth calendar day after the date of receipt of the request, of the justification for declining to take action and provide instructions on how to appeal the decision in accordance with Subsection C of this Section.

(4) A controller shall provide information in response to a consumer request free of charge, up to twice annually per consumer. If a request from a consumer is manifestly unfounded, excessive, or repetitive, the controller may charge the consumer a reasonable fee to cover the administrative costs of complying with the request or may decline to act on the request. The controller bears the burden of demonstrating for purposes of this Subsection that a request is manifestly unfounded, excessive, or repetitive.

(5) If a controller is unable to authenticate the request using commercially reasonable efforts, the controller is not required to comply with a consumer request submitted pursuant to Subsection A of this Section and may request that the consumer provide additional information reasonably necessary to authenticate the consumer and the consumer's request.

(6) A controller that has obtained personal data about a consumer from a source other than the consumer is considered in compliance with a consumer's request to delete that personal data pursuant to Subparagraph (A)(2)(c) of this Section by either of the following:

(a) Retaining a record of the deletion request and the minimum data necessary for the purpose of ensuring the consumer's personal data remains deleted from the business's records and not using the retained data for any other purpose under this Chapter.

(b) Opting the consumer out of the processing of that personal data for any purpose other than a purpose that is exempt under the provisions of this Chapter.

C.(1) A controller shall establish a process for a consumer to appeal the controller's refusal to take action on a request within a reasonable period of time after the consumer's receipt of the decisions pursuant to Paragraph (B)(3) of this Section.

(2) The appeal process shall be conspicuously available and similar to the process for initiating action to exercise consumer rights by submitting a request pursuant to Subsection A of this Section.

(3) A controller shall inform the consumer in writing of any action taken or not taken in response to an appeal under this Section not later than the sixtieth calendar day after the date of receipt of the appeal, including a written explanation of the reason or reasons for the decision.

(4) If the controller denies an appeal, the controller shall provide the consumer with the online mechanism described by R.S. 51:1780.5(B)(2) through which the consumer may contact the attorney general to submit a complaint.

D. Any provision of a contract or agreement that waives or limits in any way a consumer right described in this Section is contrary to public policy and is void and unenforceable.

E.(1) A controller shall establish two or more secure and reliable methods to enable consumers to submit a request to exercise their consumer rights under this Chapter. The methods shall take into account all of the following:

(a) The ways in which consumers normally interact with the controller.

(b) The necessity for secure and reliable communications of those requests.

(c) The ability of the controller to authenticate the identity of the consumer making the request.

(2) A controller may not require a consumer to create a new account to exercise the consumer's rights under this Chapter but may require a consumer to use an existing account.

(3) Except as provided by R.S. 51:1780.1(28)(d), if the controller maintains a website, the controller shall provide a mechanism on the website for consumers to submit requests for information required to be disclosed under this Chapter.

(4) A controller that operates exclusively online and has a direct relationship with a consumer from whom the controller collects personal information is only required to provide an email address for the submission of requests described by Subparagraph(1)(c) of this Subsection.

(5) A consumer may designate another person to serve as the consumer's authorized agent and act on the consumer's behalf to opt out of the processing of the consumer's personal data pursuant to Items (A)(2)(e)(i) and (ii) of this Section.

A consumer may designate an authorized agent using a technology, including a link to a website, an internet browser setting or extension, or a global setting on an electronic device, that allows the consumer to indicate the consumer's intent to opt out of the processing for targeted advertising, for sale of personal data, or both. A controller shall comply with an opt-out request received from an authorized agent under this Subsection if the controller is able to verify, with commercially reasonable effort, the identity of the consumer and the authorized agent's authority to act on the consumer's behalf. A controller is not required to comply with an opt-out request received from an authorized agent under this Subsection if any one of the following applies:

(a) The authorized agent does not communicate the request to the controller in a clear and unambiguous manner.

(b) The controller is not able to verify, with commercially reasonable effort, that the consumer is a resident of this state.

(c) The controller does not possess the ability to process the request.

(d) The controller does not process similar or identical requests the controller receives from consumers for the purpose of complying with similar or identical laws or regulations of another state.

(6) The technology described by this Subsection:

(a) Shall not unfairly disadvantage another controller.

(b) May not make use of a default setting, but shall require the consumer to make an affirmative, freely given, and unambiguous choice to indicate the consumer's intent to opt out of any processing of a consumer's personal data.

(c) Shall be consumer-friendly and easy to use by the average consumer.

§1780.4. Duties

A.(1) A controller:

(a) Shall limit the collection of personal data to what is adequate, relevant, and reasonably necessary in relation to the purposes for which that personal data is processed, as disclosed to the consumer.

(b) For purposes of protecting the confidentiality, integrity, and accessibility of personal data, shall establish, implement, and maintain reasonable administrative, technical, and physical data security practices that are appropriate to the volume and nature of the personal data at issue.

(2) A controller shall not:

(a) Except as otherwise provided by this Chapter, process personal data for a purpose that is neither reasonably necessary to nor compatible with the disclosed purpose for which the personal data is processed, as disclosed to the consumer, unless the controller obtains the consumer's consent.

(b) Process personal data in violation of state and federal laws that prohibit unlawful discrimination against consumers.

(c) Discriminate against a consumer for exercising any of the consumer rights contained in this Chapter, including by denying goods or services, charging different prices or rates for goods or services, or providing a different level of quality of goods or services to the consumer.

(d) Process the sensitive data of a consumer without obtaining the consumer's consent, or, in the case of processing the sensitive data of a known child, without processing that data in accordance with the rules, regulations, and the exceptions of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998, 15 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.

(3) This Subsection may not be construed to require a controller to provide a product or service that requires the personal data of a consumer that the controller does not collect or maintain or to prohibit a controller from offering a different price, rate, level, quality, or selection of goods or services to a consumer, including offering goods or services for no fee, if the consumer has exercised the consumer's right to opt out pursuant to R.S. 51:1780.3(A) or the offer is related to a consumer's voluntary participation in a bona fide loyalty, rewards, premium features, discounts, or club card program.

B.(1) A controller shall provide consumers with a reasonably accessible and clear privacy notice that includes all of the following:

(a) The categories of personal data processed by the controller, including, if applicable, any sensitive data processed by the controller.

(b) The purpose for processing personal data.

(c) A process on how consumers may exercise their consumer rights pursuant to R.S. 51:1780.3, including the process by which a consumer may appeal a controller's decision with regard to the consumer's request.

(d) If applicable, the categories of personal data that the controller sells to third parties.

(e) If applicable, the categories of third parties with whom the controller sells personal data.

(f) A description of the methods required pursuant to R.S. 51:1780.3(E) through which consumers can submit requests to exercise their consumer rights under this Chapter.

(2) If a controller engages in the sale of personal data that is sensitive, the controller shall post the following notice in the same manner as the privacy notice described in Subsection B of this Section:

“NOTICE: We may sell your sensitive personal data.”

(3) If a controller engages in the sale of personal data that is biometric data, the controller shall post the following notice in the same manner as the privacy notice described in Subsection B of this Section:

“NOTICE: We may sell your biometric personal data.”

C. If a controller sells personal data to third parties or processes personal data for targeted advertising, the controller shall clearly and conspicuously disclose that process and the manner in which a consumer may exercise the right to opt out of that process.

D.(1) A processor shall adhere to the instructions of a controller and shall assist the controller in meeting or complying with the controller's duties or requirements under this Chapter, including:

(a) Taking into account the nature of processing and the information available to the processor, by using appropriate technical and organizational measures, insofar as this is reasonably practicable, to fulfill the controller's obligation to respond to consumer rights requests submitted pursuant to R.S. 51:1780.3(A).

(b) Taking into account the nature of processing and the information available to the processor, by assisting the controller in meeting the controller's obligations in relation to the security of processing personal data, and in relation to the notification of a breach of security of the processor's system pursuant to R.S. 51:3071 et seq.

(c) Providing necessary information to enable the controller to conduct and document data protection assessments under Subsection E of this Section.

(2) A contract between a controller and a processor shall govern the processor's data processing procedures with respect to processing performed on behalf of the controller. The contract shall include all of the following:

(a) Clear instructions for processing data.

(b) The nature and purpose of processing.

(c) The type of data subject to processing.

(d) The duration of processing.

(e) The rights and obligations of both parties.

(f) A requirement that the processor shall do all of the following:

(i) Ensure that each person processing personal data is subject to a duty of confidentiality with respect to the data.

(ii) At the controller's direction, delete or return all personal data to the controller as requested after the provision of the service is completed, unless retention of the personal data is required by law.

(iii) Make available to the controller, on reasonable request, all information in the processor's possession necessary to demonstrate the processor's compliance with the requirements of this Chapter.

(iv) Allow, and cooperate with, reasonable assessments by the controller or the controller's designated assessor.

(v) Engage any subcontractor pursuant to a written contract that requires the subcontractor to meet the requirements of the processor with respect to the personal data.

(3) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Chapter, a processor, in the alternative, may arrange for a qualified and independent assessor to conduct an assessment of the processor's policies and technical and organizational measures in support of the requirements under this Chapter using an appropriate and accepted control standard or framework and assessment procedure. The processor shall provide a report of the assessment to the controller on request.

(4) This Section shall not be construed to relieve a controller or a processor from the liabilities imposed on the controller or processor by virtue of its role in the processing relationship as described by this Chapter.

(5) A determination of whether a person is acting as a controller or processor with respect to a specific processing of data is a fact-based determination that depends on the context in which personal data is to be processed. A processor that continues to adhere to a controller's instructions with respect to a specific processing of personal data remains in the role of a processor.

E.(1) A controller shall conduct and document a data protection assessment of each of the following processing activities involving personal data:

(a) The processing of personal data for purposes of targeted advertising.

(b) The sale of personal data.

(c) The processing of personal data for purposes of profiling, if the profiling presents a reasonably foreseeable risk of any of the following:

(i) Unfair or deceptive treatment of or unlawful disparate impact on consumers.

(ii) Financial, physical, or reputational injury to consumers.

(iii) A physical or other intrusion on the solitude or seclusion, or the private affairs or concerns, of consumers, if the intrusion would be offensive to a reasonable person.

(iv) Other substantial injury to consumers.

(d) The processing of sensitive data.

(e) Any processing activities involving personal data that present a heightened risk of harm to consumers.

(2) A data protection assessment conducted pursuant to Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall do both of the following:

(a) Identify and weigh the direct or indirect benefits that may flow from the processing to the controller, the consumer, other stakeholders, and the public, against the potential risks to the rights of the consumer associated with that processing, as mitigated by safeguards that can be employed by the controller

to reduce the risks.

(b) Factor into the assessment all of the following:

(i) The use of deidentified data.

(ii) The reasonable expectations of consumers.

(iii) The context of the processing.

(iv) The relationship between the controller and the consumer whose personal data will be processed.

(3) A controller shall make a data protection assessment requested pursuant to R.S. 51:1780.5(C)(2) available to the attorney general pursuant to a civil investigative demand pursuant to R.S. 51:1780.5(C).

(4) A data protection assessment is confidential and exempt from public inspection and copying pursuant to this Section. Disclosure of a data protection assessment in compliance with a request from the attorney general does not constitute a waiver of attorney-client privilege or work product protection with respect to the assessment and any information contained in the assessment.

(5) A single data protection assessment may address a comparable set of processing operations that include similar activities.

(6) A data protection assessment conducted by a controller for the purpose of compliance with other laws or regulations may constitute compliance with the requirements of this Section if the assessment has a reasonably comparable scope and effect.

(7) Data protection assessments are required for processing activities as of January 1, 2027, and are not retroactive.

F.(1) A controller in possession of deidentified data shall do all of the following:

(a) Take reasonable measures to ensure that the data cannot be associated with an individual.

(b) Publicly commit to maintaining and using deidentified data without attempting to reidentify the data.

(c) Contractually obligate any recipient of the deidentified data to comply with the provisions of this Chapter.

(2) This Chapter shall not be construed to require a controller or processor to do any of the following:

(a) Reidentify deidentified data or pseudonymous data.

(b) Maintain data in identifiable form or obtain, retain, or access any data or technology for the purpose of allowing the controller or processor to associate a consumer request with personal data.

(c) Comply with an authenticated consumer rights request under R.S. 51:1780.3(A), if the controller is all of the following:

(i) Is not reasonably capable of associating the request with the personal data or it would be unreasonably burdensome for the controller to associate the request with the personal data.

(ii) Does not use the personal data to recognize or respond to the specific consumer who is the subject of the personal data or associate the personal data with other personal data about the same specific consumer.

(iii) Does not sell the personal data to any third party or otherwise voluntarily disclose the personal data to any third party other than a processor, except as otherwise permitted by this Section.

G. This Section shall not prevent a controller or processor's ability to prevent, detect, protect against or respond to security incidents, identity theft, fraud, harassment, malicious or deceptive activity, or illegal activity; preserve the integrity or security of systems; or investigate, report, or prosecute those responsible for such actions.

H. This Chapter shall not be construed to limit a controller or processor's ability to do any of the following:

(1) Comply with federal, state, or local laws, rules, or regulations.

(2) Comply with a civil, criminal, or regulatory inquiry, investigation, subpoena, or summons by federal, state, local, or other governmental authorities.

(3) Investigate, establish, exercise, prepare for, or defend legal claims.

(4) Provide a product or service specifically requested by a consumer or the parent or guardian of a child, perform a contract to which the consumer is a party, including fulfilling the terms of a written warranty, or taking steps at the request of the consumer before entering into a contract.

(5) Take immediate steps to protect against an interest that is essential for the life or physical safety of the consumer or of another individual and in which the processing cannot be manifestly based on another legal basis.

(6) Engage in public or peer-reviewed scientific or statistical research in the public interest that adheres to all other applicable ethics and privacy laws and is approved, monitored, and governed by an institutional review board or similarly independent oversight entity that determines all of the following has occurred:

(a) If the deletion of the information is likely to provide benefits that do not exclusively accrue to the controller.

(b) Whether the expected benefits of the research outweigh the privacy risks.

(c) If the controller has implemented reasonable safeguards to mitigate privacy risks associated with research, including any risks associated with reidentification.

(7) Assist another controller, processor, or third party with any of the requirements pursuant to this Subsection.

(8) Cooperate with law enforcement agencies concerning conduct or activity that the controller or processor reasonably and in good faith believes may violate federal, state, or local laws, rules, or regulations.

I. The obligations imposed on controllers or processors pursuant to this Chapter shall not restrict a controller's or processor's ability to collect, use, or retain data for internal use to do any of the following:

(1) Conduct internal research to develop, improve, or repair products, service, or technology.

(2) Effectuate a product recall.
(3) Identify and repair technical errors that impair existing or intended functionality.

(4) Perform internal operations that are reasonably aligned with the expectations of the consumer or reasonably anticipated based on the consumer's existing relationship with the controller, or are otherwise compatible with processing data in furtherance of the provisions of a product or service specifically requested by a consumer or the performance of a contract to which the consumer is a party.

J. The obligations imposed on controllers or processors pursuant to this Chapter shall not apply where compliance by the controller or processor with said Sections would violate an evidentiary privilege pursuant to the laws of this state. Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to prevent a controller or processor from providing personal data concerning a consumer to a person covered by an evidentiary privilege pursuant to the laws of the state as part of a privileged communication.

K. Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to impose any obligation on a controller or processor that adversely affects the rights or freedoms of any person, including but not limited to the rights of any person to freedom of speech or freedom of the press guaranteed in the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

L.(1) Personal data processed by a controller pursuant to this Section may be processed to the extent that such processing is both of the following:

(a) Reasonably necessary and proportionate to the purposes listed in this Section.

(b) Adequate, relevant, and limited to what is necessary in relation to the specific purposes listed in this Section.

(2) Personal data collected, used, or retained pursuant to Subsection I of this Section shall, where applicable, take into account the nature and purpose or purposes of such collection, use, or retention. Such data shall be subject to reasonable administrative, technical, and physical measures to protect the confidentiality, integrity, and accessibility of the personal data and to reduce reasonably foreseeable risks of harm to consumers relating to such collection, use, or retention of personal data.

M. If a controller processes personal data pursuant to an exemption in this Section, the controller bears the burden of demonstrating that such processing qualifies for the exemption and complies with the requirements in Subsection L of this Section.

N. Processing personal data for the purposes expressly identified in Subsections G through I of this Section shall not solely make a legal entity a controller with respect to such processing.

O.(1) The consumer rights pursuant to R.S. 51:1780.3(A)(2)(a) through (e) and controller duties pursuant to this Section do not apply to pseudonymous data in cases in which the controller is able to demonstrate any information necessary to identify the consumer is kept separately and is subject to effective technical and organizational controls that prevent the controller from accessing the information.

(2) A controller that discloses pseudonymous data or deidentified data shall exercise reasonable oversight to monitor compliance with any contractual commitments to which the pseudonymous data or deidentified data is subject and shall take appropriate steps to address any breach of the contractual commitments.

P.(1) A person or entity described by R.S. 51:1780.2(A)(3) may not engage in the sale of personal data that is sensitive data without receiving prior consent from the consumer.

(2) A person who violates this Section is subject to the penalty under R.S. 51:1780.5.

§1780.5. Enforcement

A. The attorney general shall enforce the provisions of this Chapter.

B. The attorney general shall post on his website, information relating to the responsibilities of a controller and a processor and consumer rights pursuant to this Chapter.

C. Any violation of the provisions of this Chapter shall constitute an unfair and deceptive trade practice pursuant to the Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law, R.S. 51:1401 et seq., excluding private rights of action as provided in R.S. 51:1409 and 1409.1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, any monies received related to the attorney general's enforcement of this Chapter shall be used by the attorney general for consumer protection efforts or to promote consumer protection and education.

D. Beginning January 1, 2027, and ending July 31, 2027, before bringing an action pursuant to this Section, the attorney general shall notify a person in writing, not later than the thirtieth calendar day before initiating an investigation, identifying the specific provisions of this Chapter the attorney general alleges is being violated. The attorney general shall not initiate an investigation against the person if the person does all of the following:

(1) Cures the alleged violation identified by the attorney general within the thirty-day period.

(2) Provides the attorney general with a written statement that the person cured the alleged violation.

(3) Submits supportive documentation to the attorney general to show how the privacy violation was cured.

(4) Changes are made to the internal policy, if necessary, to ensure that no such further violations occur.

Section 2. This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2027.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 503

SENATE BILL NO. 393
BY SENATOR OWEN
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 40:1472.2(4), (9.1), and (18), 1472.3(E)(3)(b), and 1472.9(A) and to enact R.S. 40:1472.2(7.1), relative to the regulation of explosives; to provide for definitions; to provide for licensing; to provide for civil penalties; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 40:1472.2(4), (9.1), and (18), 1472.3(E)(3)(b), and 1472.9(A) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 40:1472.2(7.1) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§1472.2. Definitions

The following words used in this Part shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them in this Section, including singular as follows:

* * *

(4) “Blaster” shall mean a person employed by a primary licensee who detonates or otherwise effects the explosion of an explosive or **a person employed by a primary licensee** who is in immediate personal charge and supervision of one or more other persons engaged in such activity **directly manages, supervises, or directs the activities of one or more persons employed by the same licensee who detonates or otherwise effects the explosion of an explosive by intentionally causing an explosion of an explosive to occur.**

* * *

(7.1) “Explosives business” shall mean any corporation, company, association, firm, partnership, society, or joint stock company which engages in the manufacturing, distributing, buying, selling, or consumption of explosives and explosives materials.

* * *

(9.1) “Handler” shall mean a person who touches, moves, or otherwise handles **transports** explosives but does not detonate or otherwise **nor** effect the explosion of explosives or explosives materials **by intentionally causing an explosion of an explosive to occur.** The license issued to a handler shall not be used by a blaster or user who uses explosives as **an ultimate consumer the final end consumer of the explosive.**

* * *

(18) “Person” means any individual; **or employee or member of a** corporation, company, association, firm, partnership, society, or joint stock company **that acquires, sells, possesses, stores, engages in the use of, or transports explosives in this state.**

* * *

§1472.3. License; manufacturer, dealer-distributor, user, blaster, or handler of explosives

* * *

E.

* * *

(3)

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(b) The department shall execute a thorough background investigation, including a criminal history records check, of every applicant for the purpose of verifying or renewing the qualifications of the applicant **for explosives licensing** pursuant to the requirements of this Section. For purposes of this Subparagraph, a background check shall be defined as **a fingerprint-based check** of all state **and national** records of arrest, prosecution, or conviction, **and all State records of arrest shall include** expunged information and dismissed convictions pursuant to Code of Criminal Procedure Articles 893 and 894, **as well as national records which shall include fingerprints of the applicant and other identifying information, that shall be requested by the department.** The department shall require any current **or licensee for an explosives license renewal or an applicant for a new explosives license as a** prospective manufacturer, dealer-distributor, user, blaster, or handler **of explosives** as defined in R.S. 40:1472.2 to submit to a criminal history records check to be conducted by the Louisiana Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information. Fingerprints and other identifying information **from the current or shall be obtained from an applicant as a** prospective manufacturer, dealer-distributor, user, blaster, or handler **of explosives and** shall be submitted to the bureau **to initiate the criminal history records search.** **In addition, when the department requests a national criminal history records check, the** The bureau shall **simultaneously** forward the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history records check and shall provide the department with the national criminal history record information of the current **or licensee or the applicant of a new explosives license as a** prospective manufacturer, dealer-distributor, user, blaster, or handler.

* * *

§1472.9. Civil penalties

A. After notice and an opportunity for a hearing held in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, the deputy secretary may assess a civil penalty not to exceed ten thousand dollars for each violation against any person **or explosives business** he determines to have violated any rule or regulation adopted pursuant to this Part. In determining the amount of the penalty the deputy secretary shall take into account the nature, circumstances, extent, and

gravity of the violation, the degree of culpability of the person ~~or explosives business~~ violating the rule or regulation, the person's ~~or explosives business's~~ history of previous offenses, the person's ~~or explosives business's~~ ability to pay and the effect of the penalty on his ability to continue to operate, and any other matter that justice requires.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.
A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 504

SENATE BILL NO. 396
BY SENATOR CLOUD
AN ACT

To amend and reenact Children's Code Art. 906(B)(1) and (3) and to enact Children's Code Art. 906(B)(5), relative to the office of juvenile justice; to require review hearings via secure video conference; to reclassify detention centers; to provide for confidential virtual conferencing with the child's counsel of record; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Children's Code Art. 906(B)(1) and (3) are hereby amended and reenacted and Children's Code Art. 906(B)(5) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

Art. 906. Required review hearings; commitment; children in custody of the office of juvenile justice

B.(1) Any child committed by a court to the custody of the office of juvenile justice ~~must~~ shall be physically transported to the committing court for an in-person review hearing not more than six months after the child's commitment, and every six months thereafter, unless such ~~an in-person~~ hearing is waived by counsel for the child and by the committing court. The date of the initial review hearing shall be set by the court at the time of disposition. The court may order review hearings set more frequently than the in-person hearings every six months, but for such additional hearings the child shall participate via a video conferencing platform. Staff of the office of juvenile justice and contract staff shall participate in each review hearing in the same manner as the child who is required to participate in accordance with this Subparagraph.

(3) For the purposes of this Paragraph, a child is deemed "committed by a court to the custody of the office of juvenile justice" if he is judicially committed to the legal custody of the office of juvenile justice, regardless of where the child is physically held, including but not limited to state-run secure facilities, state-run nonsecure facilities, private facilities with which the office of juvenile justice contracts, and juvenile detention centers.

(5) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any child committed by a court to the custody of the office of juvenile justice shall have the right to participate in a private and confidential virtual consultation with his counsel of record prior to any review hearing or other proceeding. The consultation shall be conducted through a secure video conferencing platform that ensures end-to-end confidentiality.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.
A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 505

SENATE BILL NO. 399
BY SENATORS BASS, HODGES AND MIGUEZ AND REPRESENTATIVES
BACALA, BAYHAM, BERAULT, BOYER, CARVER, CHENEVERT,
DICKERSON, EGAN, HORTON, VILLIO, WYBLE AND YOUNG
AN ACT

To enact Part III-D of Chapter 5 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 17:1828 through 1828.12, relative to institutions of higher education; to create the Louisiana Higher Education Research Security Council; to provide for definitions; to provide relative to council responsibilities; to provide for requirements for gifts, contracts, research partnerships, and academic partnerships from foreign adversaries; to provide for penalties; to provide relative to international cultural agreements; to provide relative to travel and gift prohibitions; to provide relative to research partnerships; to provide relative to educational software linked to foreign adversaries; to provide relative to political parties and members; to provide relative to the theft of trade secrets; to provide for severability; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Part III-D of Chapter 5 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 17:1828 through 1828.12, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

PART III-D. RESEARCH AND EDUCATION PROTECTION ACT OF 2026
§1828. Short title; purpose

A. This Part shall be known and cited as the "Research and Education Protection Act of 2026".

B. The purpose of this Part is to protect Louisiana's research and educational systems from malicious influence from foreign adversaries.

§1828.1. Definitions

As used in this Part, the following terms have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

(1) "Academic partnership" shall mean a formal collaboration between two or more educational or research institutions to achieve shared goals in teaching, research, or innovation.

(2) "Affiliate organization" shall mean any entity under the control of or established for the benefit of an organization required to report under this Part, including a direct-support organization.

(3) "Agreement" means a written or spoken statement of mutual interest in cultural exchange, academic, or research collaboration.

(4) "Contract" shall mean any agreement for the acquisition by purchase, lease, or barter of property or services, for the direct benefit or use of either of the parties.

(5) "Council" shall mean the Louisiana Higher Education Research Security Council established under this Part.

(6) "Direct-support organization" shall mean an organization which is organized and operated to receive, hold, invest, and administer property and to make expenditures to or for the benefit of a state college, university, or other educational institution or for the benefit of a research and development park or research and development authority affiliated with a state college, university, or other educational institution.

(7) "Foreign adversary" shall mean any foreign government or foreign nongovernment person determined by the United States Secretary of Commerce to have engaged in a long term pattern or serious instances of conduct significantly adverse to the national security of the United States or security and safety of United States persons as listed in 15 CFR 791.4.

(8) "Foreign agent" shall mean any officer, employee, proxy, servant, delegate, or representative of a foreign government.

(9) "Foreign government" shall mean the government of any country, nation, or group of nations, or any province or other political subdivision of any country or nation, other than the government of the United States, including any agent of such foreign government.

(10) "Foreign instrumentality" shall mean any agency, bureau, ministry, component, institution, association, or any legal, commercial, or business organization, corporation, firm, or entity that is substantially owned, controlled, sponsored, commanded, managed, or dominated by a foreign government.

(11) "Foreign source" shall mean any of the following:

(a) A foreign government or an agency of a foreign government.

(b) A legal entity, governmental or otherwise, created solely under the laws of a foreign state or states.

(c) An individual who is not a citizen or a national of the United States or a territory or protectorate of the United States.

(d) A partnership, association, corporation, organization, or any other combination of persons organized under the law or having its principal place of business in a foreign country, or a subsidiary of such entity.

(e) An agent, including a subsidiary or an affiliate of a foreign legal entity, acting on behalf of a foreign source.

(f) A political party or member of a political party.

(12) "Gift" shall mean any gift, grant, endowment, award, or donation of money or thing of economic value, or any combination thereof, including a conditional or unconditional pledge of such gift, endowment, award, or donation.

(13) "Grant" shall mean a transfer of money for a specified purpose, including a conditional gift.

(14) "Institution of higher education" shall mean a state college or university or an independent nonprofit college or university that is located in and chartered by the state and grants baccalaureate or higher degrees, or any other institution that has a physical presence in the state and is required to report foreign gifts or contracts pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 1011f, or an affiliate organization to a covered institution.

(15) "Interest" in an entity shall mean any direct or indirect investment in or loan to the entity valued at five percent or more of the entity's net worth, or any form of direct or indirect control exerting similar or greater influence on the governance of the entity.

(16) "Obtain or use" shall mean any manner of:

(a) Taking or exercising control over property.

(b) Making any unauthorized use, disposition, or transfer of property.

(c) Obtaining property by fraud, willful misrepresentation of a future act, or false promise.

(d) Conduct previously known as stealing, larceny, purloining, abstracting, embezzlement, misapplication, misappropriation, conversion, or obtaining money or property by false pretenses, fraud, or deception; or other conduct similar in nature.

(17) "Partnership" shall mean a faculty or student exchange program, a study abroad program, a matriculation program, a recruiting program, or a dual degree program.

(18) "Person" shall mean any natural person, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, association, joint venture, government, governmental subdivision or agency, or any other legal or commercial entity.

(19) "Pledge" shall mean a promise, an agreement, or an expressed intention to give a gift.

(20) "Political party" shall mean an organization or combination of individuals

whose aim or purpose is, or who is engaged in any activity devoted in whole or in part to, the establishment, administration, control, or acquisition of administration or control of a government of a foreign country or a subdivision thereof.

(21) “Research partnership” shall mean a collaborative agreement between a Louisiana institution of higher education and another institution of higher education, research institute, government agency, nonprofit organization, or private sector company.

(22) “Trade secret” shall mean the whole or any portion or phase of any formula, pattern, device, combination of devices, or compilation of information which is for use, or is used, in the operation of a business and which provides the business an advantage, or an opportunity to obtain an advantage, over those who do not know or use it. The term shall include any scientific, technical, or commercial information, including financial information. It also includes any design, process, procedure, list of suppliers, list of customers, business code, or improvement thereof, whether tangible or intangible, and regardless of how it is stored, compiled, or memorialized physically, electronically, graphically, photographically, or in writing. Irrespective of novelty, invention, patentability, the state of the prior art, and the level of skill in the business, art, or field to which the subject matter pertains; a trade secret is considered to be:

(a) Secret.

(b) Of value.

(c) For use or in use by a business, institution of higher education, research center, nonprofit, or other entity.

(d) Of advantage to the business, institution of higher education, research center, nonprofit, or other entity; or providing an opportunity to obtain an advantage over those who do not know or use it.

(e) When the owner takes measures to prevent it from becoming available to persons other than those selected by the owner to have access for limited purposes.

(23) “Traffic” shall mean:

(a) To sell, transfer, distribute, dispense, or otherwise dispose of property.

(b) To buy, receive, possess, obtain control of, or use property with the intent to sell, transfer, distribute, dispense, or otherwise dispose of such property.

(24) “United Front Political Influence System” shall mean the Chinese Communist Party’s extensive network of organizations operating in parallel to the People’s Republic of China’s foreign ministry and intelligence services and seeking to influence universities, think tanks, civic groups, other prominent individuals and institutions, and public opinion broadly. It includes but is not limited to the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office, the United Front Work Department, the Chinese Overseas Exchange Association, the China Overseas Friendship Association, and the All-China Federation of Returned Overseas Chinese, and any subsidiary or affiliate organization thereof.

§1828.2. Louisiana Higher Education Research Security Council; creation; powers

A. The Louisiana Higher Education Research Security Council is hereby established for the purpose of promoting secure academic research at institutions of higher education while mitigating the risk of foreign espionage and interference.

B. The council shall be composed of the following members:

(1) The lieutenant governor, or his designee.

(2) The attorney general, or his designee.

(3) A representative from the Board of Regents.

(4) One research security officer appointed by the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System.

(5) One research security officer appointed by the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College.

(6) One research security officer appointed by the Board of Supervisors of Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College.

(7) One research security officer appointed by the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges.

(8) One research security officer appointed by the Board of Directors of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

(9) One additional research security officer appointed by each governing board of a university that oversees one or more medical schools.

(10) Three faculty members with research experience, one designated by the chief academic officer of the Louisiana State University System, one designated by the chief academic officer of the University of Louisiana System, and one designated by the chief academic officer of the Southern University System.

(11) The chairman of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security, or his designee.

(12) The chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Homeland Security, or his designee.

(13) The superintendent of the Louisiana State Police, or his designee.

(14) The chief information officer of the office of technology services, or his designee.

(15) The lead special agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, New Orleans Field Office, or his designee, shall be invited as a nonvoting ex officio member.

(16) One designated research security officer or senior security officer or senior research administrator from each institution that engages in sponsored research that is a member of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

C. The council member appointed by the Board of Regents shall serve as the chairman of the council. The Board of Regents shall provide staff to the council.

D. The council shall meet at least quarterly, but may meet more often upon

the call of the presiding officer, who shall call a meeting upon the request of a majority of the members. Members of the council shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority and vacancies shall be filled in the manner of the original appointment.

E. The council shall:

(1) Develop or adopt a model research security policy for Louisiana institutions of higher education to improve research security.

(2) Develop, offer or otherwise provide an annual training program for institutions of higher education’s research security officers that includes background and academic history checks of researchers, research security and integrity tools, and software that must be used to prevent the loss of intellectual capital.

(3) Yet and review any gift, contract, or academic or research partnership to an institution of higher education from a foreign adversary source. The vetting and review shall exclude information about trade secrets and protected information pursuant to nondisclosure or confidentiality agreements.

(4) Subject to appropriation, engage an intelligence firm that specializes in identifying national security threats from foreign adversary sources.

(5) Not later than January thirty-first of each even-numbered year, the council shall prepare and submit to the governor, the attorney general’s office, and the Senate and House committees on education a report on the status of research security at institutions of higher education and any associated recommendations.

§1828.3. Approval requirements for gifts, contracts, research partnerships, and academic partnerships from foreign adversaries

A. Any institution of higher education that is offered directly or indirectly any gift, contract, or academic or research partnership with any value from a foreign adversary source shall reject such proposed gift, contract, or academic or research partnership unless the following conditions are met by the institution of higher education:

(1) Within thirty days of receiving a proposal for the gift, contract, academic or research partnership, the institution shall request an assessment from federal law enforcement on potential national security risks, and after receiving the assessment, it shall be submitted to the Louisiana Higher Education Research Security Council along with the request for approval of the proposed gift, contract, academic, or research partnership. The council shall have veto authority over such academic and research partnerships with a simple majority vote of all council members.

(2) The Board of Regents shall maintain a public web portal disclosing proposed gifts, contracts, or academic or research partnerships from foreign adversary sources described in this Section, along with the final decision on whether to allow the relevant institution of higher education to accept the gift.

(3) For purposes of this Section, a gift, contract, or academic or research partnership received from a foreign adversary source through an intermediary shall be considered an indirect gift, contract, or partnership with the institution of higher education, and is subject to the approval process described in this Section.

(4) Upon the request of the governor, the president of the Senate, or the speaker of the House of Representatives, the legislative auditor, as applicable, must inspect or audit a gift, contract, or academic or research partnership.

B. An institution of higher education or employee thereof shall not enter into any contract, academic partnership, or research partnership with a foreign adversary source for any project that is funded in whole or in part by the United States Department of War, United States Department of Energy, or United States Department of Health and Human Services.

C. An institution of higher education or employee thereof shall not enter into any contract, academic partnership, or research partnership with a foreign adversary source with known links to the foreign adversary’s military or intelligence apparatus.

D. All institutions of higher education shall include in their employment policies a prohibition on their faculty or employees taking part in any foreign recruitment program by a foreign adversary nation.

§1828.4. Enforcement; penalties; rewards

A. Upon receiving a referral from an officer of an institution of higher education or any sworn complaint based upon substantive information and reasonable belief, the attorney general must investigate an allegation of a violation of this Part.

B. Any agent or compliance officer authorized by an institution of higher education may request records relevant to any reasonable suspicion of a violation of this Part. An institution of higher education shall provide the required records within ten days after such request or later as agreed to by the entity investigating the institution of higher education.

C. Failure to make a disclosure required under this Part or failure to provide records requested under Subsection B of this Section constitutes a civil violation punishable upon a final administrative finding.

D. A final order determining a violation by an institution of higher education must include a determination of the identity of the officer responsible for acceptance of the undisclosed gifts or contracts, or entrance into the undisclosed academic or research partnership. Such order shall also include a referral to the system president or other officer authorized to suspend or remove from public office the officer responsible for acceptance of the undisclosed gifts or contracts or entrance into the undisclosed academic or research partnership. A copy of such referral shall be provided to the president of the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the governor, and the Louisiana Higher Education Research Security Council for oversight of such suspension and removal authority.

E. A whistleblower who reports an undisclosed foreign gift or contract may

also report such undisclosed gift or contract to the attorney general's office and retain whistleblower protection under R.S. 23:967. Such whistleblower shall be entitled to receive a reward in the amount of twenty-five percent of any penalty recovered. The attorney general is authorized to incur expenditures to provide such reward from the penalty recovery. The reward may be paid through an intermediate attorney or trustee designated by the whistleblower.

F. The council may adopt policies, as applicable, to implement this Section. Institutions of higher education shall be in compliance with such policies.

§1828.5. International cultural exchange agreements and student associations
A. An institution of higher education may not participate in any cultural exchange agreement with a foreign source from a foreign adversary, or any entity controlled by foreign adversaries unless it addresses an overwhelmingly under-addressed state or national need and it avoids:

- (1) Constraining the freedom of contract of such public entity.
- (2) Allowing the curricula or values of a program in the state to be directed, controlled, or influenced by the foreign adversaries.
- (3) Promoting an agenda detrimental to the safety or security of Louisiana, its residents, or the United States.

B. Prior to the execution of any cultural exchange agreement with a foreign source from a foreign adversary, the substance of the agreement shall be shared with a federal law enforcement agency. If the federal agency provides information suggesting that such an agreement promotes an agenda detrimental to the safety or security of Louisiana, the United States, or its residents, the institution of higher education may not enter into the agreement.

C. Prior to the execution of any cultural exchange agreement with a foreign source from a foreign adversary, the substance of the agreement shall be shared with the Louisiana Higher Education Research Security Council. If the council provides information suggesting that such an agreement promotes an agenda detrimental to the safety or security of Louisiana, the United States, or its residents, the institution of higher education may not enter into the agreement.

D. Each institution of higher education shall submit the information required in this Section to the Board of Regents by July first of each year.

E. By January thirty-first of each year, the Board of Regents shall submit a report to the governor, the president of the Senate, and the speaker of the House of Representatives relating to partnerships and agreements of institutions of higher education made with educational institutions or other institutions based in foreign adversaries. At a minimum, the report shall include the following information for the previous fiscal year:

- (1) Data reflecting any grant program, agreement, partnership, or contract between an institution of higher education and any college, university, or entity that is based in or controlled by a foreign adversary.
 - (2) Data reflecting any office, campus, or physical location used or maintained by an institution of higher education in a foreign adversary.
 - (3) The date on which any such grant program, agreement, partnership, or contract reported pursuant to this Section is expected to terminate.
- F. No student or scholar association affiliated with any institution of higher education may accept any gift or grant from a foreign source of a foreign adversary or enter into any contract or agreement with a foreign source of a foreign adversary, or be directed or controlled by the government of a foreign adversary or any agent thereof.

- (1) Any violation of this Section shall result in the institution of higher education ending any affiliation with the student or scholar association.
- (2) For purposes of this Subsection, member dues or fees shall not be considered a gift or grant from a foreign source of a foreign adversary.

G. The governing board of each institution of higher education shall adopt rules and regulations, respectively, to administer this Section in consultation with the council and a third-party advisor, including but not limited to an intelligence firm.

§1828.6. Foreign travel and gifts; prohibition

A. Unless requested by a federal agency, the governor, the president of the Senate, or the speaker of the House of Representatives, an employee, researcher, or volunteer of an institution of higher education of this state may not:

- (1) Accept transportation or lodging in a country that is a foreign adversary and that is paid for by the foreign adversary or a foreign adversary source because of the employee's or volunteer's position with the state or a political subdivision.
- (2) Accept a gift or item of value from a person representing a foreign adversary for any purpose, including to pay for travel expenses or as reimbursement for the costs of attending a conference or other event in a country that is a foreign adversary or that is hosted on behalf of a foreign adversary or a principal of a foreign adversary.

B. An employee or volunteer of an institution of higher education of this state shall report to the Louisiana Higher Education Research Security Council, in the form and manner the council requires, each interaction, communication, or meeting the employee, researcher, or volunteer has with a person acting on behalf of a foreign adversary not later than thirty days after the date of the interaction, communication, or meeting. The legislative auditor shall make available a report under this Subsection to the attorney general and the Department of Public Safety and Corrections on request.

§1828.7. Research partnerships

A. An institution of higher education shall only enter into a new or renew an existing research partnership with an academic or research institution, business, or nonprofit located in a foreign adversary if the institution of higher education maintains sufficient structural safeguards to protect the state institution's intellectual property, the security of the state of Louisiana, and the national security interests of the United States. The Louisiana Higher Education Research Security Council shall only approve an institution of

higher education's partnership if the council determines the partnership meets the safeguard requirements prescribed under this Section. The safeguard requirements shall include but not be limited to the following:

(1) Compliance with all federal requirements, including the requirements of federal research sponsors and federal export control agencies, including regulations regarding international traffic in arms and export administration regulations, and economic and trade sanctions administered by the office of foreign assets control of the United States Department of the Treasury.

(2) Annual formal institution level programs for faculty on conflicts of interest and conflicts of commitment.

(3) An overwhelming state interest to enter into the research or academic partnership.

(4) There are no alternative institutions to engage with for a similar research or academic partnership.

(5) A formalized foreign visitor process and uniform visiting scholar agreement.

B. The Louisiana Higher Education Research Security Council shall have full discretion to reject or terminate any research partnership between an institution of higher education and an academic or research institution located in a foreign adversary. However, prior to denying or terminating any partnership, the council shall provide written notice, specific findings, an opportunity for the institution to respond, and an opportunity for administrative appeal.

C. The Board of Regents, in consultation with the office of the governor, shall create a research and cultural exchange policy which shall prioritize research partnerships and academic exchange agreements with America's military treaty allies, Israel, and the Republic of China (Taiwan).

§1828.8. Foreign educational software

A. The Board of Regents, in conjunction with the office of technology services, shall conduct a thorough review of all educational software used by institutions of higher education that may be linked to foreign adversaries. The Board of Regents, in conjunction with the office of technology services, shall develop a plan to eliminate the usage of educational software from foreign adversary countries, as defined in 15 CFR 791.4, in each of the respective systems.

B. The Board of Regents, in conjunction with the office of technology services, shall promulgate rules and regulations prohibiting the future contracting with educational technology and software-providing entities domiciled in, or owned by companies or other entities domiciled in, foreign adversary countries as defined in 15 CFR 791.4, in each of the respective systems.

C. This Section shall apply only to contracts entered into or renewed after January 1, 2027.

§1828.9. Protection of higher education from foreign adversary influence

A. The management board for each public institution of higher education in this state shall adopt and implement policies consistent with this Section to safeguard institutional integrity, research security, and compliance with applicable federal law.

B.(1) No Confucious Institute, or any program, institute, center, association, or other entity that is directly established, funded, substantially directed, or controlled by any of the following entities shall be permitted to operate on, conduct activities on, or use any property owned or controlled by a public postsecondary education institution in this state:

- (a) The government of the People's Republic of China.
- (b) The Chinese Communist Party.
- (c) The People's Liberation Army.
- (d) Any intelligence agency of the People's Republic of China.
- (e) Any subordinate or affiliated organization of the organizations provided for in Subparagraphs (a) through (d) of this Paragraph, including the United Front Political Influence System and any of its subsidiaries and affiliated organizations.

(2) For purposes of this Section, entities which shall be considered "substantially directed or controlled" include but are not limited to the following:

- (a) Entities appearing on the United States Department of Commerce Entity List as provided in 15 CFR 744.16.
- (b) Entities appearing on the United States Department of Commerce Military End-User List as provided in 15 CFR 744.21.
- (c) Entities formally designated by the United States Department of State, Department of Commerce, or Department of Defense, pursuant to publicly issued determinations, as participating in a military-civil fusion program or malign foreign talent recruitment program.

- (d) Entities receiving funding from a foreign source of a foreign adversary country without approval of the Research Security Council.
- (e) Entities directly affiliated with and reporting to the Chinese Communist Party's United Front Political Influence System.

C.(1) Each applicant for enrollment, employment, or research funding at a public postsecondary education institution shall disclose, under penalty of perjury pursuant to Subsection E of this Section, either of the following:

- (a) Current or former participation in a malign foreign talent recruitment program identified by the United States government.
- (b) Current or former affiliation with an entity described in Paragraph (B)(2) of this Section.

(2) Disclosure requirements under this Section shall be applied uniformly to all applicants and shall not be based solely on citizenship, nationality, or country of origin.

D.(1) An institution shall conduct an individualized, risk-based assessment of any disclosed information under Subsection C of this Section.

(2) Enrollment, employment, or research opportunities shall be denied,

conditioned, or terminated only if the institution determines, based on specific and articulable facts, that the disclosed information presents a credible risk of any of the following:

- (a) Espionage or malign influence operations.
- (b) Unlawful technology transfer in violation of export control laws.
- (c) Compromise of research integrity.
- (d) Violation of federal or state law.
- (3) Mere past, incidental, or nominal membership in a political organization, including the Chinese Communist Party, shall not solely constitute sufficient grounds for denial, conditioning, or termination.

E. An applicant who knowingly provides false or materially misleading information in a disclosure required under this Section shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including denial or termination of enrollment, employment, or research participation, consistent with institutional policy and applicable law. The applicant will also be liable for committing the crime of perjury.

F. All policies adopted pursuant to this Section shall be applied in a manner that comports with all of the following:

- (1) Does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, or political affiliation.
- (2) Is consistent with the Constitution and laws of the United States and this state.
- (3) Incorporates due process protections, including written notice of the basis for any adverse action and a meaningful opportunity to respond prior to the denial or termination of enrollment, employment, or research opportunities, except where immediate action is required to comply with federal law or to address an imminent threat to public safety or national security.

§1828.10. Theft of trade secrets

Any theft of trade secrets or trafficking thereof from a Louisiana institution of higher education on behalf of a foreign source of a foreign adversary nation shall be charged as a crime under R.S. 14:67 with a penalty one classification level higher than theft of equal value covered under R.S. 14:67. For theft of trade secrets of twenty-five thousand dollars or more, the penalty shall be imprisonment at hard labor for not less than five years and not more than twenty-five years.

§1828.11. Severability

If any provision of this Part, or the application of any provision to any person or circumstance, is held to be invalid, the remainder of this Part and the application of its provisions to any other person or circumstance shall not be affected thereby.

§1828.12. Existing policy

Any gift, contract, academic partnership, or research partnership in existence on January 1, 2027, may continue but shall not be renewed except through the process set forth in this Chapter.

Section 2. This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2027. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval by the legislature or January 1, 2027, whichever is later.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 506

SENATE BILL NO. 409

BY SENATORS MYERS, BARROW, SEABAUGH, SELTERS, STINE AND TALBOT AND REPRESENTATIVES CHASSION AND HILFERTY
AN ACT

To enact Part II-A of Subchapter A of Chapter 5-F of Title 40 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 40:1264.1 and 1264.2, relative to public health; to provide for paid leave for living organ donors; to provide for legislative purpose; to provide for legislative intent; to provide for eligibility; to provide for verification procedures by employers; to prohibit forfeiture of leave under certain circumstances; to provide for paid leave by private employers; to provide definitions; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Part II-A of Subchapter A of Chapter 5-F of Title 40 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 40:1264.1 and 1264.2, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

PART II-A. LOUISIANA LIVING DONOR PAID LEAVE PROTECTION ACT
§1264.1. Citation; purpose; legislative intent

A. This Part shall be known and may be cited as the “Louisiana Living Donor Paid Leave Protection Act”.

B. The legislature declares that the purpose of this Part is all of the following:

- (1) To protect living organ donors from job insecurity or surgery delays.
- (2) To encourage living organ donors whose organs last longer and function better than deceased donor organs.
- (3) To keep Louisianians healthy, employed, and out of long-term state-funded care, thereby saving the state thousands of dollars per patient each year.

C. It is the intent of the legislature to facilitate living organ donors’ return to employment at a reasonable cost to the employer.

§1264.2. Definitions: paid leave for public-sector living organ donors; unlawful practice by employers prohibited; relationship to other leave

A. As used in this Section, the following definitions apply:

- (1)(a) “Employee” means a full-time employee of a state agency who has been continuously employed by the same agency for at least twelve months.
- (b) “Employee” does not include an independent contractor.
- (2) “Employer” means a state agency.
- (3) “Human organ” means all or part of a liver, pancreas, kidney, intestine, lung, or bone marrow.
- (4) “Living organ donor” and “organ donor” mean a person who knowingly and willingly donates all or part of a human organ while the person is alive for transplantation into another person.
- (5)(a) “Private employer” means a sole proprietor, corporation, partnership, limited liability company, or other entity with one or more employees.
- (b) “Private employer” does not include a municipality, parish, state agency, institution of higher education, or other public employer.
- (6)(a) “State agency” means any state board, commission, department, agency, office, or other entity which makes rules, regulations, or policy, or formulates or issues decisions or orders pursuant to, as directed by, or in implementation of, the constitution and laws of the United States or the constitution and laws of this state.

(b) “State agency” does not include the legislature or any branch, committee, or office thereof, any political subdivision as defined in Article VI, Section 44 of the Constitution of Louisiana or any board, commission, department, agency, office, or other entity thereof, or any court.

B.(1) An employer shall grant paid leave of absence to an employee who seeks to undergo a medical procedure to donate a human organ. The paid leave of absence shall not exceed thirty consecutive calendar days beginning on the day immediately following the organ donation surgery. This paid leave shall run concurrently with any unpaid leave granted to eligible employees pursuant to the Family and Medical Leave Act, 29 U.S.C. 2601 et seq. Paid leave granted pursuant to this Section shall be in addition to any sick leave, annual leave, or military leave accrued by the employee during his employment with the state agency.

(2) The employer may require verification by a physician of the purpose and length of each period of leave requested by the employee to donate a human organ. If there is a medical determination that the employee does not qualify as an organ donor, the paid leave of absence granted to the employee prior to that medical determination is not forfeited.

(3) A private employer shall grant an employee an unpaid leave of absence to allow the employee to serve as a human organ donor or a bone marrow donor if the employee requests a leave of absence in writing.

(4) The length of the leave of absence shall be equal to the time requested by the employee or thirty consecutive calendar days.

(5) Nothing in this Section shall prevent a private employer from granting a paid or an unpaid leave of absence for a length of time greater than thirty consecutive calendar days.

C. No employee shall be discharged, demoted, suspended, threatened, harassed, or discriminated against in any manner for requesting or obtaining a leave of absence as provided for in this Section.

D. This Section does not prevent an employer from providing leave for living organ donations in addition to leave allowed pursuant to this Section. This Section does not affect an employee’s rights with respect to any other employment benefit.

E. The paid leave for organ donation authorized by this Section has no cash value upon termination from employment.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 507

SENATE BILL NO. 410 (Substitute of Senate Bill No. 86 by Senator Morris)
BY SENATOR MORRIS
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 14:25, relative to parties to crimes; to provide for sentencing of accessories after the fact to sex offenses; to provide for mandatory minimum sentences; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 14:25 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:
§25. Accessories after the fact

A. An accessory after the fact is any person who, after the commission of a felony, shall harbor, conceal, or aid the offender, knowing or having reasonable ground to believe that he has committed the felony, and with the intent that he may avoid or escape from arrest, conviction, or punishment.

B. An accessory after the fact may be tried and punished, notwithstanding the fact that the principal felon may not have been arrested, tried, convicted, or amenable to justice.

C. Whoever Except as provided in Subsection D of this Section, whoever becomes an accessory after the fact shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars, or imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not more than five years, or both; provided that in no case shall his punishment be greater than one-half of the maximum provided by law for a principal offender.

D.(1) Except as provided in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection, whoever becomes an accessory after the fact to a sex offense as defined in R.S. 15:541 shall be imprisoned in the same manner as the principal offender for not less than one-

half of the minimum sentence provided by law for a principal offender and not more than one-half of the maximum sentence provided by law for a principal offender.

(2) Whoever becomes an accessory after the fact to a sex offense as defined in R.S. 15:541 punishable by life imprisonment shall be imprisoned at hard labor for not less than ten years nor more than fifty years, without benefit of parole, probation, or suspension of sentence.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 508

SENATE BILL NO. 415

BY SENATOR ABRAHAM AND REPRESENTATIVES AMEDEE, BERAULT, BILLINGS, BOUDREAUX, BROUSSARD, CARVER, CHASSION, DICKERSON, EGAN, FISHER, FREEMAN, FREIBERG, GLORIOSO, MANDIE LANDRY, MARCELLE, MILLER, SPELL, STAGNI, TURNER AND WYBLE

AN ACT

To enact Subpart E of Part II of Chapter 3 of Title 46 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 46:291, relative to food purchase cards; to create the Empower Louisiana Food Purchase Program; to provide for the duties of the Louisiana Department of Health; to provide for criteria for nonprofit organization participation; to provide for funding; to provide for records; to provide for reporting; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Subpart E of Part II of Chapter 3 of Title 46 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 46:291, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

SUBPART E. EMPOWER LOUISIANA FOOD PURCHASE PROGRAM
§291. Empower Louisiana Food Purchase Program; Louisiana Department of Health

A. The Louisiana Department of Health shall establish and administer the Empower Louisiana Food Purchase Program. The program shall make restricted-use food purchase cards available for issuance through qualified nonprofit organizations.

B.(1) The Louisiana Department of Health shall partner with qualified nonprofit organizations that operate food assistance programs in Louisiana.

(2) To qualify for participation in the program, the organization shall be recognized under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, execute a participation agreement, and comply with reporting requirements established by the Louisiana Department of Health.

(3) The Louisiana Department of Health may implement the program as a pilot program in one administrative region of the state and may expand the program as determined by the secretary. Upon statewide implementation, the program shall include at least one participating qualified nonprofit organization in each administrative region of the Louisiana Department of Health.

C.(1) Each qualified nonprofit organization shall do all of the following:

(a) Be responsible for funding any purchase cards issued by the organization.

(b) Accept charitable contributions to support the program.

(c) Establish a process to allow individuals to provide funding for cards.

(2) Cards may be issued directly to the individual providing the funds or to another person identified by the individual providing the funds for the card.

D.(1) Nothing in this Section shall be construed to create a public entitlement, require participation, authorize federal funding, or merge the program with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

(2) Benefits provided pursuant to this Section shall be considered charitable food assistance and shall not be construed as wages, compensation, or remuneration to the recipient.

E. The Louisiana Department of Health shall establish uniform guidelines and operating standards for the program.

F. The program shall do all of the following:

(1) Operate under a program identifier separate from Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

(2) Align food items that are allowable for purchase with food items that are eligible for purchase through Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

(3) Prohibit cash withdrawals and transfers.

(4) Not access Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program eligibility or recipient data.

G. Transaction records shall be generated automatically by the payment processor. The Louisiana Department of Health shall generate aggregate annual transaction reports, which participating nonprofits shall reconcile to their internal records. The Louisiana Department of Health may review, monitor, and inspect records as necessary for the provisions of this Section. Any recipient information collected pursuant to this Section shall be confidential and shall not be used for solicitation, marketing, or any purpose not related to the program.

H. The Louisiana Department of Health shall promulgate rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to implement the provisions of this Section.

I. The Louisiana Department of Health shall utilize existing resources and staff to fulfill the requirements provided for in this Section.

Section 2. No later than March 1, 2027, the Louisiana Department of Health

shall submit a report evaluating the program provided for in this Act to the Senate and House committees on health and welfare.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 509

SENATE BILL NO. 419
BY SENATOR KLEINPETER
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 56:116(C), relative to pre-charged pneumatic devices; to provide for taking of deer; to provide for special deer seasons; to provide for commission authority; to provide for primitive firearms; to provide for minimum projectile size, weight, and energy; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 56:116(C) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:
§116. Wild birds and wild quadrupeds; special hunting seasons

* * *

C.(1) The commission may establish a special deer season for primitive firearms. The taking of deer in such season shall be limited to persons who are licensed in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 56:3002. The commission shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations governing such season, including the type and size of weapons used, licenses required, sex of deer to be hunted, and the areas included in the season.

(2) In addition to any other weapon restriction the commission may adopt, such rules and regulations shall provide that breech for the use of the following during primitive firearm season:

(a) Breech loading rifles with a caliber of .35 or larger ~~may be used during primitive firearms season.~~

(b) Pre-charged pneumatic devices that fire a projectile with a caliber of .30 or larger, a weight of one hundred fifty grains or larger, and a minimum muzzle velocity of eight hundred feet per second, or with any combination of bullet weight and muzzle velocity that produces muzzle energy of at least two hundred fifteen foot pounds of energy.

(3) The taking of deer during this season **primitive firearm season** shall be limited to still hunting and may be allowed in all or some areas of the state where deer hunting is now or shall in the future be allowed.

~~(2)(4)~~ Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, during primitive firearms season any licensee may use a magnified scope on any weapon authorized for use during the primitive firearms season.

* * *

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 510

SENATE BILL NO. 425
BY SENATOR MORRIS
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 42:1411(A), (B), (C), and (G) and 1412(A) and to enact R.S. 42:1412(E), relative to removal of certain public officials; to provide for grounds for removal; to provide for procedure to remove an official by suit; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 42:1411(A), (B), (C), and (G) and 1412(A) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 42:1412(E) is hereby enacted to read as follows:
§1411. Public officer; ground for removal; suspension; definitions

A. A public officer ~~except for those officers exempt from removal by suit as provided in Article X, Section 25 of the Constitution of Louisiana~~ shall be removed from office for conviction, during his term of office, of a felony ~~or for malfeasance or gross misconduct while in office as provided in R.S. 42:1412.~~

B. The conviction for a felony ~~of a public officer or the commission of malfeasance or gross misconduct~~ of a public officer while in office shall automatically suspend that individual from his public office without compensation. The suspension from public office without compensation shall continue until the conviction is final and all appellate review of the original trial court proceedings is exhausted. During the period of suspension, the public official shall not perform any official act, duty, or function nor shall he receive any compensation, pay, allowance, emolument, or privilege of his office. If the conviction is reversed on appeal, the public official shall be entitled to and shall receive full back pay with legal interest thereon from the date of suspension, compensation, and all rights, duties, powers, allowances, emoluments, and privileges of office to which he would have been entitled had he not been suspended.

C. During this period of suspension, another person shall be appointed to perform the official acts, duties, and functions of that office during the period of suspension. Any person appointed to perform these official acts, duties, and functions shall serve in his appointed capacity until the ~~determination of malfeasance or gross misconduct or the~~ conviction of the public official is

overturned or reversed on appeal or until expiration of the term of office of the suspended public official, whichever occurs first. Every person appointed under the provisions of this Section shall receive the same pay, compensation, allowances, emoluments, and privileges of the office to which he is appointed as the suspended public official received prior to his suspension.

- * * *
- G. For purposes of this Chapter, **the following terms shall apply:**
- (1) **the term “felony” “Felony”** includes both a felony under the laws of this state and a felony under the laws of the United States.
- (2) **For purposes of this Chapter, the term “public “Public officer”** means any person holding a public office, whether state, district, parochial, ward, or municipal, whether the person is elected or appointed except judges of the courts of record.
- (3) **“Malfeasance” means any of the conduct described in R.S. 14:134(A).**
- (4) **“Gross misconduct” means the willful, knowing, or recklessly indifferent act or omission by a public official, committed in office or under color of office, that: (a) constitutes a serious abuse or misuse of official power or authority; (b) materially violates the law, the oath of office, or established ethical duties; or (c) substantially undermines the integrity, functioning, or public trust of the office; and that is of such gravity that it renders the official unfit to continue in office.**

* * *

§1412. Method for removal

A.(1) For conviction of a felony any public officer shall be removed by judgment of the district court of the district in which he is domiciled. The district attorney of that judicial district shall institute the suit within ten days after the conviction is final and all appellate review of the original trial court proceedings is exhausted. Suits against the attorney general shall be brought in the Nineteenth Judicial District by the district attorney of that district, and suits against a district attorney shall be brought by the attorney general.

(2) **For commission of malfeasance or gross misconduct while in office a public official shall be removed by judgment of the district court in the parish of the official’s domicile or the parish where the conduct occurred. A suit to remove a public official pursuant to this Section may be brought by the attorney general or by either house of the legislature pursuant to the provisions of Subsection E of this Section.**

- * * *
- E.(1) A public official shall be removed from office upon a final judicial determination proven by clear and convincing evidence that the public official has committed malfeasance or gross misconduct while in office. This proceeding shall be brought in the parish in which the official is domiciled or the parish where the conduct of malfeasance or gross misconduct occurred.**
- (2) **Any action pursuant to this Subsection shall be civil in nature, subject to the provisions of Subsection C of this Section, with venue in the parish of the official’s domicile or the parish where the conduct occurred.**
- (3) **The attorney general may initiate an action under this Subsection only upon an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the elected members of either house of the legislature authorizing the attorney general to file the action against a public official, which vote may be procured by written ballot.**
- (4) **Either house of the legislature may initiate an action under this Subsection only upon a two-thirds vote of the elected members of that house, which vote may be procured by written ballot. The action shall be brought in the name of the presiding officer of the house voting to initiate the action.**
- (5) **The supreme court shall appoint an ad hoc judge approved by a majority of the court to preside over any action initiated under this Subsection.**
- (6) **Nothing in this Subsection shall be construed to limit the authority of the attorney general to institute a suit to remove a public officer while in office under the provisions of Subsection A of this Section.**

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 511

SENATE BILL NO. 427 (Substitute of Senate Bill No. 311 by Senator Pressly)

BY SENATOR PRESSLY

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 17:2351, 2352, 2354, 2354.1, 2354.2, 2354.7, 2354.8, and 2357(A) and (F) and to enact R.S. 17:2351.1 and 2354.10 through 2354.14, relative to anatomical gifts; to provide requirements and methods for executing an anatomical gift; to provide for definitions; to provide for authority to execute or revoke an anatomical gift; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:2351, 2352, 2354, 2354.1, 2354.2, 2354.7, 2354.8, and 2357(A) and (F) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:2351.1 and 2354.10 through 2354.14 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§2351. Definitions

As used in this Part, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) “Adult” means a person who has attained eighteen years of age.

(2) “Agent” means a person **who is any of the following:**

(a) Authorized to make health care decisions on behalf of the principal by a power of attorney for health care; or

- (b) Expressly authorized to make an anatomical gift on behalf of the principal by any other record signed by the principal.
- (3) “Anatomical gift” or “gift” means a donation of all or part of a human body to take effect after the death of the donor for the purpose of transplantation, therapy, research, or education.
- (4) **“Authorization” means a legally effective expression of intent governing acts to be undertaken after the death of the individual, including the recovery of organs or tissue pursuant to an anatomical gift.**
- (5) **“Consent” means a legally effective permission governing acts to be undertaken prior to the death of the individual, including premortem interventions, tests, procedures, or medications.**
- (4)(6) “Decedent” means a deceased person whose body or part is or may be the source of an anatomical gift. The term does not include a stillborn infant and, subject to restrictions imposed by law, a fetus.
- (6)(7) “Disinterested witness” means a witness other than the spouse, child, parent, sibling, grandchild, grandparent, or guardian of the person who makes, amends, revokes, or refuses to make an anatomical gift, or an adult who exhibited special care and concern for the person. The term does not include a recipient of an anatomical gift in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 17:2353.
- (6)(8) “Document of gift” means a donor card or other record used to make an anatomical gift. The term includes a statement or symbol on a driver’s license, identification card, fishing license, hunting license, or ~~donor~~ registry.
- (9) **“Donation after brain death” or “DBD” means the recovery of organs or tissue for transplantation following the determination of death based on irreversible total cessation of brain function in accordance with R.S. 9:111.**
- (10) **“Donation after circulatory death” or “DCD” means the recovery of organs or tissue for transplantation following the determination of death based on irreversible cessation of spontaneous circulatory and respiratory functions in accordance with R.S. 9:111.**
- (7)(11) “Donor” means a person whose body or part is the subject of an anatomical gift.
- (8) ~~“Donor registry” means a database that contains records of anatomical gifts and amendments to or revocations thereof.~~
- (9)(12) “Driver’s license” means a license or permit issued by the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of motor vehicles, to operate a vehicle, whether or not conditions are attached to the license or permit.
- (10)(13) “Eye bank” means a person that is licensed, accredited, or regulated under federal or state law to engage in the recovery, screening, testing, processing, storage, or distribution of human eyes or portions of human eyes.
- (11)(14) “Fishing license” means a license or permit issued by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to fish as defined in R.S. 56:8, for a recreational purpose as defined in R.S. 56:8.
- (12)(15) “Guardian” means a person appointed by a court to make decisions regarding the support, care, education, health, or welfare of a person. The term does not include a guardian ad litem.
- (13)(16) “Hospital” means a facility licensed as a hospital under the laws of any state or a facility operated as a hospital by the United States, a state, or a subdivision of a state.
- (14)(17) “Hunting license” means a license or permit issued by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to hunt as defined in R.S. 56:8 for a recreational purpose as defined in R.S. 56:8.
- (15)(18) “Identification card” means a card issued by the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of motor vehicles.
- (16)(19) “Know” means to have actual knowledge.
- (20) **“Legally effective” means having binding force under this Part and not subject to override except as expressly provided by law.**
- (17)(21) “Minor” means a person who has not yet attained eighteen years of age.
- (18)(22) “Organ procurement organization” means a person designated by the secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services as an eye bank, organ procurement organization, or tissue bank.
- (19)(23) “Parent” means a person whose parental rights have not been terminated.
- (20)(24) “Part” means an organ, an eye, or tissue of a human being. The term does not include the whole body.
- (21)(25) “Person” means an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, limited liability company, association, joint venture, public corporation, government or governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality, or any other legal or commercial entity.
- (22)(26) “Physician” means a person authorized and licensed to practice medicine or osteopathy under the laws of any state.
- (23)(27) “Prospective donor” means a person who is dead or near death and has been determined by a procurement organization to have a part that may be medically suitable for transplantation, therapy, research, or education. The term does not include a person who has made a refusal.
- (24)(28) “Reasonably available” means able to be contacted by **a an organ** procurement organization without undue effort and willing and able to act in a timely manner consistent with existing medical criteria necessary for the making of an anatomical gift.
- (25)(29) “Recipient” means a person into whose body a part of a decedent has been or is intended to be transplanted.
- (26)(30) “Record” means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored in an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form.

~~(27)~~**(31)** “Refusal” means a record created pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 17:2354.1 legally effective expression of intent not to make an anatomical gift under this Part, that expressly states an intent to bar or has the legal effect of barring other persons from making an anatomical gift of a body or part of a person.

(32) “Registry” means a record or database maintained or recognized by the state that contains records of legally effective anatomical gift decisions, including authorizations, refusals, amendments, revocations, affirmations of prior decisions, and indications that no anatomical gift decision should be recorded.

~~(28)~~**(33)** “Sign” means, with the present intent to authenticate or adopt a record, either **of the following**:

- (a) To execute or adopt a tangible symbol.
- (b) To attach to or logically associate with the record an electronic symbol, sound, or process.

~~(29)~~**(34)** “State” means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, or any territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

~~(30)~~**(35)** “Technician” means any individual determined to be qualified to remove or process parts by an appropriate organization that is licensed, accredited, or regulated under federal or state law. The term includes an nucleator.

~~(31)~~**(36)** “Tissue” means a portion of the human body other than an organ or an eye. The term does not include blood unless the blood is donated for the purpose of research or education.

~~(32)~~**(37)** “Tissue bank” means a person that is licensed, accredited, or regulated under federal or state law to engage in the recovery, screening, testing, processing, storage, or distribution of tissue.

~~(33)~~**(38)** “Transplant hospital” means a hospital that furnishes organ transplants and other medical and surgical specialty services required for the care of transplant patients.

§2351.1. Rule of construction

A. Nothing in this Part shall be construed to permit the recovery of an unpaired vital organ in a manner that causes or hastens the death of the donor, or prior to death being determined in accordance with R.S. 9:111.

B. Nothing in this Part shall be construed to prohibit living organ or tissue donation that does not result in the death of the donor and is otherwise authorized by law.

C. Unless expressly provided by law, authorization to make an anatomical gift after death shall not be construed as consent to any act undertaken prior to death.

§2352. Applicability; persons who may make an anatomical gift or refusal prior to the death of the donor

A. The provisions of this Part shall apply to an anatomical gift or amendment, revocation, or refusal to make an anatomical gift.

B. Subject to the provisions of R.S. 17:2354.2, an anatomical gift or refusal of a body or part of the donor may be made during his life for the purpose of transplantation, therapy, research, or education as provided in R.S. 17:2354 by any of the following:

- (1) An adult donor.
- (2) A minor donor, ~~if he who has been emancipated or authorized under state law to apply for a driver's license~~ **who is emancipated pursuant to law or who is legally married.**
- (3) An agent of the donor, **as defined in R.S. 17:2351**, unless the power of attorney for health care or other record prohibits it.
- (4) A parent of the donor, if he is an unemancipated minor.
- (5) The guardian of the donor.

* * *

§2354. Manner of executing anatomical gift or refusal prior to death of donor
A. A donor may make an anatomical gift **An anatomical gift may be made by persons as provided by and in accordance with R.S. 17:2352** by any of the following **methods**:

(1) Authorizing **By a document of gift signed by the donor, including authorization of** a statement or symbol indicating that the donor has made an anatomical gift to be imprinted on his **on** a driver's license, identification card, fishing license, or hunting license, **or registry, as provided by law.**

(2) Executing a will.

~~(3) Any form of communication addressed to at least two adults, at least one of whom is a disinterested witness, during a terminal illness or injury.~~ **By a document of gift signed by another individual acting at the direction of the donor if the donor is physically unable to sign, provided the document is witnessed by two adults, at least one of whom is a disinterested witness, and states that it was signed and witnessed as provided in this Paragraph.**

(4) Any form of communication made during a terminal illness or injury and addressed to a physician or made in the presence of at least one disinterested adult witness, provided that either of the following occurs:

(a) If communicated to a physician, the communication is promptly documented in the medical record, including the date, time, and identity of the person receiving the communication.

(b) If made in the presence of a disinterested adult witness, the witness attests to the communication in writing.

B. A donor or other person authorized to make an anatomical gift pursuant to R.S. 17:2352 may make a gift by a donor card or other record signed by the person making the gift or by authorizing that a statement or symbol indicating that a gift has been made be included on a donor registry. If the donor or other person is physically unable to sign a record, the record may be signed

by another person at the direction of the person making the gift and the record shall:

(1) Be witnessed by two adults, one of whom is a disinterested witness, who have signed at the request of the person making the gift; and

(2) State that it has been signed and witnessed as provided in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection.

A refusal to make an anatomical gift may be executed in the same manner and with the same legal effect as an anatomical gift under Subsection A of this Section.

C. An anatomical gift or refusal executed in accordance with this Section constitutes a legally effective expression of the donor's intent and shall be given effect in accordance with this Part. A gift or refusal shall not be revoked, amended, or overridden except as expressly provided by law. A revocation under this Part withdraws a prior authorization or refusal and does not itself constitute an authorization or refusal.

~~C.D.~~ Revocation, suspension, expiration, or cancellation of a driver's license, identification card, fishing license, or hunting license upon which an anatomical gift is indicated does not invalidate the gift.

~~D.E.~~ An anatomical gift executed in a will takes effect upon the death of the donor whether or not the will is probated. Invalidation of the will after the death of the donor does not invalidate the gift.

§2354.1. Refusal to make anatomical gift; effect

A. A person ~~An individual~~ may refuse to make an anatomical gift of ~~his the individual's~~ body or part by executing ~~any of the following: a refusal in any manner authorized for the execution of an anatomical gift under R.S. 17:2354.~~

~~(1) A signed record in accordance with Subsection B of this Section or if he is physically unable to sign, another person acting at the direction of the person shall sign.~~

~~(2) A will and testament, whether or not the will is admitted to probate or invalidated after his death.~~

~~(3) Any form of communication made by the person during a terminal illness or injury addressed to at least two adults, one of whom is a disinterested witness.~~

B. A signed record, shall be witnessed by at least two adults, one of whom is a disinterested witness, and shall state that it has been signed and witnessed as provided in Subsection A of this Section.

B. A refusal executed pursuant to this Section shall be subject to the same requirements regarding form, signature, witnesses, authentication, and recording as applied to the execution of an anatomical gift under R.S. 17:2354.

C. A person who has made a refusal to make an anatomical gift, may amend or revoke the refusal in any of the following ways:

~~(1) In the manner provided in Subsection A of this Section for making a refusal.~~

~~(2) By subsequently making an anatomical gift in accordance with R.S. 17:2354 that is inconsistent with the refusal.~~

~~(3) By destroying or canceling the record or a portion thereof evidencing the refusal, with the intent of revocation.~~

C. A refusal executed in accordance with this Section constitutes a legally effective expression of the individual's intent and shall be given full force and effect under this Part.

D. Except as otherwise provided in R.S. 17:2354.2, in the absence of an express contrary indication set forth in the refusal, an unrevoked refusal bars all other persons from making an anatomical gift of the body or part of the person **individual.**

E. A refusal may be amended or revoked only in the manner provided in this Part.

F. A refusal may include limitations or special instructions, which shall be honored to the extent permitted by law.

G. A revocation of a refusal is a neutral act that withdraws the prior refusal, does not constitute an anatomical gift, and results in no anatomical gift decision being in effect unless and until a new authorization or refusal is made in accordance with this Part.

§2354.2. Preclusive effect of anatomical gift; amendment; revocation

A. Except as otherwise provided in Subsection G of this Section and subject **Subject** to Subsection F of this Section, in the absence of an express, contrary indication by the donor, a person other than the donor is barred from making, amending, or revoking an anatomical gift of the body or part of the donor if the gift complies with R.S. 17:2354 or 2356 **was executed in accordance with R.S. 17:2354 and has not been amended or revoked in accordance with R.S. 17:2356.**

B. A revocation of a ~~an anatomical~~ gift in accordance with R.S. 17:2356 is ~~not~~ a refusal and does not bar another person from making an anatomical gift of the body or part of the donor **a neutral act that withdraws the prior anatomical gift, does not constitute a refusal for purposes of this Part, and results in no anatomical gift decision being in effect unless and until a new authorization or refusal is made in accordance with this Part.**

C. If a person other than the donor makes an ~~unrevoked~~ anatomical gift of the body or part ~~or of~~ the donor in accordance with R.S. 17:2354 or amends a gift of the body or part of the donor in accordance with R.S. 17:2356, another person may not make, amend, or revoke the gift, in accordance with R.S. 17:2356.

D. A revocation of an anatomical gift of the body or part of a donor in accordance with R.S. 17:2356 by a person other than the donor ~~does not bar another person from making an anatomical gift of the body or part in accordance with R.S. 17:2354 or 2356~~ **withdraws the prior gift but does not constitute a refusal and does not bar another person from making an anatomical gift of the body or part in accordance with this Part.**

E. In the absence of an express, contrary indication by the donor or other person authorized to make an anatomical gift, an anatomical gift of a part is neither a refusal to give another part nor a limitation on the making of a gift of another part at a later time by the donor or another person.

F. In the absence of an express, contrary indication by the donor or other person authorized to make an anatomical gift, an anatomical gift of a part for one or more of the purposes in R.S. 17:2352 is not a limitation on the making of an anatomical gift of the part for any other purpose in accordance with R.S. 17:2354 ~~or 2356~~.

G. ~~If an unemancipated minor donor dies, his reasonably available parent may revoke or amend the anatomical gift.~~

* * *

§2354.7. Law governing validity; choice of law; presumption
A. ~~A valid document of gift shall be executed~~ **An anatomical gift decision, including an authorization or refusal, is valid if it is made** in accordance with the provisions of this Part, the laws of the state or country where it was executed ~~made~~, or the laws of the state or country where the person making the anatomical gift was domiciled, ~~has a place of residence~~ **resided**, or was a national at the time the document of gift was executed **anatomical gift decision was made**.

B. ~~If a document of gift~~ **an anatomical gift decision** is valid in accordance with this Part, the law of this state governs the interpretation ~~of the document of gift and effect of the anatomical gift decision~~.

C. A person may presume that a document of gift or amendment thereto ~~an anatomical gift decision or amendment thereto~~ is valid unless that person knows that it is not validly executed ~~made~~ or it was revoked.

D. **If multiple anatomical gift decisions exist, including decisions made in another state or country, the most recent legally effective authorization or refusal shall control.**

E. **If the laws of another state or country conflict with the provisions of this Part, the provisions of this Part shall govern the determination of the effect of the anatomical gift decision.**

F. **An anatomical gift decision made by a minor, except as provided by R.S. 17:2352(B)(2) or R.S. 17:2354(A), shall not constitute a legally effective authorization or refusal in this state.**

§2354.8. Donor registry **Registry**
A. The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health may establish or contract for the establishment of a donor registry.

B. ~~The Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of motor vehicles, and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries shall cooperate with any person administering any donor registry that this state establishes, contracts for, or recognizes for the purpose of transferring to the donor registry all relevant information regarding the making, amendment to, or revocation of an anatomical gift~~ **an individual's anatomical gift decision, including authorization, refusal, amendment, revocation of a prior authorization or refusal, affirmation of a previously recorded decision, indication that no anatomical gift decision should be recorded, or informational indication in the case of a minor.**

C. A donor registry shall be accessible seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day and allow each of the following:

(1) ~~A donor~~ **An individual** or other person authorized in accordance with R.S. 17:2352 to include on the donor registry a statement or symbol that the donor **individual** has made, amended, or revoked an anatomical gift ~~or amended an anatomical gift decision, revoked a prior authorization or refusal, affirmed a previously recorded authorization or refusal, or has indicated that no anatomical gift decision should be recorded.~~

(2) A procurement organization to obtain relevant information ~~from the registry to determine, at or near death of the donor or a prospective donor, whether the donor or prospective donor has made, amended, or revoked an anatomical gift~~ **individual, whether the individual has made or amended an anatomical gift decision, revoked a prior authorization or refusal, affirmed a previously recorded authorization or refusal, or whether no anatomical gift decision is recorded.**

D. Personally identifiable information on a donor registry may not be used or disclosed without the express consent of the donor **individual**, prospective donor, or person that made the anatomical gift, for any purpose except to determine, at or near the death of the donor **individual**, whether he the **individual** has made, amended, or revoked an anatomical gift ~~or amended an anatomical gift decision, revoked a prior authorization or refusal, affirmed a previously recorded authorization or refusal, or whether no anatomical gift decision is recorded.~~

E. This Section does not prohibit any person from creating or maintaining a donor registry that is not established by or contracted with the state. Any such registry shall comply with Subsections C and D of this Section **and shall not supersede the registry recognized by the state under this Section unless the record is in accordance with R.S. 17:2354.7. A revocation recorded in the registry withdraws a prior authorization or refusal and results in no anatomical gift decision being recorded unless and until a new authorization or refusal is made.**

* * *

§2354.10. Anatomical gifts by minors
A. No state agency, political subdivision, department, office, or contractor thereof, including the office responsible for the issuance of driver's licenses or identification cards, shall solicit, query, or request from a minor any authorization for or refusal to make an anatomical gift in the absence of a parent or legal guardian.

B. No representation by a minor concerning anatomical gift authorization or refusal shall be recorded, relied upon, or given legal effect unless made in the presence of a parent or legal guardian who affirmatively and expressly concurs in writing in the decision of the minor.

C. **Any representation made by a minor concerning an anatomical gift authorization or refusal, when made in the presence of and with the affirmative and express written concurrence of a parent or legal guardian, may be recorded solely for informational purposes and shall not be legally operative prior to the minor attaining the age of majority.**

D. **Upon attainment of the age of majority, any informational record of anatomical gift authorization or refusal made by the individual as a minor in accordance with this Section shall become legally operative unless the individual affirmatively amends or revokes the record in accordance with law.**

E. **Notwithstanding any provision of this Part, this Section shall not apply to a minor who is emancipated pursuant to law or who is legally married, and the individual shall be treated as an adult for purposes of this Part.**

F. **Nothing in this Section shall be construed to limit the authority of a parent or legal guardian to make or refuse an anatomical gift on behalf of a minor as otherwise provided by law.**

§2354.11. Premortem interventions; definitions; prohibitions
A. For purposes of this Section, "premortem intervention" means any medical procedure, test, medication, cannulation, or other intervention undertaken prior to the determination of death for the purpose of facilitating organ or tissue recovery.

B. **No premortem intervention shall be performed unless it is medically indicated for the direct benefit of the patient or is performed pursuant to a legally effective consent applicable to premortem interventions, as provided in this Section.**

C. **Regardless of consent, no person shall perform or direct any premortem intervention that has a material likelihood of any of the following:**

(1) Hastening death.

(2) Manufacturing, accelerating, or securing irreversibility of circulatory, respiratory, or neurologic cessation.

(3) Preventing or materially interfering with the restoration or resumption of circulatory, respiratory, or neurologic function.

D. **Any physician or individual who performs or directs a premortem intervention shall be independent of, and shall not participate in, the recovery or transplantation of any organ or tissue from the individual, and shall not be a member of the transplant team.**

E. **Authorization to make an anatomical gift after death does not constitute consent to any premortem intervention, test, procedure, or medication. Consent for any premortem intervention shall be separately and expressly obtained and shall be legally effective only if the following occur:**

(1) The consent is given by the patient, or by another person legally authorized under Louisiana law to consent to medical treatment on behalf of the patient.

(2) The consent is voluntary and informed.

(3) The nature and purpose of the premortem intervention are specifically described.

(4) **The patient or other person authorized to consent is informed that the intervention is performed for the purpose of facilitating organ or tissue recovery and is not medically indicated for the care or treatment of the patient.**

(5) **The consent does not authorize any premortem intervention that poses a material risk of causing or hastening the death of the patient, or a material risk of interfering with the determination of death in accordance with R.S. 9:111.**

F. **Nothing in this Section shall be construed to alter the standards for determination of death under R.S. 9:111 or to authorize any practice inconsistent with that Section.**

G. **Nothing in this Section shall be construed to prohibit the provision of comfort care, palliative treatment, or the withdrawal or withholding of life-sustaining treatment in accordance with applicable law and accepted medical standards.**

§2354.12. Post-determination handling and transport of the decedent
A. **This Section applies following the determination and pronouncement of death under R.S. 9:111 and the recovery of any organ or tissue pursuant to an anatomical gift.**

B. **Prior to the recovery of organs or tissue, the individual authorized to make an anatomical gift, or the individual's authorized representative where applicable, shall be informed in writing of any plan to do any of the following:**

(1) Transport the decedent from the hospital or facility where death was determined to another facility for further organ or tissue recovery, processing, or handling.

(2) **Continue mechanical ventilation, perfusion, or other artificial support of bodily functions following the determination of death for purposes related to organ or tissue recovery.**

C. **No transport or continuation of mechanical support described in Subsection B of this Section shall occur unless expressly authorized as part of a legally effective authorization applicable to post-determination handling and transport.**

D. **Authorization to make an anatomical gift after death shall not, by itself, constitute authorization for transport of the decedent to a nonhospital facility or for continuation of mechanical support following death determination.**

E. **Any handling or transport of the decedent following death determination and organ or tissue recovery shall be conducted in a manner consistent with the dignity of the decedent and with the reasonable expectations of the family, as informed by the disclosures made under this Section.**

F. **Nothing in this Section shall be construed to limit the recovery of organs or tissue otherwise authorized by law, to alter the standards for determination**

of death under R.S. 9:111, or, except to the extent necessary to carry out a valid anatomical gift, to alter or transfer the custodial authority of the person or persons authorized by law to control disposition of the body.

§2354.13. Effect of anatomical gift decisions
A. An authorization recorded in the registry constitutes a legally effective expression of intent and supersedes any prior refusal.

B. A refusal recorded in the registry constitutes a legally effective expression of intent and supersedes any prior authorization.

C. The most recent authorization or refusal recorded in the registry shall control.

D. The absence of a recorded authorization or refusal indicates that no anatomical gift decision has been recorded in the registry and shall not constitute authorization or refusal.

E. A response to a query by the office of motor vehicles or other state agency indicating that no anatomical gift decision should be recorded shall not constitute an authorization or refusal and shall have no legal effect.

F. An informational indication made by a minor shall not constitute a legally effective authorization or refusal.

§2354.14. Out-of-state anatomical gift decisions; effect
A. An anatomical gift decision, including an authorization or refusal, made in another state that is valid under the laws of that state or of this state shall be recognized as a legally effective anatomical gift decision in this state.

B. The effect of an anatomical gift decision recognized under this Section shall be determined in accordance with the laws of this state.

C. If multiple anatomical gift decisions exist, including decisions made in another state, the most recent legally effective authorization or refusal shall control.

D. If the laws of another state conflict with the provisions of this Part, the provisions of this Part shall govern the determination of the effect of the anatomical gift decision.

E. Notwithstanding any provision of another state's law, an anatomical gift decision made by a minor shall not constitute a legally effective authorization or refusal in this state.

* * *

§2357. Rights and duties of procurement organizations; others
A. When a hospital refers a person at or near death to a procurement organization, the procurement organization shall make a reasonable search of the records of the office of motor vehicles and ~~any known donor the registry~~ **recognized under R.S. 17:2354.8** to ascertain whether the person has made ~~an anatomical gift or amended an anatomical gift decision, revoked a prior authorization or refusal, affirmed a previously recorded authorization or refusal, or whether no anatomical gift decision is recorded.~~

* * *

F. Upon the death of a minor who ~~was a donor or had signed a refusal has made an informational indication regarding anatomical gift status,~~ unless a procurement organization knows he was **legally married or** emancipated, it shall conduct a reasonable search for his parents and provide them with an opportunity to revoke or amend the anatomical gift or the refusal. **make an anatomical gift decision in accordance with this Part. Any informational indication recorded in the registry with respect to a minor shall not constitute a legally effective authorization or refusal but may be considered by the persons authorized to make an anatomical gift on behalf of the minor.**

* * *

Section 2. This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2027.
Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.
A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 512

SENATE BILL NO. 435
BY SENATORS MYERS, BARROW, BOUDREAUX, CATHEY, CONNICK, DUPLESSIS, HENRY, MIZELL, MORRIS, PRICE, SELDERS AND TALBOT AND REPRESENTATIVES BEAULLIEU, BILLINGS, BOYD, CHASSION, FARNUM, KNOX, LARVADAIN, LYONS, MARCELLE, THOMAS, WALTERS AND WYBLE
AN ACT

To enact Subpart C of Part II of Chapter 3 of Title 46 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 46:261, relative to the Louisiana Commission on Fatherhood Engagement; to establish the commission within the office of the governor; to provide for the membership, powers, and duties of the commission; to provide for interagency cooperation; to provide for a termination date; and to provide for related matters.
Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Subpart C of Part II of Chapter 3 of Title 46 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 46:261, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

SUBPART C. FATHERHOOD ENGAGEMENT

§261. Louisiana Commission on Fatherhood Engagement
A. There is hereby established within the office of the governor, the Louisiana Commission on Fatherhood Engagement, hereafter referred to as the “commission”.
B. The commission shall be comprised of the following members:
(1) The director of early childhood systems in the office of the governor.

(2) The executive director of the Louisiana Children’s Cabinet, or his designee.
(3) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services, or his designee.
(4) The superintendent of the Louisiana Department of Education, or his designee.
(5) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, or his designee.
(6) The director of the bureau of family health within the Louisiana Department of Health, or his designee.
(7) The secretary of Louisiana Works, or his designee.
(8) A member of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate.
(9) A member of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.
(10) A representative from the Louisiana Supreme Court.
(11) The director of the Louisiana Head Start Collaboration.
(12) The chief executive officer of the Louisiana Policy Institute for Children, or his designee.
(13) A family court judge appointed by the governor.
(14) A representative of a faith community that promotes fatherhood engagement appointed by the governor.
(15) A representative from a parenting education organization that works in multiple parishes appointed by the governor.
(16) One representative each from an organization that provides fatherhood programs in each of the nine public health regions of the state. If there is no organization that provides fatherhood programs in any region, this position shall be filled by a father who is a community leader or an additional faith-based representative appointed by the governor.
C. A majority of the members of the commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and all official action of the commission shall require the favorable vote of a majority of those members present and voting.
D. Members appointed to the commission shall serve two-year terms. The directors, secretaries, and superintendents, or their designees shall serve on the commission until they cease to be a director, secretary, or superintendent. Each member shall serve on the commission from the date of appointment until the end of the term for which the member was appointed. Members may be reappointed.
E. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration date of the term for which the member’s predecessor was appointed shall serve on the commission for the remainder of that term. A member shall continue to serve on the commission subsequent to the expiration date of the member’s term until the member’s successor is appointed.
F. Members shall serve without compensation but shall be eligible for reimbursement for necessary expenses.
G.(1) The director of early childhood systems in the office of the governor shall call the first meeting of the commission.
(2) The commission shall elect a chairperson from among its members in every even-numbered year.
H. The duties of the commission shall include but not be limited to all of the following:
(1) Implementing the recommendations made by the Task Force on Fatherhood Engagement and all ensuing recommendations developed and approved by the commission pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 9 of the 2025 Regular Session of the Legislature.
(2) Raising awareness of the importance of fathers’ engagement in the lives of their children, resources and support available to Louisiana fathers, and the challenges and barriers facing Louisiana fathers.
(3) Identifying resources available to fund fatherhood-related programs and assist in the creation or expansion of initiatives that do the following:
(a) Promote responsible fatherhood.
(b) Build the parenting and co-parenting skills of fathers.
(c) Provide employment-related services for low-income fathers.
(d) Provide services to fathers who are incarcerated or have been recently released from incarceration to allow them to maintain or reestablish their relationships with their families.
(e) Reconcile fathers with their families.
(f) Provide support for effective fatherhood programming across state agencies.
(g) Improve data collection and usage on fathers and fatherhood engagement across agencies.
(h) Improve support for fathers during the perinatal period.
(i) Assist fathers with minor children in addressing barriers to accessing and maintaining stable housing.
(j) Improve policies and practices to ensure fair and equal opportunities for fathers in child custody, visitation, and family court proceedings.
(k) Increase public awareness of the critical role fathers play.
(4) Organizing a state summit on fatherhood at least once every four years.
(5) Reporting annually on the commission’s expectations for the outcomes of fatherhood-related programs and initiatives and the methods the commission uses for conducting annual measures of those outcomes.
(6) Submitting a comprehensive report to the legislature annually with a funding request for fatherhood programs that are overseen by the commission and allocated to community organizations to support programs and services aligned with the commission’s intent and purpose.
I. The provisions of this Section shall terminate on January 1, 2030.

Section 2. Subpart C of Part II of Chapter 3 of Title 46 of the Louisiana
CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words under-
scored (House Bills) and underscored and **boldfaced** (Senate Bills) are additions.

Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 46:261, is hereby repealed in its entirety.

Section 3.(A) This Section and Section 1 of this Act shall become effective August 1, 2026.

(B) Section 2 of this Act shall become effective January 1, 2030.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 513

SENATE BILL NO. 436

BY SENATOR CLOUD

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 47:306.6, relative to aviation fuel taxes; to provide for annual estimates of aviation fuel taxes; to provide for the use of designated ramp space by certain aircraft; to provide for rules and regulations relative to aviation fuel tax; to provide for reporting of aviation fuel taxes; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 47:306.6 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:
§306.6. Annual aviation fuel estimates; calculations; agreements with the Department of Transportation and Development; reporting requirements; **designated ramp space for public use**

~~A.(4) Annual estimates. The secretary of the Department of Revenue shall annually estimate the revenue to be derived from state taxes collected from purchases of aviation fuel. Monies collected from the avails of the taxes levied on aviation fuel shall be appropriated to the Department of Transportation and Development to be used solely for airport-related purposes; however, no portion of such monies shall be disbursed to any airport that does not clearly indicate on its property the designated ramp space for public use within its published airport directory or diagram. The designated ramp space for public use at an airport shall be made available for transient aircraft without charge for no more than two hours. Nothing in this Subsection shall be construed to require a fixed base operator, airport operator, or tenant to provide fueling, ground handling, towing, parking assistance, concierge services, or any other services to aircraft utilizing the designated ramp space for public use.~~

~~(2)B.~~ The calculation of “annual estimated revenue” shall be determined by using all of the following:

~~(a)(1) Average price per gallon. The average price per gallon of aviation fuel shall be determined through a two-year agreement between the secretary of the Department of Revenue and the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development rules and procedures promulgated by the Department of Transportation and Development, office of multimodal commerce. The average price per gallon shall be based on historical data, current market fuel prices, and trends provided by relevant reports, including reputable sources such as government agencies, industry associations, or market analysis firms.~~

~~(b)(2) Gallons sold data source. The volume of aviation fuel sold in Louisiana shall be determined based on data provided by the Energy Information Administration or the Bureau of Transportation Statistics. In the event data from either of these two organizations is unavailable, the secretary of the Department of Revenue may utilize other reputable data sources, subject to approval by the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget through rules and procedures promulgated by the Department of Transportation and Development, office of multimodal commerce. When determining the volume of aviation fuel sold in Louisiana, the office of multimodal commerce may utilize data published by federal government agencies, including but not limited to the United States Energy Information Administration and the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, as well as other verifiable and publicly available data sources.~~

~~(3) State taxes collected from aviation fuel sales. The Department of Revenue shall provide to the Department of Transportation and Development an annual report of actual state tax collections derived from sales of aviation fuel. The Department of Transportation and Development, office of multimodal commerce, shall consider the collection amounts reported in accordance with this Paragraph when developing rules and procedures for calculating estimated aviation fuel tax revenue.~~

~~(e)(4) Sales tax rate. The sales tax rate applied in calculating the annual estimated revenue shall be based on the current state sales tax rate in effect at the time of the estimate. If the state sales tax rate changes during the fiscal year, the annual estimated revenue shall be recalculated using the new sales tax rate.~~

~~(3) The secretary of the Department of Revenue shall submit the annual estimated revenue to be derived from state taxes collected from purchases of aviation fuel to the Revenue Estimating Conference within five calendar days of the annual estimate being completed by the secretary.~~

C. The Revenue Estimating Conference shall utilize this estimation formula and the rules and policies promulgated by the Department of Transportation and Development, office of multimodal commerce, to develop its annual estimate of aviation fuel taxes collected.

B. Reporting requirements. The secretary of the Department of Revenue shall submit an annual report to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget no later than March thirty-first of each year which contains the following information:

~~(1) The average price per gallon used in the calculation.~~

~~(2) The total gallons of aviation fuel sold in the state used in the calculation, as reported by the Energy Information Administration or the Bureau of Transportation Statistics.~~

~~(3) The sales tax rate applied in the calculation.~~

~~C. Legislative oversight. All agreements between the secretary of the Department of Revenue and the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development required pursuant to the provisions of this Section related to the calculation of the annual estimated revenue derived from sales of aviation fuel shall be reviewed and approved by the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget prior to the agreement becoming binding between the parties.~~

~~D. The provisions of this Section shall be terminated and have no effect on January 1, 2027.~~

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 514

SENATE BILL NO. 437

BY SENATOR ABRAHAM

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 40:2852(C)(2) and to enact R.S. 40:2852(C)(3) through (5), relative to treatment services provided at facilities providing housing or temporary residence for individuals referred by judicial agencies; to provide for requirements for treatment; and to provide for related matters. Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 40:2852(C)(2) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 40:2852(C)(3) through (5) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§2852. Facilities providing housing or temporary residence to individuals referred by judicial agencies

* * *

C.

* * *

~~(2) No facility shall provide treatment to any individual and no judicial agency shall refer any individual to a facility providing treatment until the Louisiana Department of Health has adopted rules and has inspected the facility and certified that the facility is in compliance with these rules as provided for by this Section provided for in Subsection A of this Section shall provide residential substance use disorder treatment to any individual, unless the facility is licensed by the Louisiana Department of Health pursuant to R.S. 40:2151 et seq., as a behavioral health service provider with the residential substance use disorder treatment module.~~

~~(3) No judicial agency shall refer any individual to a facility providing residential substance use disorder treatment until that facility has been surveyed and licensed by the Louisiana Department of Health as a behavioral health service provider with the residential substance use disorder treatment module pursuant to R.S. 40:2151 et seq.~~

~~(4) A complaint regarding a residential facility providing residential substance use disorder treatment without a license may be filed with the licensing section of the Louisiana Department of Health for investigation.~~

~~(5) Nothing herein shall prohibit a licensed physician or a licensed mental health professional or licensed behavioral health service provider as defined in R.S. 40:2153 from providing behavioral health or substance use disorder treatment services, including substance use disorder counseling services, to persons in their place of residence.~~

* * *

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 515

SENATE BILL NO. 440

BY SENATOR LUNEAU

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 15:1109.21 and 1109.22(A), relative to a renaissance district; to provide relative to a renaissance district in the parish of Rapides; to provide relative to juvenile detention, education, and rehabilitation; to provide relative to the board of commissioners of the renaissance district; to provide relative to the powers, duties, and functions of the board; and to provide for related matters.

Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 15:1109.21 and 1109.22(A) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§1109.21. Renaissance district; creation; jurisdiction

A renaissance district is hereby created in **any the parish of Rapides having a population of more than one hundred twenty-nine thousand and less than one hundred thirty-two thousand persons according to the most recent federal decennial census**, which shall be a political subdivision of the state.

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words under scored (House Bills) and underscored and **boldfaced** (Senate Bills) are additions.

§1109.22. Board of commissioners; appointment; terms
A. The renaissance district shall be governed by a commission which shall control, administer, and manage its affairs. The commission shall be composed of ~~seven~~ **nine** commissioners, and each shall be a qualified elector of and domiciled in the parish. Each commissioner shall be appointed for a term of four years as follows:

(1) ~~Five~~ **Four** members shall be appointed by the parish ~~of Rapides~~ governing authority as follows:

(a) ~~Two~~ **One** ~~members~~ **member** shall be appointed from ~~an existing the prior nonprofit entity~~ renaissance board of directors as long as ~~at least one member of that board exists~~ **is capable of serving**, after which time ~~two~~ **one** ~~members~~ **member** shall be appointed from the residents of the parish who are not employed by the parish police jury and who have experience with juveniles in education, rehabilitation, or incarceration of juveniles.

(b) Three members who are not employed by the parish police jury who have experience with juveniles in education, rehabilitation, or incarceration of juveniles.

(2) One member who is employed by the sheriff's office of the parish ~~of Rapides~~ having experience with juveniles in education, rehabilitation, or incarceration of juveniles.

(3) One member who is employed by the office of the district attorney of the parish ~~of Rapides~~ having experience with juveniles in education, rehabilitation, or incarceration of juveniles.

(4) Three members appointed by the Central Louisiana Juvenile Detention Center Authority having experience with juveniles in education, rehabilitation, or incarceration of juveniles.

* * *

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 516

SENATE BILL NO. 447
BY SENATOR BASS
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 33:2491 and 2492(7)(h) and to enact R.S. 33:2492(7)(d) (iii) and (i), 2494(C)(8), and 2498(E), relative to the city of Bossier; to provide relative to the classified police service; to provide relative to department and promotional seniority; to provide relative to the classification of promotions for certain positions; to provide relative to testing and competitive employment in certain circumstances; to provide relative to the establishment and maintenance of employment lists; to provide relative to the certification and appointment of eligible persons in the police department; to provide relative to the abolition of classes; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 33:2491 and 2492(7)(h) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 33:2492(7)(d)(iii) and (i), 2494(C)(8), and 2498(E) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§2491. Establishment and maintenance of employment lists

Except for the positions of entrance firefighter, entrance police officer, entrance jailer, secretary to the chief, departmental records clerk, and for the entrance classes for which the operation and maintenance of radio, alarm, or signal systems for the respective fire or police service is the primary duty, the board shall establish and maintain employment lists containing **the** names of persons eligible for appointment to the various classes of positions in the classified service, as follows:

A. ~~Names~~ **The names** of regular employees who are demoted from any class for a reason other than disciplinary action shall be placed upon the reinstatement list for the class from which they were demoted in the order in which the demotions were made.

B. Only the names of regular employees who have been laid off in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 33:2499 shall be eligible for entry upon the reemployment list. The names of such persons shall be entered upon the reemployment list for the class from which they were laid off in the order in which the lay-offs were made.

C. A name placed upon either the reinstatement or the reemployment list shall remain ~~thereon~~ **on the list** for a period of four years. The board, however, may remove the name of any person who refuses an offer of employment following a certification from either list.

D.(1) Except as provided for in Paragraphs (2), ~~and~~ (3), ~~and~~ (4) of this Subsection, names of persons attaining a passing score on a promotion test shall be placed upon the promotion employment list for the class for which they were tested, from highest to lowest, according to their total departmental seniority. The names of persons attaining a passing score on a competitive test shall be placed upon the competitive employment list for the class for which they were tested, from highest to lowest, according to their final test scores.

(2)(a) ~~Names~~ **The names** of persons attaining a passing score on the promotional test in the Lafayette Police Department for the rank of lieutenant or captain, or in the Lake Charles Police Department, shall be placed upon the promotion employment list for the class for which they were tested, from

highest to lowest, according to their total promotional seniority in the next lower class. If two or more persons possess an equal amount of promotional seniority, the names of those persons shall be placed on the promotional list in the order of departmental seniority, from highest to lowest.

(b) An employee with the Lake Charles Police Department who is a member of the armed forces of the United States and is at an official training, active training exercise, or active duty deployment on the date of a promotional test for which he is qualified and eligible shall have his name placed upon the promotion employment list with promotional seniority credit back to the original testing date provided ~~that~~ the employee takes and attains a passing score on the promotion test upon his return from training or active duty deployment. In addition, his name shall remain on the promotional employment list for forty-eight months following his attainment of a passing score on the promotion test.

(3) ~~Names~~ **The names** of persons attaining a passing score on the promotional test in the Crowley Police Department shall be placed on the promotion employment list for the class for which they were tested, from highest to lowest, according to their total promotional seniority in the next lower class. If two or more persons possess an equal amount of promotional seniority, the names of those persons shall be placed on the promotional list in the order of departmental seniority, from highest to lowest.

(4) Names of persons attaining a passing score on the promotional test in the Bossier City Police Department shall be placed on the promotion employment list for the class for which they were tested, from highest to lowest, according to their total promotional seniority in the next lower class. If two or more persons possess an equal amount of promotional seniority, the names of those persons shall be placed on the promotional list in the order of departmental seniority, from highest to lowest.

E. Any person whose name is placed upon the competitive employment list for the entrance or lowest ranking class in the classified service who has served in the armed forces of the United States of America during ~~the times~~ **a time** of war, and has been honorably discharged or discharged under honorable conditions, shall have added to his final test score a total of five points at the time of placing his name upon the list. Proof of such service and discharge shall be required by the board or the state examiner in any manner it deems advisable.

F.(1) The minimum and maximum period **of time** for which a name may remain upon a competitive employment list established and maintained by the board for any of the various classes of positions in the classified fire and police service shall be twelve and eighteen months, respectively, for each list.

(2)(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the minimum and maximum period **of time** for which a name may remain upon a promotional employment list established and maintained by the board for any of the various classes of positions in the classified fire and police service shall be twelve and forty-eight months, respectively, for each list.

(b) Except as provided in R.S. 33:2491.4(D), the provisions of this Paragraph shall apply to any promotional employment list **that** is established and maintained by the board pursuant to this Part for any of the various classes of positions in the classified fire and police service containing the names of eligible persons on and after August 1, 2013.

G. The employment lists for which eligibles are obtained from the results of tests given for that purpose shall be reestablished in the manner further provided ~~for~~ by this Part.

H.(1) Except as provided in Paragraphs (2), ~~and~~ (3), ~~and~~ (5) of this Subsection, when new names are to be placed upon a promotion list for a given class, the remaining names thereon shall be rearranged with the new names so that all names appearing upon the list for the class shall rank, from highest to lowest, according to total departmental seniority.

(2) When new names are to be placed upon a promotion list for a given class in the Lafayette Police Department for the rank of lieutenant or captain, and in the Lake Charles Police Department, the remaining names thereon shall be rearranged with the new names ~~so~~ **such** that all names appearing upon the list for the class shall rank, from highest to lowest, according to total promotional seniority in the next lower class from which the promotion list is established. If two or more persons possess an equal amount of promotional seniority, the names of those persons shall be placed on the promotional list in the order of departmental seniority, from highest to lowest.

(3) When new names are to be placed on a promotion list for a given class in the Crowley Police Department, the remaining names thereon shall be rearranged with the new names ~~so~~ **such** that all names appearing on the list for the class shall rank, from highest to lowest, according to total promotional seniority in the next lower class from which the promotion list is established. If two or more persons possess an equal amount of promotional seniority, the names of those persons shall be placed on the promotional list in the order of departmental seniority, from highest to lowest.

(4) When new names are to be placed upon a competitive list for a given class, the remaining names thereon shall be rearranged with the new names ~~so~~ **such** that all names appearing upon the list for the class shall rank, from highest to lowest, according to their final test scores.

(5) When new names are to be placed on a promotion list for a given class in the Bossier City Police Department, the remaining names thereon shall be rearranged with the new names so that all names appearing on the list for the class shall rank, from highest to lowest, according to total promotional seniority in the next lower class from which the promotion list is established. If two or more persons possess an equal amount of promotional seniority, the names of those persons shall be placed on the promotional list in the order of

departmental seniority, from highest to lowest.
I. For purposes of entrance firefighter, entrance police officer, entrance jailer, secretary to the chief, departmental records clerk, and for the entrance classes for which the operation and maintenance of radio, alarm, or signal systems for the respective fire or police service is the primary duty, the state examiner shall establish and maintain a statewide eligibility list ~~containing that contains~~ the names of persons eligible for appointment to these classes by any municipality, parish, or fire protection district under the municipal fire and police civil service system.

§2492. Tests
Tests to determine the eligibility of applicants for entry upon the promotional and competitive employment lists shall be provided as follows:

(7) Competitive tests shall be held only as the needs of the service require and shall be given for classes comprising only the following duties or positions:

(d)(i)

(iii) Notwithstanding Item (i) of this Subparagraph, for the city of Bossier, operations, management, and supervision of radio, fire alarm, police alarm, and other signal systems.

(h) Jail superintendent for the city of Bossier Police Department.
(i) For a position in any class in the classified service after reasonable efforts by preceding methods provided by this Part have failed to produce names of persons eligible for regular appointment thereto.

§2494. Certification and appointment

C.(1)(a)

(8) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, in the city of Bossier a vacant position in the police department shall be filled in the following manner:

(a) If a vacancy cannot be filled by reinstatement or by reemployment as provided in Subsections A and B of this Section, the board shall next certify the names of the persons on the promotional list, in the order in which they appear thereon, for the class in which the vacancy is to be filled.

(b) The appointing authority shall select and appoint to the first vacancy to be filled the one person certified to him who has the greatest promotional seniority in the next lower class. Any remaining positions to be filled in the same class shall be filled by appointing to each such successive vacancy the one of the remaining persons certified therefor who has the next highest promotional seniority in the next lower class.

(c) If any one or more persons so certified should refuse the appointment, the appointing authority shall then select and appoint one of the persons certified by the board with the next highest promotional seniority in the next lower class. This procedure shall be followed until the position has been filled by appointment of the one person who has the greatest promotional seniority in the next lower class and who is willing to accept the appointment or until each person whose name appears on the list, has in this order been certified and offered an appointment to the vacancy.

(d) If two or more persons possess an equal amount of promotional seniority, those persons shall be reinstated or listed on the promotional list and offered promotions in the order of departmental seniority, from highest to lowest.

§2498. Abolition of positions in the classified service

E. Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection B of this Section, if an entire class in the Bossier City Police Department is abolished in the classified service, the regular employees of the class shall be demoted to lower classes and priority to positions shall be governed by total promotional seniority earned in the class, from highest to lowest. If two or more persons possess an equal amount of promotional seniority, the names of such persons shall be placed on the reinstatement list in the order of departmental seniority, from highest to lowest.

Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.
A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 517

SENATE BILL NO. 451

BY SENATOR KLEINPETER AND REPRESENTATIVE CHASSION
AN ACT

To amend and reenact the heading of Chapter 30-A of Title 46 of the Louisiana

THE ADVOCATE
PAGE 47

* As it appears in the enrolled bill

Revised Statutes of 1950 and R.S. 46:2261, 2262, the introductory paragraph of 2262.1, 2262.1(4) and (12), and 2263 through 2267, relative to newborn hearing screening; to update terminology and definitions; to provide for the purpose of early hearing detection and intervention; to provide for the membership, terms, and reimbursement for the advisory council; to provide for powers and duties of the advisory council; to update rulemaking authority; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
Section 1. The heading of Chapter 30-A of Title 46 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 and R.S. 46:2261, 2262, the introductory paragraph of 2262.1, 2262.1(4) and (12), and 2263 through 2267 are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

CHAPTER 30-A. IDENTIFICATION OF **EARLY HEARING LOSS IN INFANTS LAW DETECTION AND INTERVENTION**

§2261. Short title
This Chapter may be cited as the “~~Identification of Hearing Loss in Infants Law~~” “**Newborn Hearing Screening Law**”.

§2262. Purpose
A. The purpose of the program for early identification of hearing loss is to identify deaf or hard of hearing infants at the earliest possible time so that medical treatment, early audiological evaluation, selection of amplification, and early educational intervention can be provided. **hearing detection and intervention is to support the early identification of infants who are d/Deaf, hard of hearing, or present a risk factor for developing hearing loss through screening and audiological evaluation and to ensure that parents and guardians of such infants are provided an opportunity for referral to early intervention and family support services. Early detection and intervention ensures the language and communication needs of children who are d/Deaf or hard of hearing are addressed as early as possible.**

B. Early **hearing detection**, educational intervention, and **coordinated systems of care** early audiological services are required under **Section 399M of the Public Health Service Act, 42 U.S.C. 280g-1, as amended by the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Act of 2010, EHDI Act of 2017, Public Law 115-71, EHDI Act of 2022, Public Law 117-241, and the Education of the Handicapped Act, Amendments of 1986, Public Law 99-457.**

C. Early identification and management of the deaf **coordinated support for infants who are d/Deaf** or hard of hearing infant are essential if that infant is to acquire the vital language and speech skills needed to achieve maximum potential educationally, emotionally, and socially. **are critical for maximizing opportunities for communicative and linguistic competencies and providing access to literacy, education, and social-emotional development.**

D. Appropriate **Newborn hearing** screening and **early** identification of newborns and infants with hearing loss who are d/Deaf or hard of hearing and **subsequent opportunities for referral to early intervention and family support services** will therefore serve the public purpose of promoting the healthy development of children and reducing public expenditures for health care, special education, and related services.

§2262.1. Bill of Rights
In order to ensure that children who are deaf **d/Deaf** or hard of hearing have the same rights and potential to become independent and self-actualizing as children who are not deaf **d/Deaf** or hard of hearing, the **Deaf d/Deaf and Hard of Hearing** Child’s Bill of Rights is established so that children who are deaf **d/Deaf** or hard of hearing are entitled:

(4) To adult role models who are deaf **d/Deaf** or hard of hearing.

(12) Where appropriate, to have deaf **d/Deaf** and hard of hearing adults directly involved in determining the extent, content, and purpose of all programs that affect their education.

§2263. Definitions
Except where the context clearly indicates otherwise, in this Chapter:
(1) “Advisory council” means the advisory council created pursuant to R.S. 46:2265.

(2) “**Congenital deafness**” means the presence of deafness at birth.
(3) “**Deaf**” means a hearing level identified as severe to profound, with some or complete absence of auditory sensitivity, and is most often represented with a lowercase letter “d”. The term “**Deaf**”, when written or expressed with an uppercase letter “**D**”, specifically refers to a group of deaf individuals who identify as a cultural and linguistic minority with specific languages, namely visual or tactile methods of communication, and social mores.

(4) “Department” means the Louisiana Department of Health.
(5) “**Early intervention**” means appropriate services for a child who is **d/Deaf** or hard of hearing, in accordance with the EHDI Act of 2017, including nonmedical services and ensuring that the family of the child is:

(a) **Provided comprehensive, consumer-oriented information about the full range of family support, training, information services, and language acquisition in oral and visual modalities.**

(b) **Given the opportunity to consider and obtain the full range of such appropriate services, educational and program placements, and other options for the child from highly qualified providers.**

(6) “**Hard of hearing**” means a hearing level identified as ranging from mild to severe, with some absence of auditory sensitivity.

(7) “**Hearing screening**” means utilizing hearing screening technology to identify infants in need of additional audiological testing to determine hearing status. **Procedures may include auditory brainstem response (ABR) screening, otoacoustic emissions (OAE) screening, and other devices approved by the office**

CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words underlined (House Bills) and underscored and **boldfaced** (Senate Bills) are additions.

upon recommendation of the advisory council.

(3)(8) “Deaf Infant who is d/Deaf or hard of hearing infant” means an infant who has a disorder of the auditory system of any type or degree, causing hearing loss sufficient to interfere with the development of language and speech skills: is d/Deaf or hard of hearing from a congenital or acquired nature, unilateral or bilateral, of any degree from minimal to profound, and of any type, including a conductive, sensory, sensorineural, auditory neuropathy dyssynchrony, or mixed hearing condition.

(4)(9) “Infants susceptible to a hearing disability with risk factors” means those infants who are susceptible to hearing loss because they have one or more risk factors for developing delayed onset or progressive permanent childhood hearing loss.

(10) “Joint Committee on Infant Hearing” or “JCIH” means a national group of representatives that work to address issues that are important to the early identification, intervention, and follow-up care of infants who are d/Deaf or hard of hearing.

(11) “Language” means a system of conventional spoken, signed, or written means by which human beings, as members of a social group and participants in its culture, express themselves. The functions of language in this context include communication, identity, connection, cognition, and advocacy.

(12) “Language systems” means a system of communication approaches including but not limited to American Sign Language, spoken English, Pidgin Signed English, Manually Coded English, bimodal bilingualism, total communication, and cued speech.

(5)(13) “Office” means the office of public health within the department Louisiana Department of Health.

(6)(14) “Program” means the program that the office of public health establishes to provide for the early identification and follow-up of infants susceptible to a hearing disability, of deaf or hard of hearing infants, and of infants who have a risk factor for developing progressive hearing loss. support the early detection of infants who are d/Deaf or hard of hearing through newborn hearing screening, outpatient follow-up screening, audiological evaluation, and referral to and enrollment in early intervention and family support services.

(15) “Refer” means the result of newborn hearing screening that indicates further testing is needed.

(7)(16)(a) “Risk factors” means those criteria or factors, any one of which identifies an infant as being susceptible to as classified by JCIH which may result in early, progressive, or delayed onset permanent childhood hearing loss.

(b) The risk factors that identify those neonates, infants from birth through the first twenty-eight days, who are susceptible to sensorineural hearing loss Perinatal risk factors, as classified by JCIH guidelines include the following:

(i) Family history of congenital or delayed onset childhood sensorineural impairment early, progressive, or delayed onset permanent childhood hearing loss.

(ii) Congenital infection known or suspected to be associated with sensorineural hearing loss such as toxoplasmosis, syphilis, rubella, cytomegalovirus, and herpes Neonatal intensive care of more than five days.

(iii) Craniofacial anomalies including morphologic abnormalities of the pinna and ear canal, absent philtrum, low hairline, et cetera Hyperbilirubinemia with exchange transfusion regardless of length of stay.

(iv) Birth weight less than one thousand five hundred grams or less than three and three tenths pounds Aminoglycoside administration for more than five days.

(v) Hyperbilirubinemia at a level exceeding indication for exchange transfusion Asphyxia or hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy.

(vi) Ototoxic medications, including but not limited to the aminoglycosides used for more than five days, such as gentamicin, tobramycin, kanamycin, streptomycin, and loop diuretics used in combination with aminoglycosides Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO).

(vii) Bacterial meningitis In utero infections, such as herpes, rubella, syphilis, toxoplasmosis, Zika, and cytomegalovirus (CMV).

(viii) Severe depression at birth, which may include infants with Apgar scores of zero to three at five minutes or those who fail to initiate spontaneous respiration by ten minutes or those with hypotonia persisting to two hours of age Certain birth conditions or findings such as craniofacial malformations including microtia, atresia, ear dysplasia, oral facial clefting, white forelock, microphthalmia, congenital microcephaly, congenital or acquired hydrocephalus, and temporal bone abnormalities.

(ix) Prolonged mechanical ventilation for a duration equal to or greater than ten days, such as persistent pulmonary hypertension:

(x)(ix) Stigmata or other findings associated with a syndrome known to include sensorineural hearing loss, such as Waardenburg or Usher Syndrome.

(xi)(x) Other risk factors added or deleted by the office of public health upon recommendation of the advisory council for early identification of deaf d/ Deaf or hard of hearing children.

(c) The factors that identify those infants aged twenty-nine days to two years who are susceptible to sensorineural hearing loss Perinatal or postnatal risk factors, as classified by JCIH include the following:

(i) Parent or caregiver concerns regarding hearing, speech, language, or developmental delay: Culture-positive infections associated with sensorineural hearing loss including confirmed bacterial and viral meningitis or encephalitis, especially herpes viruses and varicella.

(ii) Bacterial meningitis: Events associated with hearing loss such as significant head trauma, basal skull or temporal bone fractures, or chemotherapy.

(iii) Neonatal risk factors that may be associated with progressive

sensorineural hearing loss, such as cytomegalovirus, prolonged mechanical ventilation, and inherited disorders: Caregiver concern regarding hearing, speech, language, developmental delay, or developmental regression.

(iv) Head trauma, especially with either longitudinal or transverse fracture of the temporal bone.

(v) Stigmata or other findings associated with syndromes known to include sensorineural hearing loss, such as Waardenburg or Usher Syndrome.

(vi) Ototoxic medications, including but not limited to the aminoglycosides used for more than five days, such as gentamicin, tobramycin, kanamycin, streptomycin, and loop diuretics used in combination with aminoglycosides:

(vii) Neurodegenerative disorders such as neurofibromatosis, myoclonic epilepsy, Werdnig-Hoffman disease, Tay-Sachs disease, infantile Gaucher’s disease, Niemann-Pick disease, any metachromatic leukodystrophy, or any infantile demyelinating neuropathy.

(viii) Childhood infectious diseases known to be associated with sensorineural hearing loss, such as mumps or measles.

(ix)(iv) Other risk factors added or deleted by the office of public health upon recommendation of the advisory council for early identification of deaf or hard of hearing children created in R.S. 46:2265.

(8) “Screening for hearing loss” means employing a device for identifying whether an infant has a disorder of the auditory system, but may not necessarily provide a comprehensive determination of hearing thresholds in the speech range. Procedures may include auditory brainstem response (ABR) screening, evoked otoacoustic emissions (EOAE) screening, and other devices approved by the office upon recommendation of the advisory council.

(17) “Sign language” means a visual-spatial communication system consisting of manual gestures, facial expressions, and body language. Sign language uses vision to receptively understand communication and movement to expressively communicate.

(18) “Spoken language” means an audible-verbal communication system consisting of sounds. Spoken language uses audition to receptively understand communication and voice to expressively communicate.

(19) “Young adult” means an individual between eighteen to twenty-six years of age as defined by the National Institutes of Health.

§2264. Identification of hearing loss in infants Early detection and intervention for children who are d/Deaf or hard of hearing

A. The office shall establish, in consultation with the advice of the Louisiana Commission for the Deaf and the advisory council created in R.S. 46:2265 and other key constituents, a program for the early identification and follow-up of infants susceptible to a hearing disability, deaf or hard of hearing infants, and infants susceptible to developing progressive hearing loss hearing detection and intervention of infants and children who are d/Deaf or hard of hearing. The program shall, at a minimum:

(1) Develop criteria or factors to identify those infants who are likely deaf or hard of hearing and infants who may develop a progressive hearing loss, including the risk factors set forth in this Chapter, and develop a susceptibility questionnaire for infant hearing loss. Collect and track data related to newborn hearing screening, risk factor reporting, audiological testing, and early intervention.

(2) Create a susceptibility registry to include, but not be limited to, the identification of infants susceptible to hearing loss, deaf or hard of hearing infants, and infants susceptible to developing progressive hearing loss. Provide access to and training on the early hearing detection and intervention data management system to birth hospital newborn hearing screening supervisors and birth hospital staff, freestanding birth center newborn hearing screening supervisors and birth center staff, outpatient audiological testing providers, and other necessary providers as deemed appropriate by the program.

(3) Provide to the hospitals and other birthing sites the susceptibility questionnaire for infant hearing loss and require that the form be completed for any newborn prior to discharge from the hospital or other birthing site. As to infants susceptible to a hearing disability, copies of the completed susceptibility questionnaire shall be distributed to the susceptibility registry of the office, the parent or guardian, and, if known, the infant’s primary care physician and the provider of audiological services. Require all birth hospitals, freestanding birth centers, and outpatient audiological testing providers to report newborn hearing screening results, the reason for no screening, outpatient screening results, and results of diagnostic audiological evaluation, including hearing status, to the program.

(4) Require for all newborn infants that the hospital of birth or that hospital to which the newborn infant may be transferred provide hearing screening for hearing loss by auditory brainstem response (ABR) screening, evoked otoacoustic emissions (EOAE) (OAE) screening, or any other screening device approved by the office before discharge to identify children in need of further audiological assessment. The results of that screening for hearing loss shall be provided to the susceptibility registry of the office program, the parent or guardian, and if known, the primary care physician and the provider of audiological services.

(5) Develop and provide to the birth hospitals, freestanding birth centers, outpatient facilities, and pediatric diagnostic audiology centers or other birthing sites appropriate written materials regarding hearing loss, and require that the hospitals or other birthing sites provide this written material to all parents or guardians of newborn infants for families of newborn infants, infants in need of follow up after newborn hearing screening, infants with risk factors, or infants diagnosed as d/Deaf or hard of hearing.

(6) Develop methods to contact parents or guardians of infants susceptible to a hearing disability, of deaf or hard of hearing infants, and of infants

ACT No. 519

SENATE BILL NO. 464
BY SENATOR BARROW
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 22:1047(B), relative to coverage for severe obesity treatment; to provide for cost calculations; to provide for duties of the Department of Insurance; to provide for legislative appropriations; to provide for changes to minimum coverage standards; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 22:1047(B) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§1047. Required coverage for severe obesity treatment

* * *

~~B.(1) Subsections C, D, E, and F of this Section shall apply only to a health insurance issuer offering health coverage plans in this state to the extent that services are covered by the Essential Health Benefits Benchmark Plan selected by the state in accordance with applicable federal regulations. No later than August 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, each insurer offering a health coverage plan that meets the definition of a “qualified health plan” as defined in 42 U.S.C. 18021 shall submit to the Department of Insurance an estimate, produced by a member of the American Academy of Actuaries and in accordance with generally accepted actuarial principles and methodologies, of the cost to provide the benefits required by this Section for calendar year 2028, and subsequent years thereafter. Unless otherwise modified by the commissioner, such estimate shall include all cost elements including expected volumes of services per member-month, the assumed population, and both an aggregate and per-member per-month estimate.~~

~~(2) The Louisiana Department of Health shall evaluate bariatric surgery, pre-operative psychological screening and counseling, behavior modification, nutritional counseling, and post-operative follow-up, overview, and counseling of dietary, exercise, and lifestyle changes for coverage by the Essential Health Benefits Benchmark Plan during its next review of the Essential Health Benefits Benchmark Plan. No later than December 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the Department of Insurance shall publish an estimated cost for the state to defray the cost of services required by this Section as required by 42 U.S.C. 18031.~~

~~(3) No later than July 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, the Department of Insurance shall notify all health insurance issuers and all health plans of the funding ratio and the minimum coverage standard for this Section. The funding ratio shall be calculated by dividing those sums appropriated by the legislature to be spent to defray the cost of services required by this Section by the estimated cost needed to defray those costs as published pursuant to Paragraph (2) of this Subsection. The minimum coverage standard shall be calculated by multiplying the aggregate expected volumes of services per member-month by the funding ratio.~~

~~(4) Beginning on January 1, 2028, for any plan year during which the published funding ratio meets or exceeds 1.0, no health insurance issuer subject to this Section shall apply a numerical cap to the services required under this Section. For any plan year during which the published funding ratio is less than 1.0, a health insurance issuer subject to this Section may apply a numerical cap to the services required under this Section of no fewer than the product of the minimum coverage standard times the number of member-months from the most recent plan year, rounded up to the nearest whole number.~~

~~(5) Any numerical cap implemented by the health insurance issuer pursuant to Paragraph (4) of this Subsection shall be clearly stated in the health insurance plan documents and shall be described using the actual numerical cap and not by reference to a formula.~~

* * *

Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 520

SENATE BILL NO. 470
BY SENATORS MIZELL, ABRAHAM, BARROW, BOUDREAUX, CLOUD,
FESI, HODGES, JACKSON-ANDREWS, MYERS, PRICE AND STINE AND
REPRESENTATIVES CHASSION AND MANDIE LANDRY
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 15:744.3(A), the introductory paragraph of 744.3(B) and 744.3(C)(3), and 744.5(2) and to enact R.S. 15:744.5(7) and 744.9 and Code of Criminal Procedure Arts. 893(A)(5), 894.1(B)(34), and 894.6, relative to

pregnant women; to require pregnancy tests at correctional facilities; to provide relative to the use of restraints on pregnant and postpartum prisoners; to provide for consideration of pregnancy at sentencing; to provide for certain conditions of probation; to provide for limitations; to provide for legislative findings; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 15:744.3(A), the introductory paragraph of 744.3(B) and 744.3(C)(3), and 744.5(2) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 15:744.5(7) and 744.9 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§744.3. Restraint during childbirth **pregnancy and postpartum recovery**

A. Restraints shall not be used on a pregnant prisoner while she is in labor and during delivery unless a member of the medical staff orders therapeutic restraints for a prisoner who, due to a psychiatric or medical disorder, is a danger to herself, her child, her unborn child, or other persons. ~~For purposes of this Section, “therapeutic restraints” shall not include metal handcuffs or shackles.~~

B. No restraints shall be used on a prisoner known to be pregnant during any pregnancy-related medical distress, or while she is being transported to a medical facility or the Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women for **prenatal care**, delivery, or any pregnancy-related medical distress, or during postpartum recovery, unless there are compelling grounds to believe that the prisoner presents either of the following:

* * *

C. Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection B of this Section:

* * *

(3) Under no circumstances shall waist restraints **or shackles** be used on any **pregnant** prisoner during transportation to a medical facility or postpartum recovery.

* * *

§744.5. Definitions

For purposes of this Part:

* * *

(2) “Postpartum” means the period following delivery before a prisoner or detainee has been discharged from a medical facility **that begins immediately after childbirth and lasts for no less than six weeks. The medical professional treating the pregnant prisoner after childbirth may extend the postpartum period beyond six weeks based on his medical judgment if it is medically necessary to ensure recovery.**

* * *

(7) “Therapeutic restraint” means **flex cuffs or soft restraints.**

* * *

§744.9. Pregnancy testing

A. During the intake process at every state and local correctional facility, a pregnancy test shall be offered to each woman aged fifty-five years or younger who is arrested and taken into custody.

B. The woman’s consent or refusal to take a pregnancy test and the result of any test administered shall be documented.

C. The Louisiana Department of Health shall identify available pregnancy test funding sources from nonprofit organizations or federal grants for the purposes of this Section.

D. For purposes of this Section, “correctional facility” includes state, parish, and municipal facilities including jails, detention centers, and prisons.

Section 2. Code of Criminal Procedure Arts. 893(A)(5), 894.1(B)(34), and 894.6 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

Art. 893. Suspension and deferral of sentence and probation in felony cases

A.(1)(a)

* * *

* * *

(5) In determining whether to suspend the imposition or execution of sentence and place a defendant on probation, the court may consider, among other relevant factors, whether the defendant is pregnant at the time of sentencing and whether participation in a medically appropriate prenatal care program, residential treatment program, or substance use disorder treatment program would serve the interests of justice and public safety, consistent with existing law.

* * *

Art. 894.1. Sentencing guidelines; generally

* * *

B. The following grounds, while not controlling the discretion of the court, shall be accorded weight in its determination of suspension of sentence or probation:

* * *

(34) Whether the defendant is pregnant at the time of sentencing and whether an alternative sentence involving community-based supervision and participation in a prenatal care, maternal health, or substance use disorder treatment program would be appropriate, consistent with existing law.

* * *

Art. 894.6. Sentencing considerations and conditions of probation for pregnant defendants

A. Nothing in this Article shall be construed to authorize the suspension of sentence or probation for any offense for which such relief is otherwise prohibited by law. This Article shall not be interpreted to expand or modify eligibility for probation or suspension of sentence.

B. For any defendant who is pregnant at the time of sentencing and is otherwise eligible for suspension of sentence or probation under existing law, the court

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underlined (House Bills) and underscored and **boldfaced** (Senate Bills) are additions.

may consider the provisions of this Article.

C. For a defendant described in Paragraph B of this Article, the court may suspend the imposition or execution of sentence and place the defendant on probation in accordance with existing law, and may require, as a condition of probation, that the defendant:

(1) Participate in and successfully complete a court-approved prenatal care program, pregnancy support program, or maternal health program.

(2) Participate in and successfully complete a residential or outpatient substance use disorder treatment program, including medically supervised detoxification when appropriate.

(3) Comply with all recommended prenatal and postnatal medical care.

(4) Participate in parenting education, life skills training, or case management services as deemed appropriate by the court.

(5) Comply with any additional conditions of probation authorized by law.

D. In determining whether to impose a sentence pursuant to this Article, the court shall consider public safety, the nature of the offense, the criminal history of the defendant, and the availability of appropriate programs.

E. The Louisiana Department of Health shall maintain and make available to courts, upon request, a list of publicly and privately available programs that may satisfy the requirements of this Article.

Section 3.(A) The legislature hereby finds and declares that the state of Louisiana has a compelling interest in protecting maternal health, promoting healthy births, and supporting family stability.

(B) Pregnant defendants in the criminal justice system may present unique medical and rehabilitative needs that can, in appropriate cases, be addressed through community-based supervision and treatment.

(C) It is the intent of the legislature to ensure that courts may consider pregnancy as a relevant factor at sentencing and, where a defendant is otherwise eligible under existing law, utilize appropriate alternatives to incarceration.

(D) Nothing in this Act is intended to expand or modify eligibility for probation or suspension of sentence as otherwise provided by law.

Section 4. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 521

SENATE BILL NO. 489
BY SENATOR EDMONDS
AN ACT

To enact R.S. 17:416.16.2, relative to school crisis management and response plans; to provide for the School Safety Drone Response Pilot Program; to establish eligibility to participate in the pilot program; to provide for administration of the program; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:416.16.2 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§416.16.2. School Safety Drone Response Pilot Program

A.(1) The state Department of Education may establish a School Safety Drone Response Pilot Program to evaluate the use of drone technology as a supplement to existing school safety and law enforcement response protocols at each city, parish, and other local public school.

(2) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall establish criteria for participation by each city, parish, and other local public school.

(3) The department may choose a vendor to operate the pilot program and provide the drone response technology.

B. The program shall be conducted as part of the crisis management and response plan in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 17:416.16.

C. Each city, parish, and other local public school shall be eligible to participate in the pilot program. The department shall select at least one but no more than four schools to participate in the pilot program, based upon a first come, first serve basis.

D. As a condition to participate in the program, a school shall provide school mapping data to the vendor that is chosen by the department to operate a drone safety program, subject to the provisions of R.S. 17:416.16.1. The vendor shall enter into a confidentiality agreement with the department, the school, and the Louisiana Center for Safe Schools to provide strict confidentiality with respect to the school's mapping data.

E. The department may accept grants or private funding to establish and operate the pilot program.

F. The vendor that is selected to participate in the School Safety Drone Response Pilot Program shall coordinate with the state Department of Education, Louisiana State Police, and the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association with respect to the drone operational training procedures related to responding to school safety incidents. The coordination shall be used to enhance deconfliction and situational awareness and ensure that compliance with all applicable law

THE ADVOCATE

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* As it appears in the enrolled bill

enforcement training procedures are fulfilled in a unified emergency response effort among state and local law enforcement officials and other first responders.

G. Beginning December 31, 2027, the department shall submit an annual report to the Senate Committee on Education and the House Committee on Education as to the findings and effectiveness of the pilot program.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 522

SENATE BILL NO. 489
BY SENATOR EDMONDS
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 32:863.2(A)(1), (2), (3), (4) and (6), (B), (C), (E)(1) and (2), (F)(1), (2), (4), (5), and (6), to enact R.S. 32:863.2(F)(7), relative to third party inquiries on motor vehicle license plates; to authorize third parties to conduct inquiries on motor vehicle license plates; to make technical changes; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 32:863.2(A)(1), (2), (3), (4) and (6), (B), (C), (E)(1) and (2), (F)(1), (2), (4), (5), and (6) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 32:863.2(F)(7) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§863.2. Notification of the cancellation or issuance of security; penalties; database development

A.(1) All entities providing security in compliance with R.S. 32:861 et seq., hereinafter referred to as "security providers", whether admitted or nonadmitted (surplus line underwriter) insurance companies providing automobile liability policies, or sales representatives or agents of surety companies issuing motor vehicle liability bonds, or the state treasurer holding deposits, shall notify the secretary commissioner of the effective dates of each liability policy, liability bond, deposit, or other security within fifteen business days from the date that notice of such policy, bond, deposit, or other security was issued by the security provider.

(2) Except as otherwise provided for motor carriers in R.S. 32:900(M), in addition, all such security providers shall notify the secretary commissioner when any policy, bond, deposit, or other item of security is terminated, withdrawn, canceled, lapsed, or otherwise made ineffective within fifteen business days from the date that notice of the security becoming ineffective was issued by the security provider.

(3) Beginning January 1, 1990, the information required by this Section shall be in the form required by the secretary commissioner, who may require by regulation such information as the driver's license number of the owner or lessee of the vehicle and of the named insureds, together with the complete vehicle identification number and a description of each vehicle.

(4) The information required by this Section shall be in the form required by the secretary commissioner, who may require by regulation such information as the driver's license number of the owner or lessee of the vehicle and of the named insureds, together with the complete vehicle identification number and description of each vehicle.

* * *

(6) If any cancellation of a motor vehicle liability insurance policy occurs as a result of the rescission or other cancellation of the sale of the motor vehicle on which the policy is issued, the insurer shall notify the secretary commissioner of the cancellation and the circumstances of the cancellation, and the insured shall not be liable for any penalty or fee imposed for failure to maintain the security required by law.

B. When a security provider does not provide the deputy secretary of public safety services of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections with the information required by this Section within the time limits set forth in this Section, the insurance company, sales representative or agent, state treasurer, or other provider shall pay a late fee of not more than fifty dollars per policy, bond, or deposit, or other security item concerning which information is not supplied. If the security provider has reported this information for a policy, bond, deposit, or other security item for a commercial motor vehicle in an untimely manner, the deputy secretary commissioner shall impose the late fee unless the deputy secretary determines that the security provider made a good faith effort to comply with these requirements but the delay was caused by circumstances outside the security provider's control. All fees collected under this Subsection shall be deposited in the Bond Security and Redemption Fund as provided in R.S. 32:853(B)(2).

C. The secretary commissioner shall keep a record of the information received from security providers concerning coverage of vehicles and persons by security required by R.S. 32:861, which information may be stored through automated electronic data processing means. After the department has complete vehicle liability security records, upon written request including the driver's license number for each person, the vehicle identification number for each vehicle, and the payment of a fee of fifteen dollars for each vehicle owned by a person about which inquiry is made, the secretary commissioner shall forward to the inquiring party such vehicle and driver liability security information as is contained in the records of the department. If the department's search of its records fails to show the existence of any liability insurance or other security as of the date about which inquiry is made, an official of the department will issue a sworn, notarized affidavit to

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underlined (House Bills) and underscoring and **boldfaced** (Senate Bills) are additions.

that effect. Such an affidavit shall be prima facie evidence that on the date in question, the person or vehicle about which inquiry was made did not have in effect a policy of liability insurance or other security as required by law. The fee collected pursuant to this Section shall be remitted by the ~~secretary~~ **commissioner** to the state treasurer to be credited to the Bond Security and Redemption Fund as provided in R.S. 32:853(B)(2).

* * *

E.(1) Prior to taking any administrative action based on the receipt of a notice of cancellation of insurance or other security, the ~~secretary~~ **commissioner** shall notify the person who is the subject of the notice at his last known driver's license address, of cancellation of the receipt of that notice. The notice of receipt of a notice of cancellation shall be in writing. The notice shall inform the subject that he has ten calendar days from the date of the notice in which he may surrender the license plates of the vehicle in order to avoid the fees prescribed by R.S. 32:863(A)(3)(a). The person to whom the notice is addressed shall have thirty days to respond to the notice. The response may be made by mail.

(2) If the person to whom the notice is addressed is able to show that the insurance or other security was canceled for a legitimate reason, the ~~secretary~~ **commissioner** shall take no administrative action against that person. Legitimate reasons for cancellation of insurance or other security shall include but shall not be limited to the transfer of ownership of the vehicle or the surrender of the license plate of the formerly insured vehicle. If the vehicle is sold within ten calendar days after the date liability security on the vehicle was cancelled or its license plate is surrendered within ten calendar days of the date of notice sent pursuant to Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, no administrative action shall be taken. The transfer of ownership of the vehicle may be established by presenting to the ~~secretary~~ **commissioner** a copy of the title transfer or a copy of the act of sale, donation, exchange, surrender to a salvage yard, or other transaction.

* * *

F.(1) The ~~secretary~~ **commissioner** shall formulate criteria to develop and initiate a request for proposals to procure and implement a real-time system to quickly and accurately identify and verify the existence of motor vehicle insurance or other security required in compliance with the Motor Vehicle Safety Responsibility Law using advanced telecommunications and computer technology.

(2) The criteria established by the ~~secretary~~ **commissioner** shall be developed only after consulting with an advisory group consisting of the commissioner of insurance or his designee, the superintendent of state police or his designee, the executive director of the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission or his designee, and five additional members, one representing the American Insurance Association, one representing the Property Casualty Insurance Association of America, one selected from a list of names submitted by the three insurers with the largest market share of automobile insurance in Louisiana, one from the Louisiana Association of Fire and Casualty Companies, and one from the Louisiana Independent Agents Association.

* * *

(4) The system developed pursuant to this Subsection may initially be implemented by the ~~secretary~~ **commissioner** as a six-month pilot program to be developed and implemented statewide upon expiration of the six-month period.

(5)(a) The commissioner may authorize a third party vendor or designated agent to conduct a motor vehicle registration plate inquiry at the request of law enforcement through the state insurance verification system. The authorization to conduct the plate inquiry shall be solely for the purpose of verifying compliance with motor vehicle liability insurance requirements as needed by law enforcement agencies.

(b) Any violation of Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph by a local government entity or law enforcement agency that requested and received authorization from the commissioner shall constitute malfeasance in office pursuant to R. S. 14:134, and may be used as grounds to initiate civil claims pursuant to the Louisiana Governmental Claims Act, R.S. 13:5101, et seq.

(6) The ~~secretary~~ **commissioner** shall require such information as may be necessary from automobile insurers or their representatives and the state treasurer as is needed to assist the contractor in developing the system as such relates to the cancellation or issuance of motor vehicle liability security or deposit of sufficient security with the state treasurer in order to operate a motor vehicle in this state.

(6) (7) The ~~secretary~~ **commissioner** shall promulgate rules and regulations in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to implement the provisions of this Subsection.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 523

SENATE BILL NO. 504

BY SENATOR CARTER AND REPRESENTATIVES BROUSSARD,
CARVER, FREIBERG, TERRY LANDRY, MARTINEZ, SCHLEGEL AND
TAYLOR
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 17:2925(A)(2) and (4) through (7) and to enact

R.S. 17:2925(A)(8) and (9) and (D), and 3996(B)(92), relative to Individual Graduation Plans; to provide relative to requirements pertaining to such plans for students attending certain charter schools; to provide relative to information on vocational training opportunities; to provide for parent and legal guardian requesting authority; to provide relative to resources; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:2925(A)(2) and (4) through (7) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:2925(A)(8) and (9) and (D), and 3996(B)(92) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§2925. Individual graduation plans

A.(1)

* * *

(2)(a) By Except as provided in Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph, by the end of the eighth grade, each student's Individual Graduation Plan or the student's Individualized Education Program, if applicable, shall list the required core courses to be taken through the tenth grade and shall identify the courses to be taken in the first year of high school. Students who fail to meet the standard for promotion to the ninth grade, pursuant to policies adopted by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, shall have any necessary remedial courses included in their Individual Graduation Plan.

(b)(i) A charter school that terminates in the eighth grade shall provide written notice to each eighth grade student and his parent or legal guardian of the purpose of an Individual Graduation Plan, an explanation of the different types of high school diplomas, and the courses required for each type of diploma so that the student is prepared to complete his plan with the list of required courses to be taken upon the student's enrollment in high school but no later than October first of the student's ninth grade year.

(ii) A charter school that terminates in the eighth grade may partner with a high school that an eighth grade student plans to attend for assistance in providing for the student's Individual Graduation Plan or Individualized Education Program, if applicable, as provided in Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph.

* * *

(4) The parent or legal guardian of a student entering into the eleventh grade may request the student's Individual Graduation Plan or the student's Individualized Education Program, if applicable, be updated.

(5) Each student, with the assistance of his parent or legal guardian and school counselor, shall be offered available vocational training opportunities.

(4)(6) The Individual Graduation Plan shall be sufficiently flexible to allow the student to, with the written approval of a parent or legal guardian, change his program of study, yet be sufficiently structured to ensure that the student will meet the high school graduation requirements for his chosen major or the requirements of the student's Individualized Education Program, if applicable, and be qualified for admission to a postsecondary education institution or to enter the workforce.

(6)(7) Each student's Individual Graduation Plan shall be reviewed annually and revised as necessary to identify the courses to be taken each year until all required core courses are completed.

(6)(8) Upon completion of the review, the plan shall be signed by the student, his parent or legal guardian, and the school counselor.

(7)(9) Prior to revising a student's Individual Graduation Plan, the school counselor shall meet with the student's parent or legal guardian either in person or virtually to explain the possible impacts the revisions to the plan might have on the student's graduation requirements and postsecondary education goals. Any revisions to a student's plan shall be approved in writing by the student's parent or legal guardian.

* * *

D. To effectuate the provisions of this Section, schools shall use existing school staff and counselors and any other available resources.

* * *

§3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements

* * *

B. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and except as may be otherwise specifically provided for in an approved charter, a charter school established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter and its approved charter and the school's officers and employees shall be exempt from all statutory mandates or other statutory requirements that are applicable to public schools and to public school officers and employees except for the following laws otherwise applicable to public schools with the same grades:

* * *

(92) Individual graduation plans, R.S. 17:2925.

* * *

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 524

SENATE BILL NO. 505
BY SENATOR CATHEY
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 30:2195.2(A)(5) and (6)(a)(ii), (b), (c), (d), and (e),

and to enact R.S. 30:2195.2 (A)(6)(f) and (g), relative to the Motor Fuels Underground Storage Tank Trust Dedicated Fund Account; to provide for time limits; to provide for single and total grant amounts; to provide for minimum account balances; to provide for limitations; to provide for eligible applicants; to provide for ownership disclosure; to provide for application periods; to provide for applicability; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 30:2195.2(A)(5) and (6)(a)(ii), (b), (c), (d), and (e) are hereby amended and reenacted, and R.S. 30:2195.2(A)(6)(f) and (g) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§2195.2. Uses of the Tank Trust Account

A. The department shall administer the Tank Trust Account and shall make disbursements from the account for all necessary and appropriate expenditures. Pursuant to the authorization in R.S. 30:2195, the secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality shall use the Tank Trust Account as follows:

* * *

(5) The Tank Trust Account may be used to make payments to a third party who brings a third-party claim against the secretary of the department and any owner of a motor fuel underground storage tank because of damages sustained by a release into the groundwater, surface waters, or soils and who obtains a final judgment in said action enforceable in this state against the owner and the secretary if and only if it has been satisfactorily demonstrated that the owner was an eligible participant at the time that the release occurred as defined in R.S. 30:2194(B)(3). The ~~indemnification~~ limit of the trust with respect to satisfaction of third-party claims shall be that which is necessary to satisfy federal petroleum underground storage tank financial responsibility requirements.

(6)

* * *

(a) A grant or loan may only be made pursuant to this Paragraph if all of the following apply:

* * *

(i) The ~~site is registered with the department as a single wall~~ underground storage tank system was installed prior to December 20, 2008.

* * *

(b) Grants provided pursuant to this Paragraph shall only be made in the form of reimbursement for completed upgrades and improvements after inspection and approval by the department. Applicants shall complete the upgrade or improvement no later than three years from approval for participation in the program.

~~(c) No grant or loan shall exceed one hundred fifty thousand dollars, and the total amount of grants per year shall not exceed three million dollars. The board annually shall limit the maximum amount of funds to be awarded for a single grant or loan, not to exceed three hundred thousand dollars.~~

(d) The board annually shall limit the total amount of funds to be awarded for grants and loans in an amount not to exceed seventy-five percent of the unobligated balance of the interest account of the Tank Trust Account.

~~(e) Eligible applicants may only apply for one grant or loan each year. The department shall establish rules to ensure that an owner may participate in the program no more than once per fiscal year. For purposes of this Subparagraph, an owner shall be the natural person or juridical entity that owns the underground storage tank project facility where the grant will be applied. Applicants to the program shall be required to disclose the ownership structure of the underground storage tank project facility.~~

~~(e)(f) The maximum number of grants and loans awarded per application period and per fiscal year shall be set by the board, not to exceed twenty per application period and forty per fiscal year. The application periods for grants and loans shall be as follows:~~

~~(i) First quarter, from July first to September thirtieth.~~

~~(ii) Third quarter, from January first to March thirty-first.~~

(g) The secretary shall promulgate rules and regulations to implement this Paragraph, including the application process, procedures the applicant shall follow prior to making upgrades or improvements to the site, inspection and approval of upgrades or improvements by the department, and procedures the applicant shall follow after completing the work to either claim reimbursement or begin making repayments.

* * *

Section 2. The provisions of this Act shall apply to sites that receive approval on or after July 1, 2026.

Section 3. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2026; if vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval by the legislature or July 1, 2026, whichever is later.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 525

SENATE BILL NO. 521 (Substitute of Senate Bill No. 175 by Senator Boudreaux)
BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX AND REPRESENTATIVE CHASSION

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 6:356, relative to banks; to provide relative to the use of a bank name following mergers and consolidations; to provide for limitations and requirements; to provide for terms; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 6:356 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

~~§356. Mergers and consolidation; use of previous name~~

In a merger or consolidation transaction, the surviving or new federally insured state or national bank shall have the continuing right to use the name of the nonsurviving state bank upon cessation of its corporate existence following the effective date of the merger or consolidation transaction, as a division of the surviving or new bank, under the following conditions and circumstances:

(1) Disclosing, clearly and conspicuously, in signs, advertising, and similar materials that the facility is a branch, division, or other unit of the insured institution. The institution should exercise care that the signs and advertising do not create a deceptive or misleading impression.

(2) Using the legal name of the insured institution for legal documents, certificates of deposit, signature cards, loan agreements, account statements, checks, drafts, and other similar documents.

(3) Educating the staff of the insured depository institution regarding the possibility of customer confusion with respect to deposit insurance. The insured depository institution shall instruct staff at the branch and any other facilities operating under trade names to inquire of customers, prior to opening new accounts, whether the customer has deposits at the depository institution's other facilities or branches. During the time period soon after one institution acquires or combines with another, staff shall be reminded to call customers' attention to disclosures that identify a particular branch or facility as part of an institution.

(4) Obtaining from depositors opening new accounts at the branch a signed statement acknowledging that the depositor is aware that the branch and other facilities are in fact parts of the same insured institution and that deposits held at each facility are not separately insured.

Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 526

SENATE BILL NO. 523 (Substitute of Senate Bill No. 91 by Senator Mizell)
BY SENATOR MIZELL

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 15:572.4(D) and Code of Criminal Procedure Art. 894.1(B)(33) and to enact Code of Criminal Procedure Art. 894.1(B)(34), relative to victims of domestic abuse, human trafficking, or sexual assault; to provide relative to applications for probation or commutation of sentence; to provide for exceptions; to provide relative to sentencing guidelines; to provide grounds for determining suspension of sentence or probation; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 15:572.4(D) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§572.4. Board of Pardons; rules, regulations, and procedures; notice; restrictions on applications; time periods for additional review

* * *

D.(1) Except as provided in ~~Paragraph~~ **Paragraphs (2) and (3)** of this Subsection, any applicant who has been sentenced to life imprisonment shall not be eligible to apply to the board for a pardon or commutation of sentence for a period of fifteen years after being sentenced by the trial court, except that periods of time prior to the imposition of the sentence in which the defendant was in actual custody for the offense for which the defendant was sentenced to life imprisonment shall be included in computing the fifteen-year period.

~~(2) Any~~ **Except as provided in Paragraph (3) of this Subsection, any** applicant who has been sentenced to life imprisonment for an offense that is either a crime of violence as defined in R.S. 14:2(B) or a sex offense as defined in R.S. 15:541 shall not be eligible to apply to the board for a pardon or commutation of sentence for a period of twenty-five years after being sentenced by the trial court, except that periods of time prior to the imposition of the sentence in which the defendant was in actual custody for the offense for which the defendant was sentenced to life imprisonment shall be included in computing the twenty-five-year period. A person who is serving a life sentence resulting from a commutation of a sentence of death shall not thereafter be eligible to apply for commutation of sentence to a specific number of years.

(3)(a) Except as provided in Subparagraphs (b) and (c) of this Paragraph, an applicant who was a documented victim of domestic abuse, human trafficking, trafficking of children for sexual purposes, or sexual assault at the time of the commission of the offense for which he was convicted is eligible to apply to the

board for a pardon or commutation of sentence.

(b) Except as provided in Subparagraph (c) of this Paragraph, an applicant who has been sentenced to life imprisonment pursuant to Paragraph (1) of this Subsection or for a crime of violence as defined in R.S. 14:2(B) shall not be eligible to apply to the board for a pardon or commutation of sentence for a period of five years after being sentenced by the trial court.

(c) An applicant shall not be eligible to apply to the board for a pardon or commutation of sentence under Subparagraph (a) or (b) of this Paragraph for any of the following:

(i) A conviction that would require the person to register as a sex offender.

(ii) A conviction resulting in a sentence of death.

(iii) A conviction for a violation of R.S. 14:128.1 or 128.2.

(4) If the application is denied, the applicant shall be notified in writing of the reason for the denial and thereafter may file a new application to the board no earlier than five years from the date of action by the board. Any subsequent applications shall not be filed earlier than five years after the immediately preceding action taken by the board.

~~(4)~~(5) The provisions of this Subsection shall not apply when the board determines that new and material evidence that, notwithstanding the exercise of reasonable diligence by the applicant, was not discovered before or during his trial, is available, and if it had been introduced at the trial, it would probably have changed the verdict or judgment of guilty.

* * *

Section 2. Code of Criminal Procedure Art. 894.1(B)(33) is hereby amended and reenacted and Code of Criminal Procedure Art. 894.1(B)(34) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

Art. 894.1. Sentencing guidelines; generally

* * *

B. The following grounds, while not controlling the discretion of the court, shall be accorded weight in its determination of suspension of sentence or probation:

* * *

(33) The defendant is a victim of domestic abuse, human trafficking, trafficking of children for sexual purposes, or sexual assault and there was a rational, causal, and temporally proximate connection between the defendant's victimization and the instant offense.

(34) Any other relevant mitigating circumstance.

* * *

Section 3. The legislature directs the Board of Pardons to review its existing rules, regulations, and procedures for consideration of clemency applications and adopt any rules, regulations, or procedures necessary to implement this Act.

Approved by the Governor, May 29, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State
