

ACTS OF 2026

LEGISLATURE

ACTS 101-196

ACT No. 101

HOUSE BILL NO. 1071
BY REPRESENTATIVE MCFARLAND
AN ACT

To enact R.S. 44:3.7, relative to public records; to provide an exception for certain records of critical infrastructure of aerospace facilities or aerospace activities; to provide conditions; to provide for effectiveness; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
Section 1. R.S. 44:3.7 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§3.7. Aerospace facility and activity records
A. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, blueprints, plans, designs, technical data, operational documents, security information, and any other records related to the design, operation, flights, transportation, or security of critical infrastructure of aerospace facilities or aerospace activity shall be confidential if either of the following applies to the entity with custody of the records:

(1) The entity maintains information subject to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) (22 CFR Parts 120 through 130).
(2) The entity holds a current contract with the United States Department of Defense or any agency within the United States intelligence community.

B. Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to require the inspection, examination, copying, or reproduction of any record made confidential pursuant to this Section.
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 11, 2026.
A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 102

HOUSE BILL NO. 1179
BY REPRESENTATIVE BACALA
AN ACT

To enact R.S. 47:1703.4, relative to ad valorem tax exemptions; to extend eligibility for ad valorem tax exemptions for certain manufacturing activities and facilities; 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. 47:1703.4 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§1703.4. Exemption; aerospace manufacturing activities
A. The legislature finds that certain advanced manufacturing activities associated with aerospace programs are critical to economic development and shall be eligible for the ad valorem tax exemption pursuant to Article VII, Section 21(F) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

B. For the purposes of this Section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:
(1) “Aerospace manufacturing” means the fabrication, assembly, integration, testing, preparation, and launch of vehicles and craft as part of aerospace activities.

(2) “Aerospace manufacturing establishment” means any facility used in aerospace activities, including but not limited to pads, structures, propellant systems, testing infrastructure, and related support systems that are functionally integrated with the manufacturing process.

C. Aerospace manufacturing and capital expenditures related to facilities and infrastructure integral to aerospace manufacturing shall be eligible for the ad valorem tax exemption pursuant to Article VII, Section 21(F) of the Constitution of Louisiana.
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 11, 2026.
A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 103

HOUSE BILL NO. 92
BY REPRESENTATIVES SCHLEGEL AND ECHOLS
AN ACT

To amend and reenact Code of Criminal Procedure Articles 465(A) (introductory paragraph), 573.4, and 814(A)(11), to enact R.S. 14:42(A)(8) and Code of Criminal Procedure Article 465(A)(47), and to repeal R.S. 14:43.3, relative to sex offenses; to provide for an additional circumstance that constitutes first degree rape; to provide relative to specific indictments for forcible or second degree rape; to provide relative to responsive verdicts for first degree rape; to repeal the crime of oral sexual battery; to provide for the time limitations to institute prosecution for third degree rape; to provide for technical changes; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
Section 1. R.S. 14:42(A)(8) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§42. First degree rape
A. First degree rape is a rape committed upon a person sixty-five years of age or older or where the anal, oral, or vaginal sexual intercourse is deemed to be without lawful consent of the victim because it is committed under any one or more of the following circumstances:

(8) When the victim is prevented from resisting the act because of the offender's application of force that overpowers the victim's ability to resist.

Section 2. Code of Criminal Procedure Articles 465(A)(introductory paragraph), 573.4, and 814(A)(11) are hereby amended and reenacted and Code of Criminal Procedure Article 465(A)(47) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

Art. 465. Specific indictment forms
A. The following forms of charging offenses may be used, but any other forms authorized by this title Title may also be used:

47. Forcible Rape or Second Degree Rape--A.B. committed forcible or second degree rape upon C.D.

Art. 573.4. Running of time limitations; exception; third degree rape
The time limitations established by Article 572 shall not commence to run as to the crime of third degree rape (R.S. 14:43) until the crime is discovered by the victim. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 572(A) and except as provided by Articles 571.1, 572(B), or any other provision of law that establishes a longer period of limitation, the time within which to institute prosecution of the crime of third degree rape (R.S. 14:43) shall be ten years. This period shall not commence to run until the crime is discovered by the victim.

Art. 814. Responsive verdicts; in particular
A. The only responsive verdicts which may be rendered when the indictment charges the following offenses are:

11. First degree rape (formerly titled aggravated rape) except where the victim is a child under the age of thirteen:

Guilty.
Guilty of attempted first degree rape.
Guilty of second degree rape.
Guilty of attempted second degree rape.
Guilty of sexual battery.
Guilty of third degree rape.
Guilty of attempted third degree rape.
Guilty of oral sexual battery.
Guilty of sexual battery.
Guilty of attempted sexual battery.
Not guilty.

Section 3. R.S. 14:43.3 is hereby repealed in its entirety.
Approved by the Governor, May 14, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 104

HOUSE BILL NO. 336
BY REPRESENTATIVE MIKE JOHNSON
AN ACT

To enact Code of Criminal Procedure Article 927.2, relative to post conviction relief; to provide relative to unexhausted claims; to provide for duties of the petitioner and the court; to provide for the submission and contents of applications; to provide for dismissal; to provide for applicability; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Code of Criminal Procedure Article 927.2 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

Art. 927.2. Unexhausted claims
A. A petitioner shall file an unexhausted claim in the state district court for the parish in which the petitioner was convicted within thirty days of the granting of a stay from a federal court if all of the following have occurred:

(1) The petitioner failed to raise a claim for post conviction relief in state district court.

(2) The petitioner raised a claim for post conviction relief in a petition for a federal habeas corpus proceeding.

(3) A federal court stayed the habeas corpus proceeding to allow the petitioner to exhaust the claim in state district court.

B. An application that raises an unexhausted claim shall establish all of the following:

(1) That the petitioner had good cause for failing to raise the claim in prior post conviction applications.

(2) That the claim is not plainly without merit.

(3) That the petitioner has not intentionally engaged in any dilatory litigation tactics.C. The failure of the petitioner to satisfy any requirement in Paragraph A or B of this Article shall result in dismissal of the application.

D. The provisions of Articles 926 and 927.1 shall apply to any application that is filed pursuant to this Article.

E. The state district court shall expedite its consideration and resolution of an unexhausted claim.

F. If any party invokes the supervisory jurisdiction of the Louisiana Supreme Court to review the state district court's resolution of the unexhausted claim, the Louisiana Supreme Court shall give priority consideration to and expedite its review of the claim.

Approved by the Governor, May 14, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 105

HOUSE BILL NO. 358
BY REPRESENTATIVE BERAULT
AN ACT

To designate a portion of Louisiana Highway 433 in Slidell, Louisiana, as the “Charles R. Bordelon, Sr., Memorial Highway”; to provide for implementation; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. The portion of Louisiana Highway 433 in Slidell, Louisiana, beginning at the intersection of Louisiana Highway 433 and Vaultz Road and ending at the intersection of Louisiana Highway 433 and Pinehurst Boulevard, shall be known and is hereby designated as the “Charles R. Bordelon, Sr., Memorial Highway”.

Section 2. The Department of Transportation and Development or its contractors are hereby directed to erect and maintain appropriate signage reflecting this designation approximately eight hundred fifty feet west of Marilyn Drive and facing traffic traveling southeast, provided local or private monies are received by the department equal to the department's actual costs for material, fabrication, mounting posts, and installation of the signage, not to exceed the sum of seven hundred fifty dollars per sign.

Approved by the Governor, May 14, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 106

HOUSE BILL NO. 384
BY REPRESENTATIVES BERAULT, ADAMS, BACALA, BAMBURG,
BAYHAM, BOYER, BUTLER, CARVER, CHASSION, CHENEVERT,
DEVILLIER, EGAN, GLORIOSO, HORTON, ILLG, MIKE JOHNSON,
MURRAY, SPELL, WALTERS, AND WYBLE AND SENATOR OWEN
AN ACT

To designate a portion of United States Highway 11 in St. Tammany Parish between Carollo Drive and Kostmayer Avenue as the “Dan DeBlanc American Hero Memorial Highway”; to provide for implementation; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. The portion of United States Highway 11 in Slidell, Louisiana, St. Tammany Parish, between Carollo Drive and Kostmayer Avenue, shall be known and is hereby designated as the “Dan DeBlanc American Hero Memorial Highway”.

Section 2. The Department of Transportation and Development or its contractors are hereby directed to erect and maintain appropriate signage reflecting this designation provided local or private monies are received by the department equal to the department's actual cost for material, fabrication, mounting posts, and installation of the signage, not to exceed the sum of two thousand two hundred fifty dollars per sign.

Approved by the Governor, May 14, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 107

HOUSE BILL NO. 428
BY REPRESENTATIVE BAYHAM AND SENATORS ALLAIN, BARROW,
BARTHELEMY, BOUDREAUX, CARTER, HENRY, KLEINPETER,
MIGUEZ, MORRIS, OWEN, AND STINE
AN ACT

To enact R.S. 47:463.243, relative to motor vehicle special prestige license plates; to establish the “2023 and 2025 LSU Fighting Tigers College World Series Champions” specialty license plate; to provide for the creation, issuance, design, consent, implementation, fees, distribution, and rule promulgation applicable to such license plate; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 47:463.243 is hereby enacted to read as follows:
§463.243. Special prestige license plate; “2023 and 2025 LSU Fighting Tigers College World Series Champions”

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 “2023 and 2025 LSU Fighting Tigers College World Series Champions” plate, provided that there is a minimum of one thousand applicants for such plate. The 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 these special prestige license plates when the applicable statutory provisions are met and the department's electronic vehicle and registration system is updated to accommodate the creation of the new plates.

B. The secretary shall work in conjunction with the Louisiana State University Board of Supervisors to select the color and design of the plate, provided it is in compliance with R.S. 47:463(A)(3). The design shall include the words “2023 and 2025 LSU Fighting Tigers College World Series Champions”.

C.(1) The special prestige license plate shall be issued, upon application, to any citizen of Louisiana in the same manner as any other motor vehicle license plate.

(2) Application for a special prestige license plate under this Section constitutes prior written consent and instruction by the applicant to the department to provide his name, address, and birth date to Louisiana State University. The secretary shall ensure that the application for the plate includes a statement granting such consent.

D. The department shall collect an annual royalty fee of twenty-five dollars that shall be disbursed in accordance with Subsection E of this Section. This fee shall be in addition to the standard motor vehicle license tax imposed by Article VII, Section 5 of the Constitution of Louisiana and a handling fee of three dollars and fifty cents for each plate to be retained by the department to offset a portion of administrative costs.

E.(1) The annual royalty fee shall be collected by the department and forwarded to Louisiana State University as a charitable donation to the university by the applicant.

(2) The monies received by Louisiana State University shall be used solely for academic or financial need-based scholarships.

F. Upon signing of a contract authorizing the use of the logo of Louisiana State University, the secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections shall establish the “2023 and 2025 LSU Fighting Tigers College World Series Champions” license plate in accordance with this Section.

G. The secretary shall promulgate and adopt rules and regulations as are necessary to implement the provisions of this Section.

Approved by the Governor, May 14, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 108

HOUSE BILL NO. 631
BY REPRESENTATIVE RISER
AN ACT

To enact R.S. 56:3002(B)(9), relative to recreational hunting licenses; to provide for a nonresident license for bear hunting and to establish the fee; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 56:3002(B)(9) is hereby enacted to read as follows:
§3002. Recreational hunting licenses; fees

B. Nonresident licenses:

(9) Bear hunting license \$100.00

Approved by the Governor, May 14, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

Jackson, Avoyelles, West Feliciana, Rapides, Natchitoches, Grant, LaSalle, Winn, Lincoln, and East Baton Rouge, the whole of every Saturday shall be a holiday for all banking institutions, and in the parishes of Sabine and Vernon each Wednesday and Saturday, from 12:00 o'clock noon until 12:00 o'clock midnight, shall be a half-holiday for all banking institutions. All banks and trust companies, however, may, each at its option, remain open and exercise all of its regular banking functions and duties upon January 8; Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday; January 19; Washington's Birthday; ~~Presidents' Day~~; Good Friday; National Memorial Day; June 3; August 30; Christopher Columbus Day; November 1; and Veterans' Day; and all banks and trust companies located in Ward 1 of the parish of Avoyelles may, each at its option, remain open and exercise all of its regular banking functions and duties until 12 o'clock noon on Saturdays; however, when on any of said last named days any bank or trust company does actually remain open it shall, as to transactions on such day, to exactly the same extent as if such day were not otherwise a legal holiday, be not subject to ~~any of the provisions of R.S. 7:85 and 251~~ or any other laws of Louisiana covering the matters of maturity of negotiable instruments and demand, notice, presentment, acceptance, or protest thereof on legal holidays and half-holidays, and all instruments payable to or at such bank upon such day shall become due on such day; and provided, further, that the option of remaining open shall not, except as otherwise provided in this Paragraph, apply to Saturdays or Wednesdays which are holidays or half-holidays, or to Mardi Gras when the same has been declared a legal holiday; and provided still further that nothing in any law of this state shall in any manner whatsoever affect the validity of or render void or voidable the payment, certification, or acceptance of a check or other negotiable instrument or any other transaction by a bank in Louisiana because done on any holiday or half-holiday or because done on any day upon which such bank, if remaining open because of the option given it in this Paragraph, if the payment, certification, acceptance, or other transaction could have been validly done on any other day.

(7) The third Monday in February, the birthday of President George Washington ~~and Presidents' Day~~, for public schools; provided however, that a local school board shall decide to observe this holiday during a regularly scheduled school day with or without the necessity of adjourning school for all or any portion of the school day.

B. Legal holidays shall be observed by the departments of the state as follows:

(2) Washington's Birthday, ~~Presidents' Day~~, National Memorial Day, and Huey P. Long Day shall be observed only in such manner as the governor may proclaim, considering the pressure of the state's business.

D. Notwithstanding the provisions of ~~R.S. 6:65~~ or any other law to the contrary, all banking institutions and savings and loan associations located within the parishes of Terrebonne, Lafourche, Iberia, Pointe Coupee, West Baton Rouge, St. Mary, and Iberville, and all banking institutions located within the parishes of Lafayette and St. Landry, shall be closed during any year on Saturdays, Sundays, New Year's Day, Mardi Gras, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas; provided, however, that when New Year's Day, Independence Day, or Christmas fall on a Sunday, said banking institutions and savings and loan associations shall be closed on the next day, and said financial institutions may, each at its option, remain open and exercise all of its regular functions and duties upon January eighth; January nineteenth; the third Monday in February, Washington's Birthday ~~and Presidents' Day~~; Good Friday; the last Monday in May, National Memorial Day; June third; August thirtieth; the second Monday in October, Christopher Columbus Day; November first; and November eleventh, Veterans' Day; and further provided that when on any of said last named days any said financial institution does actually remain open it shall, as to transactions on such day, to exactly the same extent as if such day were not otherwise a legal holiday, not be subject to ~~any of the provisions of R.S. 7:85 and 251~~, or any other laws of Louisiana, covering the matters of maturity of negotiable instruments and demands, notice, presentment, acceptance, or protest thereof on legal holidays and half-holidays, and all instruments payable to or at such bank upon such day shall become due on such day; and provided further that the option of remaining open shall not apply to Saturdays or Wednesdays which are holidays or half-holidays, or to Mardi Gras when the same has been declared a legal holiday; and provided further that nothing in any law of this state shall in any manner whatsoever affect the validity of, or render void or voidable, the payment, certification of acceptance of a check or other negotiable instrument, or any other transaction by a bank in Louisiana because done on any holiday or half-holiday or because done on any day upon which such financial institution if remaining open because of the option given it in this Subsection, if the payment, certification, acceptance, or other transaction could have been validly done on any other day, provided, however, that in the parishes of Beauregard, Sabine, Vernon, Evangeline, and DeSoto, the banking institutions may elect to make the whole of Saturdays holidays and close, in lieu of half-holidays on Wednesdays and half-holidays on Saturdays.

E.(1)(a)(i) Each clerk of a district court, parish court, and city court shall close his office on the following days: New Year's Day, January first; Washington's Birthday ~~and Presidents' Day~~, the third Monday in February; Good Friday; Memorial Day, the last Monday in May; the Fourth of July; Labor Day, the

first Monday in September; All Saints' Day, November first; Veterans' Day, November eleventh; Thanksgiving Day, the fourth Thursday in November, and the next day, Friday; Christmas Eve Day; Christmas Day; and New Year's Eve Day, December thirty-first.

§58.10. Battle of New Orleans Day
A. A day shall be designated to commemorate the stunning victory by American forces consisting of United States army regulars, marines, and sailors, area militia, and Battalions of Free Men of Color, Baratarian privateers, Attakapas Dragoons, volunteers from Tennessee, Kentucky, and Mississippi (Hinds' Dragoons), Choctaws, and individuals who were formerly Spanish subjects and French citizens who fought for their new country under the command of Major General Andrew Jackson against the invading British forces on the plains of Chalmette in the last major military engagement between the United States and Great Britain in the War of 1812.

B. The eighth day of January is hereby designated as the Battle of New Orleans Day throughout the state of Louisiana to honor those who served in this historic battle. The governor or local governing authorities may declare the Battle of New Orleans Day a holiday. If the holiday is declared, the office of the secretary of state, clerk of court, and registrar of voters shall remain open if the functions and duties of the office related to an election are required as determined by the commissioner of elections.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 114

**HOUSE BILL NO. 64
BY REPRESENTATIVE MUSCARELLO
AN ACT**

To amend and reenact Code of Criminal Procedure Article 205 and to enact Code of Criminal Procedure Article 202(H), relative to arrest warrants; to provide for the authority of a magistrate to recall an arrest warrant; to provide for notification; to provide relative to the effective period of arrest warrants; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Code of Criminal Procedure Article 205 is hereby amended and reenacted and Code of Criminal Procedure Article 202(H) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

Art. 202. Warrant of arrest; issuance; recall

H. A magistrate may recall a warrant of arrest that he has previously issued and shall immediately notify by written notice the office of the district attorney and the law enforcement agency that is responsible for execution of the warrant.

Art. 205. Effective period
A warrant of arrest remains in effect until executed or recalled.
Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 115

**HOUSE BILL NO. 68
BY REPRESENTATIVES SCHLEGEL, ADAMS, AMEDEE, BAYHAM,
BERAULT, BILLINGS, BOYER, BUTLER, CARLSON, CARRIER, CARVER,
CHENEVERT, COATES, COX, DEVILLIER, DEWITT, DICKERSON,
EDMONSTON, FIRMENT, FONTENOT, GLORIOSO, HORTON, ILLG, MIKE
JOHNSON, MCMAKIN, MELERINE, MOORE, OWEN, SCHAMERHORN,
VILLIO, AND WILDER AND SENATOR HODGES
AN ACT**

To amend and reenact R.S. 14:103(C) and to enact R.S. 14:103(A)(9) and (B)(3), relative to offenses affecting the general peace and order; to provide for conduct that constitutes disturbing the peace; to provide for definitions; to provide for penalties; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 14:103(C) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 14:103(A)(9) and (B)(3) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§103. Disturbing the peace
A. Disturbing the peace is the doing of any of the following in such manner as would foreseeably disturb or alarm the public:

(9) Interrupting any worship service or religious ceremony at a church or other place of worship by any of the following:

(a) Violent, tumultuous, or threatening behavior directed at any person lawfully attending, leading, or participating in the service.

(b) Unreasonably loud or abusive language or noise such that the service is materially disrupted.
(c) Interference with the conduct of the service by physical obstruction, intimidation, or threat of force toward clergy, worship leaders, or attendees.

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

B.

* * *

(3)(a) Except as provided in Subparagraph (b), (c), or (d) of this Paragraph, whoever commits the crime of disturbing the peace as provided in Paragraph (A)(9) of this Section shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars or imprisoned for not more than six months, or both. Thirty days of the sentence imposed shall be served without benefit of probation or suspension of sentence.

(b) Whoever commits the crime of simple battery during the commission of disturbing the peace as provided in Paragraph (A)(9) of this Section shall be imprisoned with or without hard labor for not more than two years.

(c) Whoever commits the crime of simple criminal damage to property during the commission of disturbing the peace as provided in Paragraph (A)(9) of this Section shall be imprisoned with or without hard labor for not more than two years.

(d) Whoever commits the crime of disturbing the peace as provided in Paragraph (A)(9) of this Section while armed with a dangerous weapon shall be imprisoned with or without hard labor for not more than five years.

* * *

C. For purposes of Paragraphs (A)(7) and (8) of this Section:

(1) “Church or other place of worship” means any building, structure, or defined outdoor area that is owned, leased, or otherwise lawfully possessed by a religious organization that is used for organized religious worship or other religious activities.

(2) “Funeral” includes a funeral, funeral home viewing, wake, or memorial service.

(3) “Funeral route” means the route of ingress or egress from the location of a funeral or burial, including thirty feet from the outer edge of the outside lane of the route.

(4) “Religious organization” means an entity that is operated for religious purposes and qualifies for exemption from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (Public Law 99-514, 26 U.S.C. Section 501).

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 116

HOUSE BILL NO. 76
BY REPRESENTATIVE MANDIE LANDRY
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 15:715(C) and to enact R.S. 15:549(J) and 715(D), relative to notification of releases from parish prisons or jails or state correctional facilities; to provide for notification of improperly released inmates; to provide for definitions; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 15:715(C) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 15:549(J) and 715(D) are hereby enacted to read as follows:
§549. Notification of release or escape of inmate

* * *

J.(1) The supervisor, or the person acting on behalf of the supervisor who is physically present at and in charge of the correctional facility at the time it is determined that an inmate has been improperly released from that facility, shall immediately, or as soon as practicable, notify or take necessary steps to ensure that notification of the improper release is provided to all of the following:

- (a) The appropriate law enforcement agency.
- (b) The victim of the crime for which the inmate was imprisoned.
- (c) The district attorney.

(d) Local media outlets within the parish, at the discretion of the supervisor or the person acting on behalf of the supervisor.

(2) The provisions of this Subsection apply to the improper release of an inmate who has been detained or incarcerated on the basis of an arrest or conviction for a crime of violence as defined in R.S. 14:2(B) that is a felony.(3) As used in this Subsection, the following terms have the following meanings:

(a) “Improper release” means the discharge of an inmate from a correctional facility through circumstances that include but are not limited to administrative or clerical error or mistake of staff.

(b) “Law enforcement agency” means the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of public safety services and office of state police, and all police departments in the parish.

(c) “Local media outlet” means a local news service, including but not limited to a print, broadcast, or online platform.

(d) “Supervisor” means the warden, facility administrator, or designated official at a correctional facility.

§715. Reporting of escapes or improper releases from parish prison facilities and or jails

* * *

C.(1) The sheriff, the highest ranking employee of the sheriff’s office, or the person acting on behalf of the sheriff who is physically present at and in charge of the parish prison or jail at the time it is determined that an inmate has been improperly released from that facility, shall immediately, or as soon as practicable, notify or take necessary steps to ensure that notification of the improper release is provided to all of the following:

- (a) The appropriate law enforcement agency.
- (b) The victim of the crime for which the inmate was imprisoned.
- (c) The district attorney.

(d) Local media outlets within the parish, at the discretion of the sheriff, highest ranking employee of the sheriff’s office, or the person acting on behalf of the sheriff.

(2) The provisions of this Subsection apply to the improper release of an inmate who has been detained or incarcerated on the basis of an arrest or conviction for a crime of violence as defined in R.S. 14:2(B) that is a felony.

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

(1) “Improper release” means the discharge of an inmate from a parish prison or jail through circumstances that include but are not limited to administrative or clerical error or mistake of staff.

(2) “Law enforcement agency” means the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of public safety services and office of state police, and all police departments in the parish.

(3) “Local media outlet” means a local news service, including but not limited to a print, broadcast, or online platform.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 117

HOUSE BILL NO. 82
BY REPRESENTATIVE VILLIO
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 14:98.2(D)(introductory paragraph), 98.3(A)(1) and (C), and 98.4(A)(1), (C), and (D) and to enact R.S. 14:98.3(D) and 98.4(E), relative to driving while intoxicated; to provide enhanced penalties for offenders with previous driving-related offenses; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 14:98.2(D)(introductory paragraph), 98.3(A)(1) and (C), and 98.4(A)(1), (C), and (D) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 14:98.3(D) and 98.4(E) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§98.2. Operating while impaired; second offense; penalties

* * *

D. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, on a conviction of a second offense violation of R.S. 14:98, and regardless of whether the second offense occurred before or after the first conviction, when the first offense was for the crime of vehicular homicide in violation of R.S. 14:32.1, third degree feticide in violation of R.S. 14:32.8, or first degree vehicular negligent injuring in violation of R.S. 14:39.2, or an equivalent law or laws of any state, the offender shall be fined two thousand dollars and imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not less than ~~one year~~ two years nor more than five years. At least ~~six months~~ one year of the sentence of imprisonment imposed shall be without benefit of parole, probation, or suspension of sentence ~~except sentence~~. Except in compliance with R.S. 14:98.5(B)(1), the mandatory minimum sentence ~~cannot~~ shall not be served on home incarceration.

* * *

§98.3. Operating while impaired; third offense; penalties

A.(1) Except as provided in ~~Subsection B~~ Subsections B and C of this Section, on a conviction of a third offense violation of R.S. 14:98, regardless of whether the third offense occurred before or after a previous conviction, the offender shall be fined two thousand dollars and shall be imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not less than one year nor more than five years. Except as provided in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection, at least one year of the sentence imposed shall be served without benefit of parole, probation, or suspension of sentence. Except in compliance with R.S. 14:98.5(B)(1), the mandatory minimum sentence cannot be served on home incarceration.

* * *

C.(1) If the offender has previously been convicted for the crime of vehicular homicide in violation of R.S. 14:32.1, third degree feticide in violation of R.S. 14:32.8, or first degree vehicular negligent injuring in violation of R.S. 14:39.2, or an equivalent law or laws of any state, then on a conviction of a third or subsequent offense violation of R.S. 14:98, notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary and regardless of whether the offense occurred before or after an earlier conviction, the offender shall be fined two thousand dollars and imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not less than five nor more than fifteen years. At least five years of the sentence imposed shall be served without benefit of parole, probation, or suspension of sentence. Except in compliance with R.S. 14:98.5(B)(1), the mandatory minimum sentence shall not be served on home incarceration.

(2) Except where inconsistent with the provisions of this Subsection, the conditions of probation include but are not limited to the conditions of probation provided by Paragraph (A)(3) of this Section, except that the offender shall not be sentenced to substance abuse treatment provided for by Items (A)(3)(b)(i) and (ii) of this Section. Nothing in this Section prohibits the court from ordering substance abuse treatment if it determines that the offender is able to pay for the substance abuse treatment.

E. D. In addition to any other penalty, the court shall order, upon motion of the prosecuting district attorney, that the vehicle being operated by the

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

offender at the time of the offense be seized and impounded, and sold at auction in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 14:98(F).

§98.4. Operating while impaired; fourth offense; penalties
A.(1) Except as modified by Subparagraphs (a) and (b) of this Paragraph, or as provided by Subsections B and C B, C, and D of this Section, on a conviction of a fourth or subsequent offense violation of R.S. 14:98, regardless of whether the fourth offense occurred before or after an earlier conviction, the offender shall be fined five thousand dollars and imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not less than ten years nor more than thirty years. Two years of the sentence of imprisonment shall be imposed without benefit of parole, probation, or suspension of sentence. Except in compliance with R.S. 14:98.5(B)(1), the mandatory minimum sentence cannot be served on home incarceration.

* * *

C. If the offender has previously been convicted for the crime of vehicular homicide in violation of R.S. 14:32.1, third degree feticide in violation of R.S. 14:32.8, or first degree vehicular negligent injuring in violation of R.S. 14:39.2, or an equivalent law or laws of any state, then on a conviction of a fourth or subsequent offense violation of R.S. 14:98, notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary and regardless of whether the offense occurred before or after an earlier conviction, the offender shall be fined five thousand dollars and imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not less than twelve years nor more than thirty years. No part of the sentence shall be imposed with benefit of parole, probation, or suspension of sentence, and no portion of the sentence shall be imposed concurrently with the remaining balance of any sentence to be served for a prior conviction for any offense.
C. D. If the offender has previously received the benefit of parole, probation, or suspension of sentence on a conviction of a fourth or subsequent offense violation of R.S. 14:98, then on a subsequent conviction of a fourth or subsequent offense, notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary and regardless of whether the offense occurred before or after an earlier conviction, the offender shall be fined five thousand dollars and imprisoned at hard labor for not less than ten nor more than thirty years. No part of the sentence shall be imposed with benefit of parole, probation, or suspension of sentence, and no portion of the sentence shall be imposed concurrently with the remaining balance of any sentence to be served for a prior conviction for any offense.

D. E. In addition to any other penalty, the court shall order, upon motion of the prosecuting district attorney, that the vehicle being operated by the offender at the time of the offense be seized and impounded, and sold at auction in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 14:98(F).

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 118

HOUSE BILL NO. 90
BY REPRESENTATIVE TRAVIS JOHNSON
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 33:2740.70.6(B), (D)(1)(introductory paragraph), (c), and (d) and (2), and (I) and to enact R.S. 33:2740.70.6(D)(1)(f) and (g) and (J), relative to the Ferriday Downtown Entertainment District; to provide relative to the boundaries of the district; to provide relative to the governing board of the district; to provide relative to the membership of the board; to provide relative to the powers and duties of the Concordia Parish Sheriff's Department with respect to the district; and to provide for related matters. Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published as provided by Article III, Section 13 of the Constitution of Louisiana.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 33:2740.70.6(B), (D)(1)(introductory paragraph), (c), and (d) and (2), and (I) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 33:2740.70.6(D)(1)(f) and (g) and (J) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§2740.70.6. Ferriday Downtown Entertainment District

* * *

B.(1) The boundaries of the district shall include the area within the following perimeter: Texas Avenue, EE Wallace Boulevard, Mickey Gilley Avenue, and First Street.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, the boundaries of the district shall also include both sides of Greater Street.

* * *

D.(1) In order to provide for the orderly development of the district and effect the purposes of the district, the district shall be administered and governed by a ~~seven-member~~ nine-member board of commissioners, referred to in this Section as the "board", composed as follows:

* * *

(c) ~~The chief executive officer of Concordia Bank & Trust member of the Louisiana House of Representatives who represents District No. 21 shall appoint one member.~~

(d) ~~The chief executive officer of Delta Bank member of the Louisiana Senate who represents District No. 34 shall appoint one member.~~

* * *

(f) The Concordia Parish Sheriff's Department shall appoint one member.
(g) The governing board of Delta Recreation shall appoint one member.

~~(2) Members shall serve three-year terms after serving initial terms as provided in this Paragraph. Three members shall serve three-year initial terms, two members shall serve two-year initial terms, and two members shall serve one-year initial terms as determined by lot at the first meeting of the board. The four members appointed pursuant to Subparagraphs (1)(c), (d), (f), and (g) of this Subsection shall serve three-year terms after serving initial terms as provided in this Paragraph. Two members shall serve three-year initial terms, one member shall serve a two-year initial term, and one member shall serve a one-year initial term as determined by lot at the first meeting of the board following the appointment of the members.~~

* * *

I. The officers of the sheriff's department of the parish of Concordia may patrol the area included within the boundaries of the district and may also make arrests within such area. If the district ceases to exist, the officers of the sheriff's department of the parish of Concordia shall no longer be authorized to patrol the area formerly included within the boundaries of the district or make arrests within such area.

I. J. This Section, being necessary for the welfare of the city and its residents, shall be liberally construed to effect the purposes thereof.

Section 2.(A) The members of the board of commissioners of the Ferriday Downtown Entertainment District appointed pursuant to R.S. 33:2740.70.6(D)(1)(a), (b), and (e) and serving on the effective date of this Act shall continue to serve until the expiration of their current terms. The successors of such members shall serve three-year terms.

(B) The terms of the one member of the board of commissioners of the Ferriday Downtown Entertainment District appointed by the chief executive officer of Concordia Bank & Trust and the one member of the board of commissioners of the Ferriday Downtown Entertainment District appointed by the chief executive officer of Delta Bank shall terminate on the effective date of this Act; however, the members shall remain in office until the board members are appointed as provided in R.S. 33:2740.70.6(D)(1)(c) and (d) as amended and reenacted by this Act and take office.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 119

HOUSE BILL NO. 98
BY REPRESENTATIVE MIKE JOHNSON AND SENATORS BARROW,
BOUDREAUX, CARTER, DUPLESSIS, FESI, HARRIS, HENRY, JACKSON-
ANDREWS, JENKINS, MCMATH, MILLER, MIZELL, MORRIS, MYERS,
AND PRICE
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 40:2024.5(F) and to enact R.S. 22:1078(F) and (G), R.S. 40:2024.5(H), and R.S. 46:1844(W)(6), 1862(E), and 2124.1(E) and (F), relative to the confidential information of individuals who are victims of certain offenses; to provide for penalties for the unlawful release, disclosure, transfer, or dissemination of certain information; to provide for a limitation of liability; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 22:1078(F) and (G) are hereby enacted to read as follows:
§1078. Protections required for victims of the crime of domestic violence

* * *

F. Whoever intentionally releases, discloses, transfers, or disseminates for publication any information related to the abuse status of an applicant or insured for any purpose not provided in Subsection D of this Section with the intent to coerce, intimidate, or harass any person shall be imprisoned with or without hard labor for not more than one year, fined not more than two thousand five hundred dollars, or both.
G. No community-based shelter that provides services to a subject of abuse shall be liable for any unlawful release, disclosure, transfer, or dissemination of information that is made by an individual in violation of Subsection F of this Section.

Section 2. R.S. 40:2024.5(F) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 40:2024.5(H) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§2024.5. Records; confidentiality; prohibited disclosure and discovery

* * *

F. A member of the review panel, or any local or regional panel or agent of a local or regional panel, ~~may~~ shall not disclose any information that is confidential ~~under~~ pursuant to this Section. A person who appears before, participates in, or provides information to the review panel, or any local or regional panel or agent of a local or regional panel, shall sign a confidentiality notice to acknowledge that any information he provides to the review panel, or any local or regional panel or agent of a local or regional panel, shall be confidential. Information identifying a victim of domestic violence whose case is being reviewed, or that victim's family members, or an alleged or suspected perpetrator of abuse upon the victim, or regarding the involvement of any agency with the victim or victim's family members, shall not be disclosed in any report that is available to the public. Nothing in this Section ~~shall prohibit~~ prohibits the publishing by the review panel, or any local or regional panel or agent of a local or regional panel, of statistical compilations relating to domestic abuse fatalities which do not identify a person's case or person's healthcare provider, law enforcement agency, or organization who provides services to victims.

* * *

H. Whoever violates the provisions of Subsection F of this Section with the intent to coerce, intimidate, or harass any person shall be imprisoned with or without hard labor for not more than one year, fined not more than two thousand five hundred dollars, or both.

Section 3. R.S. 46:1844(W)(6), 1862(E), and 2124.1(E) and (F) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§1844. Basic rights for victim and witness

W. Confidentiality of crime victims who are minors, victims of sex offenses, and victims of human trafficking-related offenses.

(6) Whoever intentionally releases, discloses, transfers, or disseminates for publication any information contained in this Subsection in a manner prohibited by this Subsection with the intent to coerce, intimidate, or harass any person shall be imprisoned with or without hard labor for not more than one year, fined not more than two thousand five hundred dollars, or both.

§1862. Confidentiality; information sharing

E. Any person subject to the provisions of this Section who intentionally releases, discloses, transfers, or disseminates for publication any information contained in this Section in a manner prohibited by this Section with the intent to coerce, intimidate, or harass any person shall be imprisoned with or without hard labor for not more than one year, fined not more than two thousand five hundred dollars, or both.

§2124.1. Privileged communications and records

E. Whoever intentionally releases, discloses, transfers, or disseminates for publication any information in a manner prohibited by this Section with the intent to coerce, intimidate, or harass any person shall be imprisoned with or without hard labor for not more than one year, fined not more than two thousand five hundred dollars, or both.

F. No community shelter shall be liable for any unlawful release, disclosure, transfer, or dissemination of information that is made by an individual in violation of Subsection E of this Section.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 120

HOUSE BILL NO. 102

BY REPRESENTATIVES WILEY, ADAMS, BACALA, BAYHAM, BEAULLIEU, BERAULT, BILLINGS, BOUDREAUX, BOURRIAQUE, BOYER, BRASS, BRAUD, BROUSSARD, BUTLER, CARRIER, WILFORD CARTER, CARVER, CHASSION, CHENEVERT, COX, DESHOTEL, DEVILLIER, DEWITT, DICKERSON, ECHOLS, FIRMENT, FONTENOT, FREEMAN, FREIBERG, GLORIOSO, DANA HENRY, HORTON, ILLG, JACKSON, MIKE JOHNSON, KNOX, LAFLEUR, JACOB LANDRY, LYONS, MCMAKIN, MOORE, MURRAY, OWEN, RISER, SAWYER, SCHAMERHORN, SCHLEGEL, SPELL, THOMPSON, VENTRELLA, VILLIO, WALTERS, WILDER, WRIGHT, AND WYBLE AND SENATORS ABRAHAM, BARROW, EDMONDS, FESI, HENRY, HODGES, KLEINPETER, MIGUEZ, MORRIS, MYERS, SEABAUGH, AND STINE

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 14:30(A)(1) and (8) and 30.1(A)(2) and to enact R.S. 14:2(B)(63), 30(A)(13) and (B)(5), 30.1(C), and 93.3.1, relative to offenses affecting the health and safety of persons with infirmities; to create the crime of second degree cruelty to the elderly and persons with infirmities; to provide for definitions; to provide for an affirmative defense; to provide for penalties; to designate the crime of second degree cruelty to the elderly and persons with infirmities as a crime of violence; to provide relative to first and second degree murder; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 14:30(A)(1) and (8) and 30.1(A)(2) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 14:2(B)(63), 30(A)(13) and (B)(5), 30.1(C), and 93.3.1 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§2. Definitions

B. In this Code, “crime of violence” means an offense that has, as an element, the use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force against the person or property of another, and that, by its very nature, involves a substantial risk that physical force against the person or property of another may be used in the course of committing the offense or an offense that involves the possession or use of a dangerous weapon. The following enumerated offenses and attempts to commit any of them are included as “crimes of violence”:

(63) Second degree cruelty to the elderly and persons with infirmities.

§30. First degree murder

A. First degree murder is the killing of a human being:

(1) When the offender has specific intent to kill or to inflict great bodily

harm and is engaged in the perpetration or attempted perpetration of aggravated kidnapping, second degree kidnapping, aggravated escape, aggravated arson, aggravated or first degree rape, forcible or second degree rape, aggravated burglary, armed robbery, assault by drive-by shooting, first degree robbery, second degree robbery, simple robbery, terrorism, cruelty to juveniles, second degree cruelty to juveniles, ~~or~~ cruelty to the elderly and persons with infirmities, or second degree cruelty to the elderly and persons with infirmities.

(8) When the offender has specific intent to kill or to inflict great bodily harm and the offense is committed in any of the following circumstances:

(a) When there has been issued by a judge or magistrate any lawful order prohibiting contact between the offender and the victim in response to threats of physical violence or harm which was served on the offender and is in effect at the time of the homicide.

(b) When the offender, while released on bail, on probation, or under parole supervision, commits the offense in violation of a specific restriction or condition imposed by the court, the committee on parole, or by law.

(c) When a firearm is used in committing the offense and the offender was prohibited by law from possessing a firearm at the time of the offense.

(13) When the offender has specific intent to kill or to inflict great bodily harm upon a victim who is in a public place and the offender knowingly creates a risk of death or great bodily harm to three or more persons.

B.

(5) For the purposes of Subsection A of this Section, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that the act of pointing and discharging a firearm at another human being constitutes specific intent to kill or to inflict great bodily harm upon that person.

§30.1. Second degree murder

A. Second degree murder is the killing of a human being:

(2) When the offender is engaged in the perpetration or attempted perpetration of aggravated or first degree rape, forcible or second degree rape, aggravated arson, aggravated burglary, aggravated kidnapping, second degree kidnapping, aggravated escape, resisting a police officer with force or violence, assault by drive-by shooting, armed robbery, first degree robbery, second degree robbery, simple robbery, cruelty to juveniles, second degree cruelty to juveniles, cruelty to the elderly and persons with infirmities, second degree cruelty to the elderly and persons with infirmities, or terrorism, even though he has no intent to kill or to inflict great bodily harm.

C. For the purposes of Paragraph (A)(1) of this Section, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that the act of pointing and firing a firearm at another human being constitutes specific intent to kill or inflict great bodily harm.

§93.3.1. Second degree cruelty to the elderly and persons with infirmities

A. Second degree cruelty to the elderly and persons with infirmities is the intentional or criminally negligent mistreatment or neglect by any person or caregiver which causes serious bodily injury to a person with an infirmity, an adult with a disability, or a person who is elderly, including but not limited to a person who is a resident of a nursing home, facility for persons with intellectual disabilities, mental health facility, hospital, or any other residential facility.

B. For the purposes of this Section, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1)(a) “Caregiver” means any person who is temporarily or permanently responsible, whether such care is voluntarily assumed or is assigned, for the care of a person with an infirmity, an adult with a physical or mental disability, or a person who is elderly.

(b) “Caregiver” includes but is not limited to any of the following individuals or entities who have voluntarily assumed the care of, been assigned the care of, or have voluntarily assumed a residence with a person who is elderly, a person with an infirmity, or an adult with a disability:

(i) Adult children.

(ii) Parents.

(iii) Relatives.

(iv) Neighbors.

(v) Daycare institutions and facilities.

(vi) Adult congregate living facilities.

(vii) Nursing homes.

(2) “Elderly” means any individual who is sixty years of age or older.

C. The providing of treatment by a caregiver in accordance with a well-recognized spiritual method of healing, in lieu of medical treatment, shall not for that reason alone be considered the intentional or criminally negligent mistreatment or neglect of a person with an infirmity, an adult with a disability, or a person who is elderly. The provisions of this Subsection shall be an affirmative defense to a prosecution pursuant to this Section.

D. Whoever commits the crime of second degree cruelty to the elderly and persons with infirmities shall be imprisoned at hard labor for not more than forty years.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:

ACT No. 121

HOUSE BILL NO. 120
BY REPRESENTATIVES BOYD, FREEMAN, DANA HENRY, TERRY
LANDRY, LARVADAIN, LYONS, MURRAY, NEWELL, RISER, TAYLOR,
AND WALTERS
AN ACT

To enact R.S. 33:9091.30, relative to Orleans Parish; to create the Real Timbers Crime Prevention and Improvement District; to provide relative to the boundaries, purpose, governance, and powers and duties of the district; to provide for district funding; to provide for effectiveness; and to provide for related matters.

Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published as provided by Article III, Section 13 of the Constitution of Louisiana.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 33:9091.30 is hereby enacted to read as follows:
§9091.30. Real Timbers Crime Prevention and Improvement District

A. There is hereby created within the parish of Orleans, as more specifically provided in Subsection B of this Section, a body politic and corporate known as the Real Timbers Crime Prevention and Improvement District, referred to in this Section as the “district”. The district is a political subdivision of the state as defined in the Constitution of Louisiana.

B. The district is comprised of the area included within the following perimeter: Iowa Street, Amazon Street, Delaware Street, Memorial Park Drive, Kansas Street, and Hudson Street.C. The district is established for the primary object and purpose of promoting and encouraging the beautification, security, and overall betterment of the district.

D.(1) The district shall be governed by a seven-member board of commissioners, referred to in this Section as the “board”, composed as follows:

(a) The president, secretary, treasurer, and parliamentarian of the Real Timbers Homeowners Association, referred to in this Section as the “association”.

(b) The association shall appoint three members who shall be residents of the district.

(2)(a) The members appointed pursuant to Subparagraph (1)(b) of this Subsection shall serve five-year terms after initial terms as provided in this Subparagraph. One member shall serve an initial term of three years; one shall serve four years; and one shall serve five years, as determined by lot at the first meeting of the board.

(b) The members serving pursuant to Subparagraph (1)(a) of this Subsection shall serve during their term of office.

(3) The board shall elect from its members a chairman, a vice chairman, a secretary, a treasurer, and other officers as it deems necessary. The duties of the officers shall be fixed by the bylaws adopted by the board.

(4) The board may adopt rules and regulations for conducting its business affairs. Rules and regulations of the board relative to the notice and conduct of meetings shall conform to applicable law, including laws relative to open meetings. The board shall hold regular meetings and may hold special meetings at times and places within the district as prescribed in the bylaws.

(5) A majority of the members of the board constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business. The board shall keep minutes of all meetings and shall make them available through the secretary of the board to residents of the district.

(6) The members of the board shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses directly related to the governance of the district.

E. The district, acting through its board, shall have the following powers and duties:

(1) To sue and be sued.

(2) To adopt, use, and alter at will a corporate seal.

(3) To receive and expend funds collected pursuant to Subsections F and G of this Section and in accordance with a budget adopted as provided by Subsection H of this Section.

(4) To enter into contracts with individuals or entities, private or public.

(5) To provide or enhance security patrols in the district and to provide for improved lighting, signage, or matters relating to the security and beautification of the district.

(6) To enter into contracts and agreements for security, improvement, or betterment of the district, including with one or more other districts for the joint security, improvement, or betterment of all participating districts.

(7) To provide for services and make expenditures as the board deems proper for the upkeep and beautification of the district and the quality of life of its residents.

(8) To acquire or lease items and supplies that the board deems instrumental to achieving the purposes of the district.

(9) To procure and maintain liability insurance against any liability of the district and against any personal or legal liability of a board member that may be asserted or incurred based upon his service as a member of the board or that may arise as a result of his actions taken within the scope and discharge of his duties as a member of the board.

(10) To perform or have performed any other function or activity necessary

or appropriate to carry out the purposes of the district or for the overall betterment of the district.

F.(1) The governing authority of the city of New Orleans may impose and collect a parcel fee within the district subject to and in accordance with the provisions of this Subsection.

(2) The amount of the fee shall be as requested by duly adopted resolution of the board. The fee shall be a flat fee per parcel of land not to exceed three hundred fifteen dollars per year for each parcel.

(3)(a) The fee shall be imposed on each parcel located within the district.

(b) For purposes of this Section, “parcel” means a lot, a subdivided portion of ground, an individual tract, or a “condominium parcel” as defined in R.S. 9:1121.103.

(c) The owner of each parcel shall be responsible for payment of the fee.

(4)(a) The fee shall be imposed only after the question of its imposition has been approved by a majority of the registered voters of the district voting on the proposition at an election held for that purpose in accordance with the Louisiana Election Code. The amount of the fee may be changed by duly adopted resolution of the board, not to exceed the maximum amount authorized in this Subsection. No other election shall be required except as provided by this Paragraph.

(b) The fee shall expire at the time provided in the proposition authorizing the fee, not to exceed five years, but the fee may be renewed if approved by a majority of the registered voters of the district voting on the proposition at an election as provided in Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph. If the fee is renewed, the term of the imposition of the fee shall be as provided in the proposition authorizing the renewal, not to exceed five years.

(5) The fee shall be collected at the same time and in the same manner as ad valorem taxes on property subject to taxation by the city are collected.

(6) Any parcel fee which is unpaid shall be added to the tax rolls of the city and shall be enforced with the same authority and subject to the same penalties and procedures as unpaid ad valorem taxes.

(7)(a) The proceeds of the fee shall be used solely and exclusively for the purpose and benefit of the district; however, the city may retain one percent of the amount collected as a collection fee.

(b) The city of New Orleans shall remit to the district all amounts collected not more than sixty days after collection.

G. The district may solicit and accept additional voluntary contributions and grants to further the purposes of the district.

H.(1) The board of commissioners shall adopt an annual budget in accordance with the Louisiana Local Government Budget Act, R.S. 39:1301 et seq.

(2) The district shall be subject to audit by the legislative auditor pursuant to R.S. 24:513.

I.(1) It is the purpose and intent of this Section that the additional law enforcement or security personnel and their services provided for through the fees authorized in this Section shall be supplemental to and not in lieu of personnel and services provided in the district by the New Orleans Police Department.

(2) If the district ceases to exist, all funds of the district shall be transmitted by the board to the city of New Orleans, and such funds, together with any other funds collected by the city of New Orleans pursuant to this Section, shall be maintained in a separate account by the city and shall be used only to promote, encourage, and enhance the security, beautification, and overall betterment of the area included in the district.

J.(1) The district shall indemnify its officers and board members to the fullest extent permitted by R.S. 12:227, as fully as if the district were a nonprofit corporation governed thereby, and as may be provided in the district’s bylaws.

(2) No board member or officer of the district shall be liable to the district or to any individual who resides, owns property, visits, or otherwise conducts business in the district for monetary damages for breach of his duties as a board member or officer, provided that the foregoing provision shall not eliminate or limit the liability of a board member or officer for any of the following:

(a) Acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law.

(b) Any transaction from which he derived an improper personal benefit.

(3) To the fullest extent permitted by R.S. 9:2792 et seq., including R.S. 9:2792.1 through 2792.9, a person serving the district as a board member or officer shall not be individually liable for any act or omission arising out of the performance of his duties.

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 15, 2026.
A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 122

HOUSE BILL NO. 121

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

BY REPRESENTATIVES DOMANGUE, BAGLEY, BAYHAM, BROUSSARD,
COATES, CHANCE HENRY, TRAVIS JOHNSON, MCMAHEN, AND ST.
BLANC
AN ACT

To enact R.S. 3:4749.1(B)(7), relative to imported seafood; to expand the powers and authority of the commissioner of agriculture and forestry to include seizure and destruction of seafood that violates state law; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 3:4749.1(B)(7) is hereby enacted to read as follows:
§4749.1. Powers

* * *

B. The commissioner may:

* * *

(7) Seize, hold, or destroy any seafood product in violation of this Part.

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 15, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 123

HOUSE BILL NO. 125

BY REPRESENTATIVE HORTON

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 15:543(A) and 543.1 and to enact R.S. 15:561.7(C) and Code of Criminal Procedure Article 611(F), relative to the supervised release of sex offenders; to provide relative to sex offender registration and notification procedures; to provide for duties of the court; to provide for venue; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 15:543(A) and 543.1 are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 15:561.7(C) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§543. Duties of the courts, sheriffs, and the Department of Public Safety and Corrections and the office of juvenile justice; informing the offender of the registration and notification requirements

A. The court shall provide written notification to any person convicted of a sex offense and a criminal offense against a victim who is a minor of the registration requirements and the notification requirements of this Chapter. For purposes of this Subsection, the court shall use the form contained in R.S. 15:543.1 and shall provide a copy of the registration and notification statutes to the offender. Such notice shall be included on any guilty plea forms and judgment and sentence forms provided to the defendant, and an entry shall be made in the court minutes stating that the written notification was provided to such offenders. If the offender is not sentenced to incarceration, then the court shall notify the bureau of the conviction of the offender and shall provide a copy of the completed form to the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, division of probation and parole.

* * *

§543.1. Written notification by the courts; form to be used
STATE V. _____ JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
DOCKET # _____ PARISH OF _____
DIVISION _____ STATE OF LOUISIANA
Notification to Sex Offender

In accordance with R.S. 15:543, this court has the duty to provide _____ (name of offender) with the information necessary for awareness of sex offender and child predator registration and notification requirements as well as any applicable requirements of supervised release pursuant to Chapter 3-E of Title 15 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950. _____ has pled guilty to, been found guilty of, or been adjudicated delinquent of a violation of Title 14, Section ____ Subsection ____ of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950. This crime of conviction or adjudication is:

() Under R.S. 15:541, defined as an aggravated offense or, with regard to offenders adjudicated as juveniles, an offense listed in R.S. 15:542(A)(3) which, pursuant to R.S. 15:544(B)(2)(a) or (b), requires lifetime registration and notification under Chapter 3-B of Title 15 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950.

() A second conviction for an offense requiring registration and notification under the provisions of Chapter 3-B of Title 15 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 which, pursuant to R.S. 15:544(B)(2)(c), requires lifetime registration and notification under Chapter 3-B of Title 15 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950.

() Under R.S. 15:541, defined as a sexual offense against a victim who is a minor which, pursuant to R.S. 15:544(B)(1), requires 25 years of registration and notification under Chapter 3-B of Title 15 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950.

() Is defined neither as an aggravated offense nor a sexual offense against a victim who is a minor under R.S. 15:541 which, pursuant to R.S. 15:544(A),

requires 15 years of registration and notification under Chapter 3-B of Title 15 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950.

The above registration and notification periods shall begin to toll from the date you are released from prison, from the date of being placed on parole, supervised release or probation, or from the date of your conviction, if you are not sentenced to a term of imprisonment or jail. Additionally, you have been convicted of:

() An aggravated offense as defined in R.S. 15:541, you must update your registration, in person, every ninety days from the date of initial registration, with the appropriate law enforcement agencies as provided in R.S. 15:542.

() A sexual offense involving a victim who is a minor as defined in R.S. 15:541, you must update your registration, in person, every six months from the date of initial registration, with the appropriate law enforcement agencies as provided in R.S. 15:542.

() An offense not defined in R.S. 15:541 as an aggravated offense or a sexual offense involving a victim who is a minor, you must update your registration, in person, annually from the date of initial registration, with the appropriate law enforcement agencies as provided in R.S. 15:542.

Additionally, if the offense that requires registration as a sex offender involves a victim under the age of thirteen and you are incarcerated as a result of the conviction for that offense, you are advised that you will be subjected to supervised release pursuant to Chapter 3-E of Title 15 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 once you are released from incarceration. A copy of these statutes are provided to you with this notification.

Based on the foregoing, you are hereby notified of the following:

(1) That you, within three (3) business days of establishing residence in Louisiana or if a current resident, within three (3) business days after conviction or adjudication if not immediately incarcerated or taken into custody, or within three (3) business days after release from confinement, shall obtain and provide the following information to each sheriff or police department in accordance with R.S. 15:542(B) (except in Orleans Parish where registration shall take place with the New Orleans Police Department):

(a) Name and any aliases used by you.

(b) Physical address or addresses of residence.

(c) Name and physical address of place of employment. If you do not have a fixed place of employment, you shall provide information with as much specificity as possible regarding the places where you work, including but not limited to travel routes used by you.

(d) Name and physical address of the school in which you are a student.

(e) Two forms of proof of residence for each residential address provided, including but not limited to a driver's license, bill for utility service, and bill for telephone service. If those forms of proof of residence are not available, you may provide an affidavit of an adult resident living at the same address. The affidavit shall certify that the affiant understands his obligation to provide written notice pursuant to R.S. 15:542.1.4 to the appropriate law enforcement agency with whom you last registered when you no longer reside at the residence provided in the affidavit.

(f) The crime for which you were convicted and the date and place of such conviction, and if known by you, the court in which the conviction was obtained, the docket number of the case, the specific statute under which you were convicted, and the sentence imposed.

(g) A current photograph, fingerprints, palm prints, and a DNA sample.

(h) Telephone numbers, including fixed location phone and mobile phone numbers assigned to you or associated with your residence address.

(i) A description of every motorized vehicle registered to or operated by you, including license plate number and vehicle identification number, and a copy of your driver's license and identification card. This information should always be provided before the vehicle is operated and, if the vehicle is registered to you, no more than three days after the vehicle is registered, even if it has not yet been operated.

(j) Social security number and date of birth.

(k) A description of your physical characteristics, including but not limited to sex, race, hair color, eye color, height, age, weight, scars, tattoos, or other identifying marks on your body.

(l) Every e-mail address, online screen name, or other online identity used by you to communicate on the Internet.

(m)(i) Temporary lodging information regarding any place where you plan to stay for seven or more days and the length of the stay. This information shall be provided at least three days prior to the date of departure unless an emergency situation has prevented the timely disclosure of the information.

(ii) Temporary lodging information regarding international travel shall be provided regardless of the number of days or nights you plan to stay. This information shall be provided at least twenty-one days prior to the date of departure unless an emergency situation has prevented the timely disclosure of the information. Upon receipt of this information by the bureau from the law enforcement agency, this information shall then be sent by the bureau to the United States Marshals Service's National Sex Offender Targeting Center for transmission to the proper authorities.

(n) Travel and immigration documents, including but not limited to passports and documents establishing immigration status.

(o) A state sex offender identification card from the office of motor vehicles.

(2) You shall register with the sheriff and police chief in each parish and municipality where you maintain your residence(s) and with the sheriff of the parish in which you are employed and attend school in accordance with R.S. 15:542. For initial registration only, you, if you are not immediately taken into physical custody, shall register on the date of conviction or adjudication with

the sheriff in the parish of your conviction or adjudication in accordance with R.S. 15:542. If you live, work, or attend school in Orleans Parish, however, you shall register with the New Orleans Police Department and not with the sheriff of that parish.

(3) If you are incarcerated as a result of the crime, you shall provide all information listed in Paragraph (1) of this Section to the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, or if a juvenile, to the office of juvenile justice, within ten (10) days prior to release from confinement. You shall still appear in person at the sheriff's office within three (3) business days of release from confinement. You shall register with the sheriff of the parish in which the residence address you initially supplied to the department is located, unless the residence has changed and you have registered with the sheriff of the parish in which the new residence address is located.

(4) During the declaration of an emergency, if you enter an emergency shelter you shall, within the first twenty-four (24) hours of admittance, notify the management of the facility, the chief of police of the municipality, and the sheriff of the parish in which the shelter is located of your sex offender status in accordance with R.S. 15:543.2.

(5) You have a duty to provide notice of change of address or other registration information to the sheriff of the parish of residence within three business days. If the new or additional residence is located in a different parish, then you must register with the sheriff of the parish in which the new or additional residence is located. You shall also send written notice within three business days of re-registering in the new parish to the sheriff of the parish of former registration in accordance with R.S. 15:542.1.2. If the new address is situated within a municipality, you must also register with the police department of that municipality within three business days of establishing the residence.

(6) You shall give notice of the crime for which you were convicted, your name, address, a physical description, and a photograph to the following in accordance with R.S. 15:542.1:

(a) At least one person in every residence or business within a one-mile radius in a rural area and a three-tenths of a mile radius in an urban or suburban area of the address of the residence where you will reside upon release, including all adult residents of your residence.

(b) The superintendent of the school district where you will reside.

(c) The lessor, landlord, or owner of the residence or the property on which you reside.

(d) The superintendent of the park, playground, and recreation districts within the designated area where you will reside only if the victim was under eighteen (18) years of age at the time of the commission of the offense.

*Any person convicted of a violation of R.S. 14:89 shall not have to include a photograph in the notice described in Paragraph (6).

*Juveniles adjudicated for a crime requiring registration DO NOT have to provide this community notice.

(7) In accordance with R.S. 15:542.1, community notification shall be given by mail within twenty-one days of the date of conviction, if you are not taken into custody at the time of conviction, and within twenty-one days of the date of release from confinement if sentenced to a term of imprisonment. This notification shall also occur within twenty-one days of each time you change residence within twenty-one days of establishing residency in the new locale. This notification shall also occur at least every five years, whether or not you change residences. This notification shall occur in each jurisdiction in which you regularly reside.

*Juveniles adjudicated for a crime requiring registration DO NOT have to provide this community notice.

(8) In accordance with R.S. 15:542.1, community notice shall be published on two (2) separate days within this period in the official journal of the governing authority of the parish where you plan to reside, unless ordered to be published in a different journal or newspaper by the sheriff or local ordinance.

*Those convicted of R.S. 14:92(A)(7) are not required to publish notice in the newspaper or official journal as provided in Paragraph (8).

*Juveniles who are adjudicated for a crime requiring registration DO NOT have to provide this community notice.

(9) In accordance with R.S. 15:542.1(B), an offender who provides recreational instruction to persons under the age of seventeen (17) shall post a notice in the building or facility where such instruction is being given. This notice shall contain your name and photograph, the date and jurisdiction of conviction, and the crime for which you were convicted.

(10) In accordance with R.S. 15:542(C)(2), you must, within ten (10) days prior to release from a correctional facility, provide a photograph and all other required registration information to the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, or if a juvenile, to the office of juvenile justice for purposes of the State Sex Offender and Child Predator Registry. Providing false information during this process constitutes failure to register exposing you to prosecution and the penalties detailed at the end of this document. The address provided to the Department of Public Safety and Corrections through this process shall be presumed to be your residence address. In accordance with R.S. 15:542(C)(2), you must register with the sheriff of the parish in which this address is located within three business days of your release from confinement, whether or not you actually establish a residence there, unless you establish a residence elsewhere AND register with that jurisdiction within three business days of your release from confinement. Failure to do so is a violation of the registration statutes and will subject you to prosecution under R.S. 15:542.1.4.

(11) In accordance with R.S. 15:542.1.2, if you change your place of residence

or establish a new or additional residence, you shall appear in person at the office of the sheriff of your parish of residence where you are currently registered within three (3) business days of the change to register the new address. If the new address is located in a different parish, then you shall also appear in person at the office of the sheriff of your new parish of residence within the same time period. If your parish of residence is in Orleans Parish, then the registration shall take place at the New Orleans Police Department and not with the Orleans Parish Sheriff.

(12) In accordance with R.S. 15:542.1.2, if you are absent from your current address of registration for more than thirty (30) consecutive days or an aggregate of thirty (30) days or more in a calendar year, and are physically present at another address during that same period of time, you shall register in person the new address as one of your addresses of residence. If the new address is in a parish different from your current address, you shall also register in person with the sheriff of the new parish within three (3) business days of the tolling of the time periods listed. This requirement notwithstanding, you shall still notify the sheriff of one of your parishes of residence in person if you are to take up temporary lodging for seven (7) or more days. It is only after the thirty-day limit is exceeded that the new registration shall occur.

(13) You shall also appear in person at the office of the sheriff of any of your parishes of residence when there is a change in your name, place of employment, or enrollment. This appearance shall occur within three (3) business days of the change. If your address of residence is in Orleans Parish, this registration update shall take place at the New Orleans Police Department and not with the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office.

(14) You shall be prohibited from certain types of employment in accordance with R.S. 15:553 for the duration of the registration period. A copy of this statute is provided to you with this notification.

(15) In accordance with R.S. 15:542(C), you shall update your registration annually on the anniversary of the initial registration by appearing in person at the office of each law enforcement agency with which you are required to register and shall pay an annual registration fee of sixty dollars (\$60.00).

(16) Failure to comply with any of these registration and notification requirements is a felony for which you shall be punished by a fine of up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) and imprisonment at hard labor for not less than two years nor more than ten years without benefit of parole, probation, or suspension of sentence. Upon a second or subsequent conviction, you shall be punished by a fine of up to three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) and imprisonment at hard labor for not less than five years, nor more than twenty years without benefit of parole, probation, or suspension of sentence.

(17) For those offenders who have been convicted of a sex offense as defined in R.S. 15:541 involving a victim who was under the age of thirteen (13) at the time of the offense, R.S. 14:91.2 is applicable which prohibits such offenders from residing or being present in certain locations. A copy of this statute is provided to you with this notification.

(18) For those offenders who have been convicted of R.S. 14:81 (indecent behavior with juveniles), R.S. 14:81.1 (pornography involving juveniles) which occurred prior to August 1, 2025, R.S. 14:81.1 (child sexual abuse materials) which occurred on or after August 1, 2025, R.S. 14:81.3 (computer-aided solicitation of a minor), or R.S. 14:283 (video voyeurism) or have been convicted of a sex offense as defined in R.S. 15:541 in which the victim of the sex offense was a minor, R.S. 14:91.5, which prohibits such offenders from using certain social networking websites, is applicable. A copy of this statute is provided to you with this notification.

THUS DONE AND SIGNED this ____ day of _____, 20__ in open court, in _____, Louisiana.

Judge, ____ Judicial District Court

I hereby certify that the above requirements have been explained to me, that I have received a copy of the above notice of sex offender registration and notification requirements, and a copy of the statutes providing for such requirements. I also understand that I will be subject to any changes made by the legislature to the registration laws from this day forward.

(Name of Sex Offender)

Defense Counsel Signature

* * *

§561.7. Failure to comply with ~~provisions~~ conditions of supervised release

* * *

C. In addition to any venue provided by the Code of Criminal Procedure, a violation of this Section may be prosecuted in the parish where the violation occurred.

Section 2. Code of Criminal Procedure Article 611(F) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

Art. 611. Venue; trial where offense committed

* * *

F. If the offender is charged with a violation of R.S. 15:561.7 for the failure to comply with the conditions of his supervised release as provided in R.S. 15:561.5, the violation is deemed to have been committed in either of the following:

(1) The parish of the court that placed the offender on supervised release.

(2) The parish where any act or element constituting the basis for the violation occurred.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 124

HOUSE BILL NO. 130

BY REPRESENTATIVES WALTERS AND CHASSION

AN ACT

To redesignate the elevated portion of Interstate 220 in Caddo Parish as the “American Legion Post No. 14 Memorial Bridge”; to designate a portion of Louisiana Highway 173 in Caddo Parish as the “Dr. Harry Blake, Sr. Memorial Highway; to provide for implementation; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1.(A) The elevated portion of Interstate 220 from South Lakeshore Drive to Hilry Huckaby III Avenue in Shreveport, Louisiana, Caddo Parish shall be known and is hereby redesignated as the “American Legion Post No. 14 Memorial Bridge”.

(B) The Department of Transportation and Development or its contractors are hereby directed to erect and maintain appropriate signage reflecting this designation provided local or private monies are received by the department equal to the department’s actual cost for material, fabrication, mounting posts, and installation of the signage, not to exceed the sum of two thousand two hundred fifty dollars per sign.

Section 2.(A) The portion of Louisiana Highway 173 beginning at the intersection of Elder St. and North Holtzman Avenue, extending to Common St., all in Shreveport, Louisiana, Caddo Parish shall be known and is hereby designated as the “Dr. Harry Blake, Sr. Memorial Highway”.(B) The Department of Transportation and Development or its contractors are hereby directed to erect and maintain appropriate signage reflecting this designation provided local or private monies are received by the department equal to the department’s actual cost for material, fabrication, mounting posts, and installation of the signage, not to exceed the sum of seven hundred fifty dollars per sign.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 125

HOUSE BILL NO. 132

BY REPRESENTATIVE GLORIOSO

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 14:33, relative to battery; to provide that intentionally directing sound at a person in close proximity under circumstances capable of causing pain or hearing injury constitutes battery; to provide for definitions; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 14:33 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§33. Battery defined

Battery is the intentional use of force or violence upon the person of another; or the intentional administration of a poison or other noxious liquid or substance to another; ~~or the intentional directing of sound at another, in close proximity to another’s ear or head, under circumstances in which the sound is capable of causing physical pain, hearing impairment, or bodily injury, and in such a manner that a reasonable person would foresee that the conduct would cause physical pain, hearing impairment, or bodily injury.~~

* * *

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 126

HOUSE BILL NO. 139

BY REPRESENTATIVE SAWYER

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 33:9097.44, relative to East Baton Rouge Parish; to create the Parkview Oaks Crime Prevention and Improvement District; to provide relative to the boundaries, purpose, governance, and powers and duties of the district; to provide for district funding; to provide for effectiveness; and to provide for related matters.

Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published as provided by Article III, Section 13 of the Constitution of Louisiana.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 33:9097.44 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§9097.44. Parkview Oaks Crime Prevention and Improvement District

A. There is hereby created within the parish of East Baton Rouge, as more specifically provided in Subsection B of this Section, a body politic and corporate which shall be known as the Parkview Oaks Crime Prevention and

Improvement District, referred to in this Section as the “district”. The district shall be a political subdivision of the state as defined in the Constitution of Louisiana.

B. The district shall include all property shown on the final subdivision plats for Parkview Oaks lots A & B and lots 1 thru 89 and lots 91 thru 121, Parkview Oaks East lots 1 thru 64 and lots 70 thru 77 and Parkview Oaks South lots 1 thru 247 and Sherwood Oaks lots 1 thru 231 final filings filed with the East Baton Rouge Parish Clerk of Court and as shown within the following boundaries:

For Parkview Oaks subdivision: Beginning near the intersection of Parkmount Boulevard and Sherwood Forest Boulevard at the southwest corner of Lot B proceed north along the western boundary lines to the northwest corner of lot A. From the northwest corner of lot A proceed east along the northern boundary lines to the northeast corner of lot A. From the northeast corner of lot A proceed north along the western boundary line to the northwest corner of lot 52. From the northwest corner of lot 52 proceed east along the north boundary line to the northeast corner of lot 63. From the northeast corner of lot 63 proceed south along the eastern boundary line to the northwest corner of lot 12. From the northwest corner of lot 12 proceed east along the northern boundary lines to the northeast corner of lot 113. From the northeast corner of lot 113 proceed south along the eastern boundary lines to the southeast corner of lot 121. From the southeast corner of lot 121 proceed west to the southwest corner of lot 104. From the southwest corner of lot 104 proceed south to the southeast corner of lot 89. From the southeast corner of lot 89 proceed west along the southern boundary line to the southwest corner of lot 76. From the southwest corner of lot 76 proceed north along the west boundary line to the southeast corner of lot B. From the southeast corner of lot B proceed west along the southern boundary line to the southwest corner of lot B.

For Parkview Oaks East subdivision: Beginning at the northwest corner of lot 16 proceed east along the north boundary line to the northeast corner of lot 21. From the northeast corner of lot 21 proceed south along the eastern boundary line to the southeast corner of lot 65. From the southeast corner of lot 65 proceed west along the southern boundary line to the southwest corner of lot 65. From the southwest corner of lot 65 proceed north to the northwest corner of lot 65. From the northwest corner of lot 65 proceed west to the northeast corner of lot 73. From the northeast corner of lot 73 proceed south to the southeast corner of lot 70. From the southeast corner of lot 70 proceed west along the southern boundary line to the southwest corner of lot 70. From the southwest corner of lot 70 proceed north along the western boundary line to the northwest corner of lot 72. From the northwest corner of lot 72 proceed west along the southern boundary line to the southwest corner of lot 77. From the southwest corner of lot 77 proceed north along the western boundary lines to the northwest corner of lot 16.For Parkview Oaks South subdivision: From the northwest corner of lot 94 proceed east to the northeast corner of lot 183 along the northern boundary lines. From the northeast corner of lot 183 proceed south along the east boundary lines to the southeast mid point of lot 18. From the southeast midpoint of lot 18 proceed west along the southern boundary line to the southwest corner of lot 17. From the southwest corner of lot 17 proceed south along the east boundary line to the southeast corner of lot 241. From the southeast corner of lot 241 proceed west along the southern boundary line to the southwest corner of lot 247. From the southwest corner of lot 247 proceed north along the western boundary line to the northwest corner of lot 233. From the northwest corner of lot 233 proceed west along the southern boundary lines to the southwest corner of lot 228. From the southwest corner of lot 228 proceed north along the western boundary lines to the northwest corner of lot 221. From the northwest corner of lot 221 proceed east to the northeast corner of lot 213. From the northeast corner of lot 213 proceed north along the western boundary lines to the southeast corner of lot 108A. From the southeast corner of lot 108A proceed west to the southwest corner of lot 126A. From the southwest corner of lot 126A proceed north along the west boundary lines to the northwest corner of lot 94.

For Sherwood Oaks subdivision: Beginning at the southwest corner of lot 1 proceed east along the southern boundary of Sherwood Oaks subdivision to the southeast corner of lot 64. From the southeast corner of lot 64 proceed north along the eastern boundary of Sherwood Oaks subdivision to the southeast corner of lot 73. From the southeast corner of lot 73 proceed east along the southern boundary of Sherwood Oaks subdivision to the southeast corner of lot 78. From the southeast corner of lot 78 proceed north along the eastern boundaries of Sherwood Oaks subdivision to the northeast corner of lot 91. From the northeast corner of lot 91 proceed west along the northern boundary of Sherwood Oaks subdivision to the northwest corner of lot 210. From the northwest corner of lot 210 proceed south along the western boundary of Sherwood Oaks subdivision to the southwest corner of lot 1 starting point of the Sherwood Oaks subdivision.

C. The purpose of the district shall be to aid in crime prevention, to enhance security within the district, to provide for an increase in security patrols in the district, and to provide for the overall betterment of the district.

D.(1) The district shall be governed by a seven-member board of commissioners, referred to in this Section as the “board”. The board shall be composed as follows:

(a) The board of directors of the Parkview Oaks Civic Association, referred to in this Section as the “association”, shall appoint four members.

(b) The member of the Louisiana House of Representatives whose district encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district shall appoint one member.

(c) The member of the Louisiana Senate whose district encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district shall appoint one member.

(d) The member of the governing authority of East Baton Rouge Parish whose council district encompasses all or the greater portion of the area of the district shall appoint one member from a list of nominations submitted by the association.

(2) All members of the board shall own property and reside within the district and shall be qualified voters of the district.

(3)(a) Members shall serve four-year terms after the initial terms as provided in this Subparagraph. Two members shall serve an initial term of one year; two shall serve two years; two shall serve three years, and one shall serve four years, as determined by lot at the first meeting of the board.

(b) Members shall be eligible for reappointment.

(4) Any vacancy in the membership of the board shall be filled in the manner of the original appointment. If the appointing authority responsible for the appointment of a member fails to fill a vacancy within thirty days, the remaining members of the board may appoint an interim successor to serve until the position is filled by the appointing authority.

(5) The board shall elect from its members a chairman, a vice chairman, a secretary, a treasurer, and such other officers as it deems necessary. The duties of the officers shall be fixed by the bylaws adopted by the board.

(6) The members of the board shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses directly related to the governance of the district.

(7) The board shall keep minutes of all meetings and shall make them available through the secretary of the board. The minute books and archives of the district shall be maintained by the secretary of the board. The monies, funds, and accounts of the district shall be in the official custody of the board.

(8) The board shall adopt such rules and regulations as it deems necessary or advisable for conducting its business affairs. The board shall hold regular meetings as shall be provided for in the bylaws and may hold special meetings at such times and places within East Baton Rouge Parish as may be prescribed in the bylaws.

(9) A majority of the membership of the board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and all official action of the board shall require the favorable vote of a majority of those members present and voting. All members of the board shall be voting members.

(10) The domicile of the board shall be in East Baton Rouge Parish.

E. The district, acting through its board, shall have the following powers and duties:

(1) To sue and be sued.

(2) To adopt, use, and alter at will a corporate seal.

(3) To receive and expend funds collected pursuant to Subsections F and G of this Section and in accordance with a budget adopted as provided by Subsection H of this Section.

(4) To enter into contracts with individuals or entities, private or public.

(5) To provide or enhance security patrols in the district, to provide for improved lighting, signage, or matters relating to the security of the district, to provide for the beautification of and improvement to the district, and to provide generally for the overall betterment of the district.

(6) To enter into contracts and agreements with one or more other districts for the joint security, improvement, or betterment of all participating districts.

(7) To provide for such services and make such expenditures as the board deems proper to carry out the purposes of the district.

(8) To acquire or lease items and supplies which the board deems proper to carry out the purposes of the district.

(9) To procure and maintain liability insurance against any personal or legal liability of a board member that may be asserted or incurred based upon service as a member of the board or that may arise as a result of actions taken within the scope and discharge of duties as a member of the board.

(10) To perform or have performed any other function or activity necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of the district or for the overall betterment of the district.

F.(1) The governing authority of the district may impose and collect a parcel fee within the district subject to and in accordance with the provisions of this Subsection.

(2)(a) The fee shall be imposed on each improved and unimproved parcel located within the district.

(b) For purposes of this Section, a parcel shall be defined as a lot, a subdivided portion of ground, an individual tract, or a "condominium parcel" as defined in R.S. 9:1121.103. The owner of the parcel shall be responsible for payment of the fee.

(3) The amount of the fee shall be as provided in a duly adopted resolution of the board. The fee shall be a flat fee per parcel not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars per year for each parcel; however, the initial fee for the first calendar year shall not exceed one hundred fifty dollars per parcel.

(4) The owner of each parcel shall be responsible for payment of the fee.

(5)(a) The fee shall be imposed only after the question of its imposition has been approved by a majority of the registered voters of the district voting on the proposition at an election held for that purpose in accordance with the Louisiana Election Code. During the term of the fee, the board may increase the fee one time during each subsequent calendar year, without election, not to exceed ten percent of the amount of the fee imposed during the previous calendar year; however, the amount of the fee shall not exceed the maximum amount authorized in Paragraph(3) of this Subsection. No other election shall be required except as provided in this Paragraph.

(b) The fee shall expire at the time provided in the proposition authorizing the fee, not to exceed ten years, but the fee may be renewed if approved by a majority of the registered voters of the district voting on the proposition at an election as provided in Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph. If the fee is renewed, the term of the imposition of the fee shall be as provided in the proposition authorizing the renewal, not to exceed ten years.

(6) The fee shall be collected at the same time and in the same manner as ad valorem taxes are collected for East Baton Rouge Parish. The tax collector shall collect and remit to the district all amounts collected not more than sixty days after collection; however, the district may enter into an agreement with the tax collector to authorize retention of an annual collection fee, not to exceed one percent of the amount collected.

(7) Any parcel fee which is unpaid shall be added to the tax rolls of East Baton Rouge Parish and shall be enforced with the same authority and subject to the same penalties and procedures as unpaid ad valorem taxes.

G. The district may solicit, accept, and expend additional voluntary contributions and grants to carry out the purposes of the district.

H.(1) The board shall adopt an annual budget in accordance with the Louisiana Local Government Budget Act, R.S. 39:1301 et seq.

(2) The district shall be subject to audit by the legislative auditor pursuant to R.S. 24:513.

I.(1) It is the purpose and intent of this Section that any additional law enforcement personnel and services provided for through the fees authorized in this Section shall be supplemental to, and not in lieu of, personnel and services to be provided in the district by publicly funded law enforcement agencies.

(2) If the district ceases to exist, any funds, equipment, and property of the district shall be transmitted to the governing authority of the city of Baton Rouge, parish of East Baton Rouge and shall be used only within the district for the purposes set forth in this Section.

J.(1) The district shall indemnify its officers and board members to the fullest extent permitted by R.S. 12:227, as fully as if the district were a nonprofit corporation governed thereby, and as may be provided in the district's bylaws.

(2) No board member or officer of the district shall be liable to the district or to any individual who resides, owns property, visits, or otherwise conducts business in the district for monetary damages, for breach of his duties as a board member or officer, provided that this provision shall not eliminate or limit the liability of a board member or officer for any of the following:

(a) Acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law.

(b) Any transaction from which he or she derived an improper personal benefit.

(3) To the fullest extent permitted by R.S. 9:2792 et seq., including R.S. 9:2792.1 through 2792.9, a person serving the district as a board member or officer shall not be individually liable for any act or omission arising out of the performance of his duties.

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 15, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 127

HOUSE BILL NO. 142

BY REPRESENTATIVE MUSCARELLO

(On Recommendation of the Louisiana State Law Institute)

AN ACT

To amend and reenact Code of Civil Procedure Articles 561, 1426(A) (introductory paragraph), (B), and (C), 1572, 1702(C), 1841, 1914(E), 2083(B), 2126, 2128, 2166(F), 2167(D), and 4922 and R.S. 13:319 and 5206, to enact Code of Civil Procedure Article 2083(D), and to repeal Code of Civil Procedure Article 1425(F)(5), relative to civil procedure; to provide for continuous revisions to the Code of Civil Procedure and related provisions of the Revised Statutes; to provide with respect to abandonment; to provide for motions to quash; to provide for notice of trial; to provide with respect to default judgments; to provide with respect to interlocutory, final, and partial final judgments; to provide with respect to payment of costs and designation of the record on appeal; to provide with respect to transmission of notice; to provide for the assignment and allotment of writs and appeals; to provide with respect to the jurisdiction of small claims; to provide for Comments; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Code of Civil Procedure Articles 561, 1426(A)(introductory paragraph), (B), and (C), 1572, 1702(C), 1841, 1914(E), 2083(B), 2126, 2128, 2166(F), 2167(D), and 4922 are hereby amended and reenacted and Code of Civil Procedure Article 2083(D) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

Art. 561. Abandonment in trial and appellate court

A.(1) An action is abandoned when the parties fail to take any step in its

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

prosecution or defense in the trial court for a period of three years, ~~unless it is a succession proceeding;~~

- ~~(a) Which has been opened;~~
- ~~(b) In which an administrator or executor has been appointed; or~~
- ~~(c) In which a testament has been probated.~~

(2) This provision Article shall be operative without formal order, ~~but, on ex parte motion of any party or other interested person by affidavit that states that no step has been timely taken in the prosecution or defense of the action, the trial court shall enter a formal order of dismissal as of the date of its abandonment. The sheriff shall serve the order in the manner provided in Article 1314 and shall execute a return pursuant to Article 1292. A step in the prosecution or defense in the trial court shall interrupt the abandonment period. After the three-year abandonment period has expired, the defendant may renounce the defense of abandonment.~~

(3) A motion to set aside a dismissal ~~may be made only within thirty days of the date of the sheriff's service of the order of dismissal. If the trial court denies a timely motion to set aside the dismissal, the clerk of court shall give notice of the order of denial pursuant to Article 1913(A) and shall file a certificate pursuant to Article 1913(D). Any formal discovery authorized by this Code, whether or not filed of record, including the taking of a deposition with or without formal notice, constitutes a step in the prosecution or defense of an action against all parties on whom the discovery was served or who were in attendance or represented at the deposition.~~

(4) An appeal of an order of dismissal ~~may be taken only within sixty days of the date of the sheriff's service of the order of dismissal. An appeal of an order of denial may be taken only within sixty days of the date of the clerk's mailing of the order of denial.~~

~~B.(1) Any formal discovery as authorized by this Code and served on all parties whether or not filed of record, including the taking of a deposition with or without formal notice, shall be deemed to be a step in the prosecution or defense of an action. Any party or other interested person may file an ex parte motion to dismiss based on abandonment and shall attach to the motion to dismiss an affidavit of the mover or the mover's attorney of record certifying all of the following:(a) The three-year abandonment period has expired.~~

~~(b) No timely step in the prosecution or defense of the action has been taken pursuant to Subparagraph (A)(2) or (3) of this Article.~~

~~(c) No renunciation has occurred pursuant to Subparagraph (A)(2) of this Article.~~

~~(2) The affidavit shall also include a list of all pleadings, documents, or judgments that have been filed in the record during the three years preceding the date on which the mover claims that the abandonment period expired. The mover shall also list and attach all written communication pertaining to the action between the mover and any adverse party or their attorneys of record in the one year preceding the date on which the mover claims that the abandonment period expired.~~

~~C. The court shall enter an ex parte judgment of dismissal without prejudice as of the date of the abandonment of the action if the record confirms and the mover's accompanying affidavit attests to all of the following:~~

- ~~(1) The three-year abandonment period has expired.~~
- ~~(2) No timely step in the prosecution or defense of an action has been taken pursuant to Subparagraph (A)(2) or (3) of this Article.~~
- ~~(3) The defendant has not renounced the defense of abandonment pursuant to Subparagraph (A)(2) of this Article.~~

~~(4) No pleadings, documents, or judgments have been filed in the record during the three years immediately preceding the expiration of the abandonment period.~~

~~(5) There has been no written communication pertaining to the action between the mover and any adverse party or their attorneys of record during the last year of the abandonment period.~~

~~D. If the mover's affidavit certifies that any pleadings, documents, or judgments have been filed in the record during the three years preceding the expiration of the abandonment period or that there has been written communication pertaining to the action between the mover and any adverse party or their attorneys of record during the one year preceding the expiration of the abandonment period, the court shall either sign the judgment of dismissal ex parte or set the motion to dismiss for a contradictory hearing.~~

~~E. The sheriff shall serve the ex parte judgment of dismissal in accordance with Article 1314 and shall execute a return pursuant to Article 1292.~~

~~F. If an ex parte judgment of dismissal is granted, a motion to set aside the dismissal may be filed within thirty days after the date of the sheriff's service of the judgment of dismissal. At the hearing to set aside the dismissal, the burden of proof rests with the mover of the original motion to dismiss based on abandonment. If the trial court denies a timely motion to set aside the dismissal, the clerk of court shall send notice of the order of denial pursuant to Article 1913(A) and shall file a certificate pursuant to Article 1913(D).~~

~~G.(1) An appeal of a judgment of dismissal rendered ex parte may be taken within sixty days after the date of the sheriff's service of the judgment of dismissal pursuant to Paragraph E of this Article.~~

~~(2) An appeal of a judgment of dismissal rendered after a contradictory hearing may be taken within sixty days after the clerk's transmission of that judgment.~~

~~(3) An appeal of a denial of the motion to set aside a dismissal filed pursuant to Paragraph F of this Article may be taken within sixty days after the clerk's transmission of the order of denial.~~

~~E. H. An appeal is abandoned when the parties fail to take any step in its prosecution or disposition for the period provided in the rules of the~~

appellate court.

I. The granting of a motion to set aside a judgment of dismissal based on abandonment and the reversal of a judgment of dismissal on appeal shall each constitute a step in the prosecution or defense of an action.

J. For the purposes of this Article, "transmission" means the sending of notice via the United States Postal Service, a commercial courier, or electronic mail.

K. This Article does not apply to succession proceedings.

L. If an action brought under this Section to enforce a conventional obligation is dismissed pursuant to this Section, such dismissal, notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, shall operate to interrupt any applicable liberative prescriptive period as though the dismissal of the action had not occurred.

Comments – 2026

(a) The amendments to Subparagraph (A)(2) of this Article retain the rule that abandonment is operative without formal order. The amendments also adopt current jurisprudential rules providing that a step in the prosecution or defense of an action interrupts the three-year abandonment period and that, after the three-year abandonment period has expired, the defendant may renounce the defense of abandonment. See Foundation Elevation & Repair, LLC v. Miller, 408 So. 3d 893 (La. 2025).

(b) Subparagraph (B)(1) of this Article is new and requires that a more detailed affidavit be included with the ex parte motion to dismiss based on abandonment.

(c) Paragraph C of this Article now requires the court to sign an ex parte judgment of dismissal without prejudice if the mover's affidavit attests to all of the following: the abandonment period has expired; no timely step in the prosecution or defense of the action has occurred; the defendant has not renounced the defense of abandonment; no pleadings, documents, or judgments have been filed in the record during the three years immediately preceding the expiration of the abandonment period; and there has been no written communication pertaining to the action between the mover and any adverse party or their attorneys of record during the year preceding the expiration of the abandonment period.

(d) Paragraph D of this Article is new and requires the court to either sign a judgment of dismissal ex parte or set the motion to dismiss for a contradictory hearing if the mover's affidavit indicates that pleadings, documents, or judgments have been filed in the record during the three-year abandonment period or that there has been written communication pertaining to the action between the mover and any adverse party or their attorneys of record during the year immediately preceding the expiration of the abandonment period.

(e) Paragraph F of this Article establishes a new rule that the burden of proof at a hearing on a motion to set aside a dismissal rests upon the mover of the initial motion to dismiss based on abandonment.

* * *

Art. 1426. Protective orders; motions to quash

A. Upon motion by a party or by the person from whom discovery is sought or to whom a subpoena is issued, and for good cause shown, the court in which the action is pending or alternatively, on matters relating to a deposition or subpoena, the court in the district where the deposition is to be taken or by which the subpoena is issued may make any order which that justice requires to protect a party or person from annoyance, embarrassment, oppression, or undue burden or expense, including one or more of the following:

* * *

B. If the motion for a protective order or a motion to quash is denied in whole or in part, the court may, on such terms and conditions as are just, order that any party or person provide or permit discovery. The provisions of Article 1469 apply to the award of expenses incurred in relation to the motion.

C. No provision of this Article authorizes a court to issue a protective order or grant a motion to quash preventing or limiting discovery or ordering records sealed if the information or material sought to be protected relates to a public hazard or relates to information which that may be useful to members of the public in protecting themselves from injury that might result from such the public hazard, unless such the information or material sought to be protected is a trade secret or other confidential research, development, or commercial information.

* * *

Art. 1572. Written request for notice Notice of trial

The clerk shall give written notice of the date of the trial whenever a written request therefor is filed in the record or is made by registered mail by a party or to all counsel of record, or if there is no counsel of record, to a self-represented party. This notice shall be sent in accordance with Article 1313(A)(4) or mailed by the clerk, by certified mail, properly stamped and addressed, at least ten days before the date fixed for the trial. The provisions of this article Article may be waived in writing or on the record by all counsel of record at a pre-trial conference a party or the party's attorney.

Comments - 2026

The amendment to this Article removes the requirement that a party must submit a written request to receive notice of trial. The clerk of court must now provide notice of trial to all counsel of record, or if there is no counsel of record, to a self-represented party. The notice must be sent either by electronic means in accordance with the requirements of Article 1313(A)(4) or by certified mail. The amendment also provides that any waiver of notice of trial must be in writing or on the record.

* * *

Art. 1702. Default judgment

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

* * *

C. In those proceedings in which the sum due is on an open account or a promissory note, other negotiable instrument, or other conventional obligation, or a deficiency judgment derived therefrom, including those proceedings in which one or more mortgages, pledges, or other security for the open account, promissory note, negotiable instrument, conventional obligation, or deficiency judgment derived therefrom is sought to be enforced, maintained, or recognized, or in which the amount sought is that authorized by R.S. 9:2782 for a check dishonored for nonsufficient funds, a hearing in open court shall not be required unless the judge court, in his its discretion, directs that ~~such a~~ the hearing be held. The plaintiff shall submit to the clerk of court the proof required by law and the original and not less than one copy of the proposed default judgment. The judge court shall, within seventy-two hours of after receipt of such the submission from the clerk of court, sign the proposed default judgment or direct that a hearing be held. ~~The Before the default judgment is signed, the~~ clerk of court shall certify that no answer or other pleading has been filed by the defendant. The minute clerk shall make an entry showing the dates of receipt of proof, review of the record, and rendition of the default judgment. A certified copy of the signed default judgment shall be sent to the plaintiff by the clerk of court, and notice of the signing of the default judgment shall be given as provided in accordance with Article 1913.

* * *

Art. 1841. Judgments; interlocutory and final

A. A judgment is the determination of the rights of the parties in an action and may award any relief to which the parties are entitled. It may be interlocutory or final.

~~B.(1) A judgment that does not determine the merits but only preliminary matters in the course of the action is an interlocutory judgment determines the merits in whole is a final judgment.~~

~~(2) A judgment that determines the merits in whole or in part is may be a partial final judgment in accordance with Article 1915(A) or an interlocutory judgment in accordance with Article 1915(C).~~

~~C. A judgment that does not determine the merits but determines only preliminary matters in the course of the action is an interlocutory judgment.~~

Comments - 2026

This amendment seeks to clarify the law. Article 1915(A) provides for partial final judgments that are appealable. Article 1915(C) provides for partial judgments that are interlocutory judgments. Article 2083 provides that a partial final judgment and an interlocutory judgment are appealable only when expressly provided by law.

* * *

Art. 1914. Interlocutory judgments; notice; delay for further action

* * *

E. The provisions of this Article do not apply to ~~an interlocutory injunctive order or judgment the certification or denial of a certification of a class action in accordance with Article 592(A)(3)(c) or appealable orders or judgments granting or denying a preliminary injunction in accordance with Article 3612.~~

Comments - 2026

This amendment clarifies the law. Articles 592(A)(3)(c) and 3612 provide for interlocutory orders and judgments from which an appeal may be taken as a matter of right. Thus, the notice requirements set forth in this Article are not applicable. Rather, the required notice should satisfy the provisions of Article 1913. This is consistent with Article 2083 providing that an interlocutory judgment is appealable only when expressly provided by law.

* * *

Art. 2083. Judgments appealable

* * *

~~B. In reviewing a judgment reformed in accordance with a remittitur or additur, the court shall consider the reasonableness of the underlying jury verdict. A partial final judgment rendered in accordance with Article 1915(A) is appealable in all causes in which appeals are given by law. Other partial final judgments are appealable only when expressly provided by law.~~

* * *

~~D. In reviewing a judgment reformed in accordance with a remittitur or additur, the court shall consider the reasonableness of the underlying jury verdict.~~

Comments - 2026

The amendment to Paragraph B of this Article clarifies the law and is consistent with the amendments to Article 1841. See also Articles 592(A)(3) (c) and 3612 for examples of instances in which an appeal may be taken as a matter of right from an interlocutory order or judgment.

* * *

Art. 2126. Payment of costs

A. ~~The clerk of the trial court, immediately after~~ After the order of appeal has been granted, the clerk of the trial court shall estimate the cost of the preparation of the record on appeal, including the fee of the court reporter for preparing the transcript and the filing fee required by the appellate court. The clerk shall ~~send transmit~~ notices of the estimated costs ~~by certified mail to the appellant and by first class mail to the appellee.~~

~~B. Within twenty days of the mailing of notice~~ If the parties have not designated the record on appeal pursuant to Article 2128, the appellant shall, within twenty days after transmission of the notice of the estimated costs, pay the amount of the estimated costs to the clerk. The trial court may grant one extension of the period for paying the amount of the estimated costs for not more than an additional twenty days upon written motion showing good cause

for the extension.

~~C. If the parties have designated the record on appeal pursuant to Article 2128, the clerk shall transmit a revised notice of the estimated costs to the appellant and appellee. The appellant shall, within twenty days after transmission of the revised notice of estimated costs, pay the amount of the estimated costs to the clerk. The trial court may grant one extension of the period for paying the amount of the revised estimated costs for not more than an additional twenty days upon written motion showing good cause for the extension.~~

~~D. The appellant may question the excessiveness of the estimated costs by filing a written application motion for reduction in the trial court within the first twenty-day time limit, and the if the record has not been designated pursuant to Article 2128, or within twenty days after transmission of the revised notice of estimated costs if the record has been designated pursuant to Article 2128. The trial court may order reduction of the estimate upon proper showing. If an application the motion for reduction has been timely filed, the appellant shall have twenty days to pay the costs beginning from the date of the action by the trial court on application the motion for reduction.~~

~~D. E. After the preparation of the record on appeal has been completed, the clerk of the trial court shall, as the situation may require, either refund to the appellant the difference between the estimated costs and the actual costs, if the estimated costs exceed the actual costs, or send a transmit notice by certified mail to the appellant of the amount of additional costs due, if the actual costs exceed the estimated costs. If the payment of additional costs is required, the appellant shall pay the amount of additional costs within twenty days of the mailing after transmission of the notice.~~

~~E. E. If the appellant fails to pay the estimated costs, or the difference between the estimated costs and the actual costs, within the time specified, the trial judge, on his own motion or upon motion by the clerk or by any party, and after a hearing, shall do one of the following:~~

~~(1) Enter a formal order of dismissal of the appeal on the grounds of abandonment; or,~~

~~(2) Grant a ten-day ten-day period within which costs must shall be paid in full, in default of which the appeal is dismissed as abandoned.~~

~~F. G. If the appellant pays the costs required by this Article, the appeal may shall not be dismissed because of the passage of the return day without an extension being obtained or because of an untimely lodging of the record on appeal.~~

~~H. For the purposes of this Article, “transmit” means the sending of notice via certified mail, electronic mail to the email address designated by counsel or the party, or commercial courier. The sending of notice by electronic means is complete upon transmission, provided that the sender receives an electronic confirmation of delivery.~~

Comments – 2026

Requirements relative to the transmission of the notice for the payment of estimated costs are adapted from the service requirements set forth in Article 1313(C) applicable to pleadings and orders that set a court date and from Article 2166(F) defining “transmission of notice” with respect to the appellate court.

* * *

Art. 2128. Same; determination of content

The form and content of the record on appeal shall be in accordance with the rules of the appellate court, except as provided in the ~~constitution~~ Constitution of Louisiana and as provided in Article 2128.1. ~~However, within three days, exclusive of holidays, after taking the appeal~~ Within ten days after transmission of the notices of estimated costs by the clerk of court as provided in Article 2126, however, the appellant may designate ~~in a writing by written notice~~ filed with the trial court ~~such the~~ portions of the record ~~which he that~~ the appellant desires to constitute the record on appeal. Within five fourteen days, exclusive of holidays, after service of a copy of this designation on the other party, that party may also designate ~~in a writing by written notice~~ filed with the trial court ~~such other~~ portions of the record as ~~he the~~ party considers necessary. In ~~such those~~ cases, the clerk shall prepare the record on appeal as so directed, but a party or the trial court may cause to be filed thereafter any omitted portion of the record as a supplemental record. When no designation is made, the record shall be a transcript of all of the proceedings as well as all documents filed in the trial court.

* * *

Art. 2166. Court of appeal judgment rehearing; finality; stay

* * *

F. For the purposes of this Article, “transmission of the notice” means the sending of the notice via the United States Postal Service; or electronic mail; ~~or facsimile.~~

Art. 2167. Supreme court judgment rehearing; finality; stay

* * *

D. For the purposes of this Article, “transmission of the notice” means the sending of the notice via the United States Postal Service; or electronic mail; ~~or facsimile.~~

* * *

Art. 4922. Notice of judgment; justice of the peace courts; district courts with concurrent jurisdiction

Notice of the signing of any final judgment shall be given as required by in accordance with Article 1913, ~~except that if the party is personally served with the judgment in open court, no further notice shall be required.~~

Comments - 2026

This amendment does not change the law. Article 1913 was previously

amended to provide that delivery of the signed judgment in open court shall constitute notice of judgment and shall be documented in the record of the proceeding.

Section 2. R.S. 13:319 and 5206 are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§319. Assignment and allotment of cases

Each civil and criminal appeal and each application for writs shall be randomly assigned by the clerk, subject to the direct supervision of the court. Except for good cause shown, all writs and appeals from contemporaneously rendered orders or judgments from a lower court in the same action or consolidated cases shall be assigned to the same randomly selected panel.

Comments - 2026

This amendment permits the clerk of the court of appeal to assign writs and appeals in accordance with procedures that were commonly used prior to the 2018 amendment of this Section, thus preventing duplicative adjudication of identical issues derived from the same action. See also Code of Civil Procedure Article 2164.1.

* * *

§5206. Reconventional demand beyond jurisdiction; filing in court of competent jurisdiction; transfer of proceedings from small claims division

A. If a defendant in a small claims action ~~shall have~~ has a claim against the plaintiff in ~~such the~~ an action for an amount over the jurisdiction of the small claims division as set forth in R.S. 13:5202(A), but of a nature ~~which that~~ that may be asserted by a reconventional demand as authorized by Code of Civil Procedure Article 1061 of the Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure, the defendant may assert ~~his the~~ the claim in the manner provided by this Section; in order to secure consolidation for trial of the small claims action with ~~his the~~ the defendant's own claim.

B. At any time prior to trial in the small claims action, the defendant ~~therein~~ may commence an action against the plaintiff in a court of competent jurisdiction to assert a claim of the nature set forth by ~~R.S. 13:5206(A), Subsection A of this Section~~ and file an affidavit that the reconventional demand is in excess of three five thousand dollars with the judge of the small claims division in which the plaintiff has commenced the small claims action.

C. The defendant shall attach to the affidavit a true copy of ~~his petition or the defendant's~~ reconventional demand so filed and shall pay the clerk of the small claims division a transmittal fee of ten dollars, in addition to the prescribed court costs for filing the reconventional demand, furnishing a copy of the affidavit and pleading to the plaintiff.

D. The judge of the small claims division shall order that the small claims division action be transferred to the ordinary docket of the court set forth in ~~said the~~ the affidavit; and he shall transmit to ~~such that~~ that court, (if it is other than the court of the small claims division), copies of the citation and any pleadings in the small claims action, ~~and the~~ The actions shall then be consolidated for trial in ~~such the~~ the other docket or court.

E. The plaintiff in the small claims action shall not be required to pay to the clerk of the court to which the action is so transferred any transmittal, appearance, or filing fee; ~~although, but~~ upon adverse judgment, ~~he the~~ the plaintiff may be taxed with costs as in the case of any other defendant.

Section 3. Code of Civil Procedure Article 1425(F)(5) is hereby repealed in its entirety.

Section 4. The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby directed to print the following Comment to Code of Civil Procedure Article 1425:

Art. 1425. Experts; pretrial disclosures; scope of discovery

* * *

Comments - 2026

A ruling allowing or excluding an expert or an expert's report due to the expert's lack of qualifications or use of unreliable methodologies is an interlocutory order that is not appealable in accordance with Article 2083.

Section 5. The provisions of Code of Civil Procedure Article 561 as amended by Section 1 of this Act shall have prospective application only and shall apply to motions to dismiss based on abandonment filed on or after the effective date of this Act.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 128

HOUSE BILL NO. 150
BY REPRESENTATIVE BOURRIQUE
AN ACT

To enact Chapter 18 of Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 33:7151, relative to Cameron Parish; to authorize the creation of a local insurance program; to provide relative to the administration and management of the program; to provide relative to program eligibility; to authorize the creation of a local insurance fund; and to provide for related matters.

Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published as provided by Article III, Section 13 of the Constitution of Louisiana.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Chapter 18 of Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 33:7151, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

CHAPTER 18. LOCAL INSURANCE PROGRAM; CAMERON PARISH

§7151. Local insurance program; Cameron Parish; creation

A. The governing authority of the parish of Cameron may establish, by ordinance, a local insurance program, referred to in this Section as the "program", to assist homeowners who reside within the parish with offsetting homeowners' and flood insurance costs. The ordinance establishing the program shall provide for the administration and management of the program. The ordinance shall also provide for the adoption of rules and regulations to establish eligibility criteria to determine which homeowners qualify for program assistance.

B. The parish governing authority may establish, by ordinance, a local insurance fund to provide funding for the program. The parish governing authority may appropriate local parish funds to the local insurance fund. The parish governing authority may also solicit and accept voluntary contributions and grants to carry out the purposes of the program.

C. The program shall be modified or repealed as provided in the ordinance establishing the program. If the program ceases to exist, all funds shall be transferred to the general fund of the parish of Cameron.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 129

HOUSE BILL NO. 151
BY REPRESENTATIVE BOYER
AN ACT

To enact Code of Criminal Procedure Article 978.1, relative to expungement; to provide for submission of documents to the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information with a motion to expunge; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Code of Criminal Procedure Article 978.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

Art. 978.1. Requirements for submitting motion to expunge arrest information

The following documents shall be submitted to the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information in addition to the motion for expungement:

(1) Criminal background check from the Louisiana State Police or a respective sheriff's office dated within sixty days of filing.

(2) Certification letter from the district attorney verifying to his knowledge that the applicant has no convictions or pending applicable charges within the requisite time period of Code of Criminal Procedure Article 978 with the office of the district attorney, and whether any charges were refused related to the arrest incident in the motion for expungement.

(3) Court minute entries showing final disposition of the case, or in the absence of court minutes, a charge disposition report, or a letter from the Clerk of Court that no such records exist.(4) Charging instrument, including a bill of information, indictment, or affidavit.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 130

HOUSE BILL NO. 154
BY REPRESENTATIVE MCMAKIN
(On Recommendation of the Louisiana State Law Institute)
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 9:315.1(C)(8) and to enact R.S. 9:315.1(C)(9) and 405.1 through 405.3, relative to acknowledgment of paternity and collection of child support; to provide for deviation from the child support guidelines; to provide for acknowledgment of paternity for minors; to provide with respect to judicial authorization of acknowledgment of paternity for minors; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 9:315.1(C)(8) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 9:315.1(C)(9) and 405.1 through 405.3 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§315.1. Rebuttable presumption; deviation from guidelines by court; stipulations by parties

* * *

C. In determining whether to deviate from the guidelines, the court's considerations may include:

* * *

(8) The status of a parent as an unemancipated minor with limited contractual, procedural, and earning capacity; the availability of familial or other sources of support to the minor parent; and the desirability of continuing the minor parent's education.

(9) Any other consideration which that would make application of the guidelines not in the best interest of the child or children or inequitable to the parties.

* * *

§405.1. Minors; acknowledgment of paternity

An unemancipated minor who is under sixteen years of age may not enter into an acknowledgment of paternity. An unemancipated minor who is sixteen or seventeen years of age may not enter into an acknowledgment of paternity without judicial authorization.

Revision Comments - 2026

(a) The rights of emancipated minors are governed by Chapter 2 of Title VIII of Book I of the Civil Code and depend upon the type of emancipation.

(b) Unemancipated minors lack the procedural capacity to sue and be sued. Accordingly, the provisions of Civil Code Article 222 and Code of Civil Procedure Article 683 apply in this context and provide for representation by an unemancipated minor's married parents or tutor in a proceeding to acquire judicial authorization.

(c) This provision mirrors Civil Code Articles 90.1 and 2333, which provide that minors under sixteen years of age are not permitted to marry or enter into matrimonial agreements and that sixteen- and seventeen-year-old minors may enter into those contracts under limited circumstances.

§405.2. Minors; judicial authorization of acknowledgment of paternity; venue

A request for judicial authorization pursuant to R.S. 9:405.1 may be submitted to a court of competent jurisdiction in the parish in which the minor parent executing the acknowledgment is domiciled or in the parish in which the child to be acknowledged is domiciled.

§405.3. Minors; application for judicial authorization of acknowledgment of paternity; procedure

A. Upon request by an unemancipated minor who is sixteen or seventeen years of age, the court may authorize the acknowledgment of paternity ex parte after considering the best interest of the minor parent executing the acknowledgment and the best interest of the child to be acknowledged.

B. The court may, in its discretion, require that the minor parent executing the acknowledgment be present to evaluate whether the minor parent understands the nature and consequences of an acknowledgment of paternity, whether the minor parent understands his right to seek blood and tissue tests for determination of paternity before executing the acknowledgment, and whether the minor parent has discussed the acknowledgment with his parents or tutor.

Revision Comments - 2026

If the court denies the request, the minor parent may file a petition for judicial emancipation. See Civil Code Article 366.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 131

HOUSE BILL NO. 161
BY REPRESENTATIVE MACK
AN ACT

To amend and reenact Code of Criminal Procedure Article 320(J)(1) and to enact Code of Criminal Procedure Article 320(J)(4), relative to bail conditions; to provide relative to bail conditions for certain defendants; to provide for the duties of the court; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Code of Criminal Procedure Article 320(J)(1) is hereby amended and reenacted and Code of Criminal Procedure Article 320(J)(4) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

Art. 320. Conditions of bail undertaking
* * *

J.(1) Crimes of violence and human trafficking offenses. Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph G of this Article and notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, if the defendant is alleged to have committed a crime of violence as defined in R.S. 14:2(B), human trafficking in violation of R.S. 14:46.2, or trafficking of children for sexual purposes in violation of R.S. 14:46.3, the court shall require as a condition of bail that the defendant refrain from going to the residence or household of the victim, the victim's school, and the victim's place of employment or otherwise contacting the victim in any manner whatsoever, and shall refrain from having any further contact with the victim. The court shall also require as a condition of bail that the defendant be prohibited from communicating, by electronic communication, in writing, or orally, with a victim of the offense, or with any of the victim's immediate family members. This condition does not apply if the victim consents by way of a request to the court and the court issues an order permitting the communication. If an immediate family member of the victim consents by way of a request to the court and the court issues an order permitting the communication, then the defendant may contact that person.
* * *

(4) If the defendant is alleged to have committed the offense of human trafficking in violation of R.S. 14:46.2 or trafficking of children for sexual purposes in violation of R.S. 14:46.3, the court shall require as a condition of bail that the defendant refrain from engaging in any of the following work:

(a) A transportation network company driver as provided in Part C of Chapter 4 of Title 45 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950.

(b) Operation of any bus, taxicab, or limousine for hire as defined in R.S. 15:553.

(c) A service worker who goes into a residence to provide any type of service.

(d) Operation of any carnival or amusement ride as defined in R.S. 15:553.

(e) A door-to-door solicitor, peddler, or itinerant vendor selling any type of goods or services including magazines or periodicals or subscriptions to magazines or periodicals.

(f) Supervisory or disciplinary authority over children.

(g) Operation or participation in the governance of any early learning center as defined in R.S. 17:407.33, residential home as defined in R.S. 46:1403, or residence in which child care services are provided by a family child care provider or in-home provider who is registered pursuant to R.S. 17:407.61 et seq.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 132

HOUSE BILL NO. 170
BY REPRESENTATIVE RISER AND SENATOR CATHEY
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 9:2779, relative to construction contracts; to provide for definitions; to provide for technical changes; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 9:2779 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows: §2779. Construction contracts, subcontracts, and purchase orders; certain provisions invalid

A.(1) For purposes of this Chapter, "construction contract" means any agreement for the design, construction, alteration, renovation, repair, or maintenance of a building, structure, highway, road, bridge, water line, sewer line, oil line, gas line, appurtenance, or other improvement to real property, or repair or maintenance of a highway, road, or bridge, including any moving, demolition, or excavation.

(2) "Construction contract" does not include any design, construction, alteration, renovation, repair, or maintenance of the following:

(a) Any dirt or gravel road used to access oil and gas wells and associated facilities.(b) Oil flow lines or gas gathering lines used in association with the transportation of production from oil and gas wells from the point that oil and gas becomes comingled for transportation to oil storage facilities or gas transmission lines.

(c) Any deed, lease, easement, license, or other instrument granting an interest in or the right to possess property even if the instrument includes the right to design, construct, alter, renovate, repair, or maintain improvements on such real property.

(d) Upstream, midstream, or downstream oil, gas, chemical, petrochemical, or fuel manufacturing facilities or infrastructure, including refineries, processing plants, terminals, or associated appurtenant structures and facilities.

A. B. The legislature finds that, with respect to construction contracts, subcontracts, and purchase orders for public and private works projects, when one of the parties is domiciled in Louisiana, and the work to be done and the equipment and materials to be supplied involve construction projects in this state, provisions in any provision in such agreements requiring disputes arising thereunder to be resolved in a forum outside of this state or requiring their interpretation to be governed by the laws of another jurisdiction are inequitable and against the public policy of this state.

B. C. The legislature hereby declares null, and void, and unenforceable as against public policy any provision in a contract, subcontract, or purchase order, as described in Subsection A B of this Section, which either:

(1) Requires a suit or arbitration proceeding to be brought in a forum or jurisdiction outside of this state; rather, such actions or proceedings may be pursued in accordance with the Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure or other laws of this state governing similar actions.

(2) Requires interpretation of the agreement according to the laws of another jurisdiction.

E. D. The provisions of this Section apply to contracts, subcontracts, and purchase orders; as described in Subsection A, B of this Section entered into on or after September 6, 1991.

D. E. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law to the contrary, the provisions of this Section shall do not apply to negotiated labor contracts.

Section 2. The provisions of this Act apply to contracts, subcontracts, and purchase orders entered into on or after September 6, 1991.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 133

HOUSE BILL NO. 185
BY REPRESENTATIVE MELERINE
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 23:1021(introductory paragraph) and (7), relative to workers' compensation; to provide for the definition of an independent

contractor; to expand the definition of an independent contractor; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 23:1021(introductory paragraph) and (7) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§1021. Terms defined

As used in this Chapter, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following terms ~~shall be given~~ have the meaning ascribed to them in this Section:

* * *

(7)(a) “Independent contractor” means any person who renders service, other than manual labor, for a specified recompense for a specified result either as a unit or as a whole, under the control of his principal as to results of his work only, and not as to the means by which such result is accomplished, and are expressly excluded from the provisions of this Chapter unless a substantial part of the work time of an independent contractor is spent in manual labor by him in carrying out the terms of the contract, in which case the independent contractor is expressly covered by the provisions of this Chapter. The operation of a truck tractor or truck tractor trailer, including fueling, driving, connecting and disconnecting electrical lines and air hoses, hooking and unhooking trailers, and vehicle inspections are not manual labor within the meaning of this Chapter.(b) “Independent contractor”, as defined in Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph, who is substantially engaged in manual labor and is expressly covered by the provisions of this Chapter, also includes the employees of an independent contractor who are also substantially engaged in manual labor.

* * *

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 134

HOUSE BILL NO. 191
BY REPRESENTATIVE VILLIO
AN ACT

To enact Code of Criminal Procedure Article 880(F) and (G), relative to credit for time served in actual custody; to provide for limitations; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Code of Criminal Procedure Article 880(F) and (G) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

Art. 880. Credit for prior custody; limitations

* * *

F. A defendant shall not receive overlapping jail credit when consecutive sentences are imposed for multiple counts or charges, regardless if the sentence imposed is subsequently corrected pursuant to Article 881.5. Credit for time spent in actual custody shall be applied to only one of the consecutive sentences imposed.

G. Any overlapping jail credit that is awarded in violation of this Article is null, void, and of no effect.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 135

HOUSE BILL NO. 194
BY REPRESENTATIVE RISER AND SENATOR CATHEY
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 9:5607(A), relative to actions against a professional engineer, surveyor, professional interior designer, architect, or real estate developer; to provide relative to preemptive periods; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 9:5607(A) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§5607. Actions against a professional engineer, surveyor, professional interior designer, architect, real estate developer; preemptive periods

A. No action for damages against any professional engineer, surveyor, engineer intern, surveyor intern, or licensee as defined in R.S. 37:682, or any professional architect, landscape architect, architect intern, or agent as defined in R.S. 37:141, or professional interior designer, or licensee as defined in R.S. 37:3171, or other similar licensee licensed under pursuant to the laws of this state, or real estate developer relative to development plans which have been certified by a professional engineer or professional architect, whether based upon tort, or breach of contract, or otherwise arising out of an engagement to provide any manner of movable or immovable planning, construction, design, or building, which may include but is not limited to consultation, planning, designs, drawings, specifications, investigation, evaluation, measuring, or administration related to any building, construction, demolition, or work, shall be brought unless filed in a court of competent jurisdiction and proper

venue at the latest within five years from:(1)(a) The date of registry in the mortgage office of acceptance of the work by the owner; or,

~~(2)(b) The date the owner has occupied or taken possession of the improvement, in whole or in part, if no such acceptance is recorded; or If no such acceptance is recorded within six months from the date the owner has occupied or taken possession of the improvement, in whole or in part, the date the improvement has been occupied by the owner.~~

~~(3)(2) The date the person furnishing such the services has completed the services with regard to actions against that person, if the person performing or furnishing the services, as described herein, described in this Subsection does not render the services preparatory to construction, or if the person furnishes such services preparatory to construction but the person furnishing such services does not perform any inspection of the work.~~

* * *

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 136

HOUSE BILL NO. 199
BY REPRESENTATIVES MILLER AND CHASSION
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 40:2116.1(B)(1), relative to the moratorium on nursing facilities; to provide for a termination date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 40:2116.1(B)(1) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§2116.1. Nursing facilities; facility need review; moratorium; exceptions

* * *

B.(1)(a) There shall be a moratorium on nursing facilities and additional beds for nursing facilities which shall be in effect until ~~July 1, 2027~~ July 1, 2031.

(b) The department shall collect and analyze data to assess the continued necessity of the nursing facility moratorium.

(i) Beginning January 1, 2027, the department shall collect, at a minimum, the following information monthly from all licensed hospitals in Louisiana:

(aa) The number of avoidable skilled nursing days occurring in hospitals.

(bb) An accounting of the reasons why such days were avoidable.

(ii) Beginning January 1, 2027, the department shall collect, at a minimum, the following information monthly from all licensed nursing facilities in Louisiana:

(aa) The staffed licensed bed capacity of the nursing facility, as well as total occupancy, delineated by pavor source.

(bb) The number of denials or refusals to admit patients who are eligible for nursing facility care and the reasons for any denials or refusals.

(c) The department may provide or mandate a template, form, or system for the collection of information.(d) The department shall submit the following reports to include the data collected and analysis required pursuant to Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph to the House and Senate committees on health and welfare:

(i) A quarterly report on the fifteenth of October, January, April, and July of each year to include the data and analysis from the prior quarter. The first quarterly report shall be submitted on April 15, 2027.

(ii) An annual report to include data and analysis from the prior calendar year. The first annual report shall be submitted on March 1, 2028, and submitted annually on March first of each subsequent year.

* * *

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 137

HOUSE BILL NO. 201
BY REPRESENTATIVES MCMAKIN AND CHASSION
AN ACT

To enact R.S. 17:273.5, relative to high school diplomas; to create a State Seal of Fine Arts; to provide for academic eligibility criteria; to provide for requirements of the state superintendent of education, participating school governing authorities, and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:273.5 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§273.5. State Seal of Fine Arts

A. The State Seal of Fine Arts, referred to in this Section as the “seal”, certifies that a student meets all of the following criteria:

(1) Completion of four credits in the same arts discipline, such as music, dance, visual arts, theater, media arts, or culinary arts.

(2) A minimum grade point average of 3.00 for the arts credits completed.

(3) Completion of an arts-related capstone performance or portfolio.

B. The state superintendent of education shall do the following:
(1) Prepare and deliver to participating school governing authorities an appropriate insignia to be affixed to the diploma or transcript of a student who has earned the seal.
(2) Provide other information he deems necessary for school governing authorities to successfully participate in the seal program.
C. A participating public school governing authority shall maintain appropriate records in order to identify students who have earned the seal and affix the appropriate insignia to the diploma or transcript of each student who earns the seal.
D. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall promulgate rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to implement the provisions of this Section, including but not limited to requirements for a capstone performance or portfolio as provided for in Paragraph (A)(3) of this Section.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.
A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 138

HOUSE BILL NO. 207
BY REPRESENTATIVE CHANCE HENRY
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 37:3111(B) and (C), relative to the Louisiana Auctioneers Licensing Board; to provide for board membership; to provide for board member qualification; to provide for the domicile of the board; to provide for applicability; and to provide for related matters.
Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
Section 1. R.S. 37:3111(B) and (C) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:
§3111. Board creation; qualification; domicile; term of office; confirmation; oath of office; compensation

* * *
B. The board shall be composed of seven persons, five of whom shall be auctioneers;~~one selected from each public service commission district, and two of whom shall be consumers from the public at large, and all appointed by the governor. The auctioneer members shall be appointed from a list, provided by the board, of current, licensed auctioneers in good standing and shall have been a licensee for no less than five consecutive years.~~ Each appointee shall be a citizen of the United States of America, a resident of Louisiana ~~this state~~, and at least thirty years of age. The governor shall designate one member of the board to serve as chairman. The board shall elect a vice chairman annually by majority vote of the total membership of the board.C. The board shall be domiciled in East Baton Rouge;~~but shall be authorized to meet elsewhere in the state Parish where the board shall be sued.~~

* * *
Section 2. The provisions of R.S. 37:3111(B) as enacted by this Act shall apply only to board members appointed on or after the effective date of this Act.
Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.
A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 139

HOUSE BILL NO. 224
BY REPRESENTATIVE MIKE JOHNSON
(On Recommendation of the Louisiana State Law Institute)
AN ACT

To amend and reenact Children’s Code Articles 603(4)(a), (14), (15), (17)(I), and (20), 616(F), 622(B)(4), 623(A), (D), and (E), 624(B) and (C), 631(B), 646(A) and (C), 672.3(C)(3), 679(B) through (F), 690(B)(3), 694(A), 695(A), (C), and (D), 696(B), 702(D)(2)(c), 704(A), 705(A), (C), and (D), 706(B), 740, 1004(G), 1112(B), 1269.1, 1269.2(B) and (C), 1269.7, 1279.6(A)(1), (B), and (C), 1404(1), and 1427(C)(1)(introductory paragraph) and (a), to enact Children’s Code Articles 603(33), 646(F), 658.1, and 1003(15), and to repeal Children’s Code Articles 650, 697, and 707, relative to the continuous revision of the Children’s Code; to provide for definitions; to provide for a change in terminology; to provide with respect to absent parents, children, foster caregivers, pre-adoptive parents, and relatives providing care to a child; to require written findings of facts; to provide for intervention; to require notice to intervenors; to provide for the exclusion of intervenors; to provide for advising children and parents of their rights; and to provide for related matters.
Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
Section 1. Children’s Code Articles 603(4)(a), (14), (15), (17)(I), and (20), 616(F), 622(B)(4), 623(A), (D), and (E), 624(B) and (C), 631(B), 646(A) and (C), 672.3(C)(3), 679(B) through (F), 690(B)(3), 694(A), 695(A), (C), and (D), 696(B), 702(D)(2)(c), 704(A), 705(A), (C), and (D), 706(B), 740, 1004(G), 1112(B), 1269.1, 1269.2(B) and (C), 1269.7, 1279.6(A)(1), (B), and (C), 1404(1), and 1427(C)(1)(introductory paragraph) and (a) are hereby amended and reenacted and Children’s Code

Articles 603(33), 646(F), 658.1, and 1003(15) are hereby enacted to read as follows:
Art. 603. Definitions
As used in this Title:

* * *
(4)(a) “Caretaker” means any person legally obligated to provide or secure adequate care for a child, including a parent, tutor, guardian, legal custodian, foster ~~parent caregiver~~, an operator or employee of a residential or treatment facility licensed by the ~~Department of Children and Family Services department~~ or the Louisiana Department of Health, or other person providing a residence for the child. “Caretaker” shall not include an operator or employee of a correctional facility, detention facility, nonresidential school, or unlicensed residential or child care provider.

* * *
(14) “Foster care” means ~~placement in that the child is in the custody of the department and the department is providing temporary services including care by a foster family home caregiver, a relative’s home relative, a residential child caring facility, or other living arrangement approved and supervised by the state for provision of substitute care for a child in the department’s custody. Such placement shall not include a detention facility.~~
(15) “Foster ~~parent caregiver~~” means an individual who provides ~~residential foster a home and~~ care with the approval and under the supervision of the department for a child in its custody.

* * *
(17) “Mandatory reporter” is any of the following individuals:

* * *
(I) A foster ~~parent caregiver~~.

* * *
(20) “Other suitable individual” means a person, ~~other than a relative~~, with whom the child ~~or parent~~ enjoys a close, established, significant relationship, ~~yet not a blood relative~~, including a neighbor, godparent, teacher, ~~or close friend of the parent, or similarly situated individual.~~

* * *
(33) “Intervention” means an action by which a relative or other suitable individual may participate formally in a proceeding to facilitate permanency or to present evidence that it would be in the best interest of a child for the intervenor to be awarded custody of the child, visitation with the child, or another remedy.

* * *
Art. 616. Registry; screening of CASA volunteers, staff, and board members; confidentiality

* * *
F. Information from investigations of reports that are inconclusive may be disclosed, with the applicant’s written consent, for the limited purposes of evaluating the applicant to be a foster ~~parent caregiver~~, an adoptive parent, or a caregiver pursuant to R.S. 46:56(F)(11).

* * *
Art. 622. Placement pending a continued custody hearing

* * *
B. Unless the best interest of the child requires a different placement, a child who appears to be a child in need of care and whose immediate removal is necessary shall be placed, pending a continued custody hearing, in accordance with the following priorities of placement:

* * *
(4) In foster care ~~under the supervision of the department~~ until further orders of the court.

* * *
Art. 623. Notice; right to be heard

A. The department shall give notice of any order regarding the child issued in accordance with Article 619(C) or 620 to the child’s parents;~~the district defender or other entity designated for the jurisdiction by the Indigent Parents’ Representation Program for representing parents;~~ the entity designated for the jurisdiction by the Louisiana Supreme Court to provide qualified, independent counsel for the child;~~and other parties.~~ The department shall also give notice regarding any child in foster care, to any foster ~~parent caregiver~~, pre-adoptive parent, and relative providing care. The department shall notify the court of each party’s address and shall have a continuing duty to provide current information to the court about each party’s whereabouts.

* * *
D. If a foster ~~parent caregiver~~, pre-adoptive parent, or relative providing care for the child fails to appear at a hearing, the department shall report to the court whether notice was given or, if not, what diligent efforts were made to locate and notify the absent person. The court may permit the hearing to be held in the person’s absence.

E. The court shall solicit and consider information regarding the care and treatment of the child from any foster ~~parent caregiver~~, pre-adoptive parent, or relative providing care for the child who appears for the hearing.

Art. 624. Continued custody hearing; continued safety plan hearing; federal Indian Child Welfare Act

* * *
B. After notice to all parties, and when a child is in foster care, to any foster ~~parent caregiver~~, pre-adoptive parent, and relative providing care, and upon a showing of good cause, the court may grant, deny, or condition a requested continuance of the proceeding in accordance with the best ~~interests interest~~ of the child. The hearing may be continued for up to three additional days. If

a continuance is granted, the court shall issue a written order identifying the mover and reciting the particular facts justifying the continuance.

C.(1) ~~If a parent is absent, the court shall make written findings of fact or include in the minutes whether notice of the date, time, and place of the hearing and the right to attend and be heard was properly provided by the department.~~ If it appears from the record that, after diligent efforts by the department, the parent cannot be found or has been served a summons or notified by the department to appear at the continued custody or continued safety plan hearing and fails to appear at the hearing, ~~then the court may permit the hearing may to be held in the parent's absence.~~

(2) ~~If a foster parent caregiver, pre-adoptive parent, adoptive parent, or relative providing care for the child fails to appear at the hearing, the department shall report to is absent, the court shall make written findings of fact or include in the minutes whether notice was given, or, if not, what of the date, time, and place of the hearing and the right to attend and be heard was properly provided by the department. If the court determines that diligent efforts were made by the department to locate and notify the absent person, The the court may permit the hearing to be held in the person's absence.~~

* * *

Art. 631. Authority to file petition; custody

* * *

B. At any time prior to adjudication, any person, including a relative of the child, may petition the court for the provisional ~~or permanent~~ legal custody of the child.

* * *

Art. 646. Answer; appearance; objection

A. The court shall require the parent to appear and to answer the petition at any time prior to the adjudication hearing but no later than fifteen days after the filing of the petition. ~~If a parent is absent, the court shall make written findings of fact or include in the minutes whether notice of the date, time, and place of the hearing and the right to attend and be heard was properly served.~~

* * *

C. At the appearance, the court may either convene immediately a prehearing conference authorized by Article 646.1; or set a date for the conference.

* * *

~~E. If a child is absent, the court shall make written findings of fact or include in the minutes whether the attorney for a child who is twelve years of age or older moved to waive the presence of the child or whether the attorney for the child or the court requested the presence of a child who is under the age of twelve years. If presence was not waived or the child is not present after a request, the custodian or the department shall provide reasons for the absence of the child, and the court shall determine on the record whether the hearing may proceed.~~

* * *

Art. 658.1. Motion for intervention

~~A. At any stage of a proceeding, upon written motion to intervene and after a contradictory hearing, the court may allow a relative or other suitable individual to intervene on behalf of himself or a party if good cause is shown that intervention is in the best interest of the child and, after adjudication, will facilitate permanency for the child. The court may deny the motion to intervene or set a contradictory hearing with notice to all parties.~~

B.(1) ~~An intervenor is entitled to notice of any hearing and to present evidence relevant to the best interest of the child.~~

(2) ~~Unless good cause is shown, an intervenor shall not participate in or present evidence at an adjudication hearing except when called as a witness by a party. An intervenor shall not inspect or copy any record of the case before an in camera inspection by the court and an opportunity to be heard by the parties.~~

C. ~~The court may exclude an intervenor from any part of a hearing as necessary to protect the privacy interests of the parent or child.~~

D. ~~After a hearing, the court shall dismiss an intervention upon a determination that the intervention is no longer in the best interest of the child.~~

~~E. This Article shall not be construed to require intervention for a relative or other suitable individual to be awarded custody of the child, visitation with the child, or another remedy.~~

* * *

Art. 672.3. Diligent search for relatives; notice; failure to respond

* * *

C. All relatives of the child identified in the diligent search required by this Article, subject to exceptions due to family or domestic violence or other safety concerns, shall be provided with a notice that does all of the following:

* * *

(3) ~~Describes the process for becoming a licensed foster family home caregiver and the additional services and supports support available for children placed in approved foster homes in foster care.~~

* * *

Art. 679. Notice; presence at disposition

* * *

B. ~~If a parent is absent, the court shall make written findings of fact or include in the minutes whether notice of the date, time, and place of the hearing and the right to attend and be heard was properly served.~~ The court shall permit a disposition hearing to be held in the absence of a parent if it is established on the record that the parent was served but is not in attendance or that efforts to serve the parent have been unsuccessful.

C. A child twelve years of age or older shall be present in court unless ~~his the child's~~ presence is waived by the court upon motion of the child's counsel. A child below the age of twelve years shall be present in court upon the request of counsel for the child or the court. ~~If a child is absent, the court shall make written findings of fact or include in the minutes whether the attorney for the child moved to waive the presence or whether presence was requested. If presence was not waived or the child is not present after a request, the custodian or the department shall provide reasons for the absence of the child, and the court shall determine on the record whether the hearing may proceed. If the A child is present in court, he may choose to testify as to his wishes, and the court shall consider his the child's testimony in the matter. Any testimony given by a child may be taken by a videotaped interview or by closed-circuit television, as authorized by Chapter 8 of Title III of this Code, or by an in-chambers conference attended only by the judge and court reporter and by counsel for the child, for the petitioner, and for the parents.~~

D. The department shall give notice of the right to appear at the disposition hearing to any foster parent ~~caregiver~~, pre-adoptive parent, or relative providing care for the child.

E. If a foster parent ~~caregiver~~, pre-adoptive parent, or relative providing care for the child ~~fails to appear at the disposition hearing, the department shall report to is absent,~~ the court ~~shall make written findings of fact or include in the minutes whether notice was given, or, if not, what of the date, time, and place of the hearing and the right to attend and be heard was properly provided by the department. If the court determines that diligent efforts were made by the department to locate and notify the absent person, The the court may permit the hearing to be held in the person's absence.~~

F. The court shall solicit and consider information regarding the care and treatment of the child from any foster parent ~~caregiver~~, pre-adoptive parent, or relative providing care for the child who appears for the hearing.

* * *

Art. 690. Case review report purpose; contents

* * *

B. The case review report shall address the following:

* * *

(3) The extent of progress ~~which that~~ has been made toward alleviating or mitigating the causes necessitating ~~placement in~~ foster care.

* * *

Art. 694. Notice; absent parents

A. ~~If a parent is absent, the court shall make written findings of fact or include in the minutes whether notice of the date, time, and place of the hearing and the right to attend and be heard was properly served.~~ The court shall permit a case review hearing to be held in the absence of a parent if it is established on the record that the parent was served but is not in attendance or that efforts to serve the parent have been unsuccessful.

* * *

Art. 695. Notice; foster parents ~~caregiver~~, pre-adoptive parents, relatives providing care; right to be heard

A. The department shall give notice of the right to appear at each case review hearing to any foster parent ~~caregiver~~, pre-adoptive parent, or relative providing care for the child.

* * *

C. If a foster parent ~~caregiver~~, pre-adoptive parent, or relative providing care for the child ~~fails to appear at a case review hearing, the department shall report to is absent,~~ the court shall make written findings of fact or ~~include in the minutes whether notice was given or, if not, what of the date, time, and place of the hearing and the right to attend and be heard was properly provided by the department. If the court determines that diligent efforts were made by the department to locate and notify the absent person, The the court may permit the hearing to be held in the person's absence.~~

D. The court shall solicit and consider information regarding the care and treatment of the child from any foster parent ~~caregiver~~, pre-adoptive parent, or relative providing care for the child who appears for the hearing.

Art. 696. Rights of parties

* * *

B. A child twelve years of age or older shall be present in court unless ~~his the child's~~ presence is waived by the court upon motion of the child's counsel. A child below the age of twelve years shall be present in court upon the request of counsel for the child or the court. ~~If a child is absent, the court shall make written findings of fact or include in the minutes whether the attorney for the child moved to waive the presence or whether presence was requested. If presence was not waived or the child is not present after a request, the custodian or the department shall provide reasons for the absence of the child, and the court shall determine on the record whether the hearing may proceed. If the A child is present in court, he may choose to testify as to his wishes, and the court shall consider his the child's testimony in the matter. Any testimony given by a child may be taken by a videotaped interview or by closed-circuit television, as authorized by Chapter 8 of Title III of this Code, or by an in-chambers conference attended only by the judge and court reporter and by counsel for the child, for the petitioner, and for the parents.~~

* * *

Art. 702. Permanency hearing

* * *

D.

* * *

(2)

* * *

(c) For the purposes of Subsubparagraph (a) of this Subparagraph, a foster ~~parent caregiver~~, relative, or other suitable individual with whom a child under the age of six has resided continuously for nine months or more is a person who has a significant relationship with the child. Nothing in this Subparagraph shall be construed to interfere with any rights afforded to biological parents.

* * *

Art. 704. Notice; absent parents

A. If a parent is absent, the court shall make written findings of fact or include in the minutes whether notice of the date, time, and place of the hearing and the right to attend and be heard was properly served. The court shall permit a permanency hearing to be held in the absence of a parent if it is established on the record that the parent was served but is not in attendance or that efforts to serve the parent have been unsuccessful.

* * *

Art. 705. Notice; right to be heard

A. The department shall give notice of the right to appear at each permanency hearing to any foster ~~parent caregiver~~, pre-adoptive parent, or relative providing care for the child.

* * *

C. If a foster ~~parent caregiver~~, pre-adoptive parent, or relative providing care for the child fails to appear at a permanency hearing, the department shall report to is absent, the court shall make written findings of fact or include in the minutes whether notice was given or, if not, what of the date, time, and place of the hearing and the right to attend and be heard was properly provided by the department. If the court determines that diligent efforts were made by the department to locate and notify the absent person, the court may permit the hearing to be held in the person's absence.

D. The court shall solicit and consider information regarding the care and treatment of the child from any foster ~~parent caregiver~~, pre-adoptive parent, or relative providing care for the child who appears for the hearing.

Art. 706. Rights of parties

* * *

B. A child twelve years of age or older shall be present in court unless his the child's presence is waived by the court upon motion of the child's counsel. A child below the age of twelve years shall be present in court upon the request of counsel for the child or the court. If a child is absent, the court shall make written findings of fact or include in the minutes whether the attorney for the child moved to waive the presence or whether presence was requested. If presence was not waived or the child is not present after a request, the custodian or the department shall provide reasons for the absence of the child, and the court shall determine on the record whether the hearing may proceed. If the A child is present in court, he may choose to testify as to his wishes, and the court shall consider his the child's testimony in the matter. Any testimony given by a child may be taken by a videotaped interview or by closed-circuit television, as authorized by Chapter 8 of Title III of this Code, or by an in-chambers conference attended only by the judge and court reporter and by counsel for the child, for the petitioner, and for the parents.

* * *

Art. 740. Advice of rights

A. At the continued custody hearing or at the first hearing at which the child appears, whichever occurs first, the court judge shall advise the parents and the child, in a developmentally appropriate manner and in terms understandable by to the child and the parents, of all of the following:

(1) The child, parents, and any other persons subject to the jurisdiction of the court in accordance with Article 729 are parties to the proceeding.

(2) The nature of the proceedings as provided in Article 792.

(3) The consequences of formal proceedings including all of the following:

(a) The possibility of juvenile detention if the child is held in contempt in accordance with Article 791.

(b) The possibility of a fine or imprisonment if an adult is held in contempt in accordance with Article 1509.

(c) The possibility of removal of the child from his home in accordance with Article 779.

(2)(4) The nature of the allegations.

(3)(5) The informal family services plan procedure.

(4) The right to an adjudication hearing.

(5) The right to retain and be represented by an attorney.

(6) The nature of Families in Need of Services proceedings as set forth in Article 792 and the confidentiality of Families in Need of Services records as set forth provided in Article 793.

(7) The right to have notice of and attend all hearings.

(8) The right to be free from discrimination based on race, religion, disability, national origin, and sex.

(9) The right to be provided qualified interpretation, translation, and language assistance services.

(10) The right to be provided reasonable accommodations for any disability.

(11) The right of the child to an adjudication hearing.

(12) The right of the child to have regular and meaningful communication with the child's attorney in a way that is understandable to the child.

(13) The right of the child to have the child's attorney present the child's case, including presenting the child's wishes.

(14) The right of the child to testify as to the child's wishes.

(15) The right of the parent to retain and be represented by an independent and qualified attorney who shall have duties of loyalty, confidentiality, advocacy, and competent representation.

B. If a petition seeking a formal adjudication is filed, the court shall appoint independent legal counsel for the child; or refer the child for representation by the district public defender. Neither the child nor anyone purporting to act on his behalf of the child may be permitted to waive this right. If the court finds that the parents of the child are financially able, it may order the parents to pay some or all of the costs of the child's representation.

C. If a petition seeking a formal adjudication is filed, the court shall also advise the child and parent of his the privilege against self-incrimination.

D. Written notice of the rights provided in Paragraph A of this Article shall be given to the child and the parents and, if present at the hearing, foster caregivers, pre-adoptive parents, and any relatives providing care to the child.

* * *

Art. 1003. Definitions

As used in this Title:

* * *

(15) "Foster care" means that the child is in the custody of the department and the department is providing temporary services including care by a foster caregiver, a relative, a residential child caring facility, or other living arrangement approved and supervised by the state.

Art. 1004. Petition for termination of parental rights; authorization to file

* * *

G. Foster parents A foster caregiver who intend intends to adopt the child may petition for the termination of parental rights of the foster child's parents when, in accordance with Article 702(D), adoption is the permanent plan for the child, the child has been in state custody under the foster parent's caregiver's care for seventeen of the last twenty-two months, and the department has failed to petition for such termination.

* * *

Art. 1112. Inability due to court intervention

* * *

B. Upon notice to the department and after a contradictory hearing, if requested by the department, a parent may, with approval of the court, execute a private surrender of a child in the legal custody of the department to the foster parent with whom the child was placed by the department caregiver.

* * *

Art. 1269.1. Continuing contact agreements; voluntary

Agreements for continuing contact by certain biological relatives or foster parents caregivers with an adopted child after an adoption do not violate any public policy of this state, provided that the adopting parents and biological relative or foster parent caregiver voluntarily execute the agreement in conformity with the requirements of this Chapter.

Art. 1269.2. Continuing post-adoption contact; foster child adoptions adoption of child in foster care

* * *

B. If there is no parental relationship that meets the requirements of Paragraph A of this Article, the court may approve an agreement, executed in conformity with the requirements of this Chapter, that provides for continuing contact between the child to be adopted and any other relative or foster parent caregiver whose relationship with the child meets those requirements.

C. When adoption is approved by the court as the permanent plan for the child, the department shall inform any parent, grandparent, sibling, or any other relative, or foster parent caregiver who meets the requirements of Paragraph A or B of this Article of the possibility of post-adoption contact with the child upon agreement with the adoptive parents in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter.

* * *

Art. 1269.7. Agreements confected after final decree

The adoptive parent and any relative or foster parent caregiver who may be permitted continuing contact by in accordance with Article 1269.2(B) may enter into an agreement regarding communication or contact after entry of a final decree of adoption. Any such The agreement shall be enforceable only if filed with the court and approved in accordance with this Chapter.

* * *

Art. 1279.6. Educational opportunities and assistance

A.(1) A child who is in foster care pursuant to placement through the department shall be allowed to remain enrolled in the public school in which the child was enrolled at the time he the child entered foster care for the duration of the child's stay in the custody of the state or until he the child completes the highest grade offered at the school, if the department determines that remaining in such that school is in the best interest of the child. Transportation of the child shall be provided pursuant to R.S. 17:238(C).

* * *

B. When a child is in the custody of the department and is placed with a foster parents caregiver who have has other children living in the home who already attend a nonpublic or parochial school, the foster child may attend the same nonpublic or parochial school if the department finds that it is in the best interest of the child; and if the child meets the admission requirements of the nonpublic or parochial school. The department shall not be directly responsible for paying for the expenses associated with such education.

C. When a child is in the custody of the department and is placed with a foster parents caregiver who have has other children in the home who are

participants in an approved home study program; pursuant to R.S. 17:236.1, the department may approve the placement of the ~~foster~~ child in an approved home study program if the department finds that it is in the best interest of the child. Home study programs approved by the Department of Education to educate ~~foster~~ children in foster care shall offer a sustained curriculum of quality at least equal to that offered by public schools at the same grade level; pursuant to R.S. 17:236.1(C)(1). Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the Department of Education shall provide the department, upon request, verification that a home study program in which a ~~foster~~ child in foster care is participating has been approved pursuant to R.S. 17:236. The foster ~~parent caregiver~~ shall provide the department appropriate documentation, including but not limited to copies of standardized tests, to substantiate that the child is progressing on grade level and at a rate equal to one grade level for each year in the program.

Art. 1404. Definitions
As used in this Title:
(1) “Caretaker” means any person legally obligated to provide or secure adequate care for a child, including a parent, tutor, guardian, legal custodian, foster ~~home parent caregiver~~, or other person providing a residence for the child.

Art. 1427. Authority to transport and detain

C.(1) In addition to other persons authorized by this Article to transport to a treatment facility a child in whose name an emergency certificate has been issued, any of the following persons may also accompany the child during ~~such~~ transportation:
(a) A parent, including a foster ~~parent caregiver~~, subject to the conditions of Subparagraph (2) of this Paragraph.

Section 2. Children’s Code Articles 650, 697, and 707 are hereby repealed in their entirety.
Section 3. The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby authorized and directed to alphabetize and renumber the definitions contained in Children’s Code Articles 603 and 1003 and to correct any cross-references to the renumbered paragraphs, if necessary, consistent with the provisions of this Act.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.
A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 140
HOUSE BILL NO. 231
BY REPRESENTATIVE BOYER
AN ACT

To enact R.S. 14:79(I), relative to temporary restraining orders and protective orders; to provide for conduct that constitutes violation of a protective order; and to provide for related matters.
Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
Section 1. R.S. 14:79(I) is hereby enacted to read as follows:
§79. Violation of protective orders

I. Violation of protective orders shall also include the intentional evasion of service of process of any lawful order of the court issued pursuant to R.S. 9:361 et seq., R.S. 9:372, R.S. 28:53.2, R.S. 46:2131 et seq., R.S. 46:2151, R.S. 46:2181 et seq., Children’s Code Articles 1564 et seq., Code of Civil Procedure Article 3601 or 3607.1, or Code of Criminal Procedure Article 30, 320, or 871.1.
Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.
A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 141
HOUSE BILL NO. 238
BY REPRESENTATIVE ZERINGUE
AN ACT

To repeal R.S. 42:1123(31)(c), relative to the Louisiana Code of Ethics; to provide relative to exceptions authorizing the employment of a former school board member as a certified classroom teacher or certified school psychologist by his former school board; to repeal the population limitation placed on the exceptions; and to provide for related matters.
Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
Section 1. R.S. 42:1123(31)(c) is hereby repealed in its entirety.
Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.
A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 142

HOUSE BILL NO. 241
BY REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 6:333(A)(12)(g) and (D), relative to the organization and operation of state banks; to provide for definitions; to provide for service of disclosure demands; and to provide for related matters.
Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
Section 1. R.S. 6:333(A)(12)(g) and (D) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:
§333. Disclosure of financial records; reimbursement of costs
A. As used in this Section:

(12) “Supervisory agency” means any entity which has statutory authority to examine the financial condition, business operations, records, or transactions of a bank, including but not limited to the following:
(g) The ~~federal Office of Thrift Supervision~~ Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

D. Service of a disclosure demand, or certified copy thereof, on any customer shall be made by utilizing any applicable method for service of citation on ~~said~~ the customer authorized by the Code of Civil Procedure, including Articles 1231 through ~~1265~~ 1267. However, any such service may be made by an individual who is not a party and who is at least eighteen years of age, rather than by the sheriff. Service on any customer’s counsel of record shall be made by personal service in the office of such counsel of record on either his secretary, as defined in Code of Civil Procedure Article 1235(C), or any partner or office associate of such counsel of record. Service on a customer or on his counsel of record may be made within or without the state of Louisiana.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.
A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 143
HOUSE BILL NO. 242
BY REPRESENTATIVE CARVER
AN ACT

To enact R.S. 13:2583.8, relative to constables in St. Tammany Parish; to authorize a constable of a justice of the peace in St. Tammany Parish to appoint a deputy; to require certain training; to provide for the filing of certain oaths of office; to provide for compensation; to provide for qualifications of office; to provide for residency requirements; to provide for prohibitions; and to provide for related matters.
Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
Section 1. R.S. 13:2583.8 is hereby enacted to read as follows:
§2583.8. Deputies; oath; compensation; St. Tammany Parish
A. Each duly elected constable of a justice of the peace court in St. Tammany Parish may appoint one deputy constable, if necessary, for whose acts the constable shall be responsible. Before entering upon his duties, the deputy shall take the oath required by the Constitution of Louisiana and the laws of this state and meet the requirements of R.S. 40:2402 through 2406. A duplicate copy of the oath of office shall be filed with the office of the attorney general within seventy-two hours after being administered. Any deputy constable appointed pursuant to this Section is not entitled to any compensation from any local governing body or political subdivision, other than the constable’s office, nor any compensation from the state. Each constable may fix the compensation of his deputy. He may pay from the fees generated by his office any compensation due to the deputy, the premiums on bonds required by him of a deputy in charge of public funds, insurance premiums, and any expenses necessary for the performance of duties required of the deputy. He may issue monthly or twice per month, at his discretion, to the deputy warrants or checks for the amounts due to him.
B. Each deputy constable authorized by this Section shall have the same qualifications and training as required by law for a constable of a justice of the peace court. However, a deputy constable need not be a resident of the ward from which the constable is elected, but he shall be a resident of St. Tammany Parish.
C. The provisions of this Section have no effect on nor limit the authority of a justice of the peace to appoint a special deputy constable pursuant to R.S. 13:3477.
Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.
A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 144

BILLINGS, BOURRIAGUE, BOYD, BOYER, BRASS, BRAUD, BRYANT, COX, DEWITT, EGAN, FREEMAN, GLORIOSO, TRAVIS JOHNSON, KNOX, LAFLEUR, MANDIE LANDRY, TERRY LANDRY, LYONS, MACK, MARCELLE, MARTINEZ, NEWELL, SAWYER, THOMPSON, AND WYBLE
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 17:183.2(A), 2925(B)(1), and 3005(C)(8) and to enact R.S. 17:2926(A)(5) and 3996(B)(24), (30), (44), and (51), relative to public school students; to provide relative to career-related activities for certain students; to provide relative to Individualized Graduation Plans; to require Louisiana Works to provide information about workforce priorities annually to public school governing authorities; to provide for alignment of student activities with these priorities; to provide for the advisement policy developed by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education; to provide relative to elementary school counselors; to provide for applicability; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
Section 1. R.S. 17:183.2(A), 2925(B)(1), and 3005(C)(8) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:2926(A)(5) and 3996(B)(24), (30), (44), and (51) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§183.2. Career option description
A.(1) To prepare students for choosing a career option at the high school level, in grades six through eight, schools shall incorporate activities which expose students to career and technical and academic fields of study. Such activities may include field trips, guest speakers, community services, and other activities designed to introduce students to occupations in demand in Louisiana. At least six activities shall be conducted at each grade level during each school year as provided in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection. Louisiana Works shall provide annually a listing of high-demand sectors by region and state to public school governing authorities, which shall select activities that align with these sectors to the greatest extent feasible.

(2)(a) Each school year, at least three of the six activities for each grade level shall meet one of the following criteria:

- (i) An activity that provides direct interaction with an employer.
- (ii) An activity that involves career pathway instruction linked to high school course options.
- (iii) An activity that provides a work-based learning exposure.
- (iv) A career interest inventory.

(b) At least one activity shall be documented for each school year in each student's Individual Graduation Plan developed pursuant to R.S. 17:2925.

(3) Each school that enrolls students in grades kindergarten through five shall provide students with at least one career awareness experience or activity in a category provided in Subparagraph (2)(a) of this Subsection during each school year.

(4) Each school board shall certify annual compliance for the schools under its jurisdiction to the state Department of Education and maintain auditable records of activities by grade relative to the requirements of Paragraphs (1) through (3) of this Subsection.

* * *
§2925. Individual graduation plans
* * *

B. To provide a foundation for the development of the Individual Graduation Plan, schools shall:

(1) Provide career awareness and exploration activities to all students in grades six through eight that create linkages between what a student does in school and what he wants to achieve in life. Such activities shall include career interest inventories in sixth grade and updated career interest inventories in seventh and eighth grades and information to assist them in the career decisionmaking process and may include job shadowing, job mentoring, and job internships: as provided in R.S. 17:183.2(A).

* * *
§2926. Student counseling; training and professional development

A. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall develop an advisement policy for the middle and high school grades that local school districts can use to equip school counselors with the skills and information needed to:

* * *
(5) Document at least one middle school career-related activity in the student's Individual Graduation Plan as provided in R.S. 17:183.2(A) and ensure that career interest inventories are updated in seventh and eighth grades as provided in R.S. 17:2925(B).

* * *
§3005. Elementary school counselors; availability; guidelines; requirements; counseling services; work time; exceptions; reporting; funding
* * *

C. Such school counselors shall provide preventive and developmental counseling services to all public elementary school students in kindergarten through grade six in order to prepare them for middle, junior, and senior high school responsibilities and their social and physical development. In providing such counseling services, the counselors may:

* * *
(8) Consult with teachers in implementing a career development program which, at the elementary school level, includes self-awareness, job awareness, and prevocational orientation and in providing that students in kindergarten through fifth grade participate in at least one career awareness experience or activity during each school year as provided in R.S. 17:183.2(A).

* * *

§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:

* * *
(24) Career-related activities, R.S. 17:183.2(A).

* * *
(30) Career-related activities, R.S. 17:2925(B)(1).

* * *
(44) School counselor documentation of career-related activities, R.S. 17:2926(A)(5).

* * *
(51) School counselor consultation with teachers on career-related activities, R.S. 17:3005(C)(8).

* * *
Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 145

HOUSE BILL NO. 273

BY REPRESENTATIVE FREIBERG AND SENATORS CATHEY AND FOIL
AN ACT

To repeal R.S. 33:2740.70.8, relative to certain parishes; to repeal the authorization for the distribution of sales and use tax revenue collected by the parish governing authority on the sale of admission tickets to certain events; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
Section 1. R.S. 33:2740.70.8 is hereby repealed in its entirety.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 146

HOUSE BILL NO. 275

BY REPRESENTATIVE BOYD AND SENATORS ABRAHAM, BARROW, AND HODGES
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 14:34.9(I) and 35.3(I), relative to battery of a dating partner and domestic abuse battery; to provide for penalties when a child is present; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
Section 1. R.S. 14:34.9(I) and 35.3(I) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§34.9. Battery of a dating partner
* * *

I. This Subsection shall be cited as the “Dating Partner Abuse Child Endangerment Law”. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, when the state proves, in addition to the elements of the crime as set forth in Subsection A of this Section, that a minor child thirteen years of age or younger was present at the residence or any other scene at the time of the commission of the offense, the offender, in addition to any other penalties imposed pursuant to this Section, shall be imprisoned ~~at hard labor for not more than three years~~ as follows:

(1) For a first offense, not less than one year nor more than three years at hard labor.

(2) For a second or subsequent offense, not less than three years nor more than six years at hard labor.

* * *
§35.3. Domestic abuse battery
* * *

I. This Subsection shall be cited as the “Domestic Abuse Child Endangerment Law”. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, when the state proves, in addition to the elements of the crime as set forth in Subsection A of this Section, that a minor child thirteen years of age or younger was present at the residence or any other scene at the time of the commission of the offense, the offender, in addition to any other penalties imposed pursuant to this Section, shall be imprisoned ~~at hard labor for not more than three years~~ as follows:

(1) For a first offense, not less than one year nor more than three years at hard labor.

(2) For a second or subsequent offense, not less than three years nor more than six years at hard labor.

* * *

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.
A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 147

HOUSE BILL NO. 285

BY REPRESENTATIVES BACALA, ADAMS, BAYHAM, BOURRIAQUE,
BOYD, BROUSSARD, CARLSON, CARPENTER, CARVER, CHASSION,
DEWITT, EDMONSTON, EGAN, FREIBERG, GREEN, JORDAN, KNOX,
LAFLEUR, TERRY LANDRY, LYONS, MARCELLE, MARTINEZ, MILLER,
MOORE, SAWYER, TAYLOR, WALTERS, AND WYBLE

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 17:81(B), relative to the use of school buildings; to provide relative to the powers of local public school boards; to authorize a school board to engage in a cooperative endeavor with a credit union or bank to operate a branch at a high school; to provide for the integration of the operation of the branch into a required financial literacy course; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:81(B) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:
§81. General powers of local public school boards

* * *

B.(1) Each school board may permit school buildings to be used outside of regular school hours for academic purposes including but not limited to tutoring and study hall. The board shall adopt rules and regulations governing the terms and conditions, including fees if any, under which such buildings shall be used.(2) Each school board may engage in a cooperative endeavor with a credit union or bank to operate a branch at a high school. Any such cooperative endeavor shall provide for the integration of the operation of the branch into the financial literacy course required by R.S. 17:270 and provide students with the opportunity to obtain the skills, knowledge, and experience necessary to manage their personal finances and obtain general financial literacy as provided in R.S. 17:270.

* * *

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.
A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 148

HOUSE BILL NO. 294

BY REPRESENTATIVES FIRMENT, AMEDEE, BACALA, BAYHAM,
BERAULT, BILLINGS, CARLSON, CARRIER, CARVER, CHENEVERT,
COATES, COX, CREWS, DESHOTEL, DEVILLIER, DEWITT,
EDMONSTON, EGAN, GALLE, GLORIOSO, HORTON, MIKE JOHNSON,
KERNER, MCCORMICK, MCFARLAND, MELERINE, OWEN, SAWYER,
SCHAMERHORN, SCHLEGEL, SPELL, ST. BLANC, THOMPSON, VILLIO,
WILDER, AND WYBLE

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 14:19(A)(1)(b)(i) and (2) and (B)(introductory paragraph) and (1) and to enact R.S. 13:5233.2, relative to the exercise of religion; to limit liability of persons protecting the right of religion; to provide for definitions; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 13:5233.2 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§5233.2. Protection of freedom of worship; limitation of liability

A. The Legislature of Louisiana finds that churches or other places of worship are private property dedicated to the free exercise of religion, that religious assemblies are protected by the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of Louisiana, and that the right to exclude disruptive and potentially violent individuals may be necessary to facilitate the free exercise of religion. The Legislature of Louisiana further finds that clarification of existing statutory authority is in the furtherance of justice and the free exercise of religion.B. Any religious leader, authorized security team member, or person who is lawfully on the premises of a church or other place of worship may request that a person leave the premises if the person is committing criminal trespass pursuant to R.S. 14:63 or is engaged in a substantial disruption. A verbal request to leave the premises shall constitute notice to the person that he is not authorized to be present.

C. Any person who is lawfully on the premises may use reasonable and apparently necessary force when used in accordance with the following:

(1) To prevent a forcible offense against a person who is lawfully on the premises.

(2) To physically remove a trespassing person who refuses to leave the premises following a request made pursuant to Subsection B of this Section.

(3) When done in accordance with R.S. 14:19.

D.(1) When force or violence is used to prevent criminal trespass or the disruption of worship services, or any other activity at the church or other place of worship, the use of force by a person who is lawfully on the premises shall be limited to an amount reasonably and apparently necessary to terminate the trespass or substantial disruption, or force proportionate to

that used by the person committing the trespass or causing the disruption.
(2) Nothing in this Section shall be construed to authorize the use of deadly force except where otherwise allowed by law for purposes of self-defense.

E.(1) Any person who is lawfully on the premises who uses reasonable and apparently necessary force pursuant to this Section and the organization which owns or leases the premises for religious activities shall not be liable in tort to any person for the use of such force.

(2) A request made pursuant to Subsection B of this Section shall constitute an affirmative defense against any criminal or civil action brought against a person who was lawfully on the premises and used reasonable and apparently necessary force to terminate a trespass.

(3) The provisions of this Subsection do not apply if any of the following occur:

(a) The use of force was grossly disproportionate to the force used by the criminal trespasser.

(b) Deadly force was used unlawfully and unnecessarily.

(c) The person who used force was engaged in any unlawful conduct.
(4) In any civil action arising from the use of force against a trespasser pursuant to this Section, a defendant who is either a person who was lawfully present on the premises or a religious organization may file a motion asserting immunity from suit. Upon the filing of the motion, the court shall conduct a pretrial immunity hearing. If the court determines by a preponderance of the evidence that the defendant is entitled to immunity, the court shall dismiss the action.

F. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to do any of the following:
(1) Prohibit the lawful, peaceful protest outside the premises of a church or other place of worship that does not obstruct access to the premises.
(2) Supercede any other provision of law related to self-defense.
(3) Limit the authority of law enforcement.
(4) Limit constitutional free speech or free exercise of religion.
G. For the purposes of this Section, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) “Church or other place of worship” means any building, structure, or outdoor private property that is owned, leased, or otherwise lawfully possessed by a religious organization that is used for organized religious worship or other religious activities.

(2) “Religious leader” means a pastor, minister, priest, deacon, rabbi, imam, trustee, elder, or any other person formally recognized by a church or other place of worship as having authority to maintain order during a religious service.

(3) “Substantial disruption” means conduct that does any of the following:
(a) Physically obstructs or attempts to obstruct a religious service or other activity taking place at a church or other place of worship.

(b) Prevents or materially interferes with the ability of a person to participate in religious worship or other activity taking place at a church or other place of worship.

(c) Continues after a lawful directive to cease such conduct.
(4) “Substantial disruption” does not include peaceful activity conducted outside the premises that does not obstruct access to or from the premises.

Section 2. R.S. 14:19(A)(1)(b)(i) and (2) and (B)(introductory paragraph) and (1) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§19. Use of force or violence in defense
* * *

A.(1) The use of force or violence upon the person of another is justifiable under either of the following circumstances:
* * *

(b)(i) When committed by a person lawfully inside a dwelling, a place of business, a church or other place of worship as defined in R.S. 13:5233.2, or a motor vehicle as defined in R.S. 32:1(40) when the conflict began; against a person who is attempting, or who has made, to make an unlawful entry into the dwelling, place of business, or motor vehicle, or who has made an unlawful entry into the dwelling, place of business, premises or motor vehicle as described in this Section, and the person using the force or violence reasonably believes that the use of force or violence is necessary to prevent the entry or to compel the intruder to leave the dwelling, place of business, premises or motor vehicle.
* * *

(2) The provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Section shall Subsection does not apply where the force or violence results in a homicide.

B. For the purposes of this Section, there shall be a presumption that a person lawfully inside a dwelling, place of business, church or other place of worship, or motor vehicle held a reasonable belief that the use of force or violence was necessary to prevent unlawful entry thereto, or to compel an unlawful intruder to leave the premises or motor vehicle, if both of the following occur:

(1) The person against whom the force or violence was used was in the process of unlawfully and forcibly entering or had unlawfully and forcibly entered the dwelling, place of business, church or other place of worship, or motor vehicle.
* * *

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.
A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 149

HOUSE BILL NO. 300
BY REPRESENTATIVE RISER
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 6:243(C)(1) and (2), relative to powers and functions of state banks; to provide for price thresholds for required residential appraisals; to increase the thresholds; and to provide for related matters.
Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 6:243(C)(1) and (2) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§243. Immovable property; dealings

* * *

C.(1) For immovable property provided for in Paragraphs (A)(2), (3), and (4) of this Section, a state bank shall obtain, within a reasonable time before or after the property is acquired, a current appraisal of the fair market value of any such property and shall account for the property in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). For purposes of this Paragraph, a state bank may perform an evaluation in lieu of an appraisal for residential real estate valued at or below ~~two hundred fifty~~ four hundred thousand dollars and for commercial real estate valued at or below five hundred thousand dollars.(2) An additional appraisal shall be required for immovable property every third calendar year from the date the initial appraisal was obtained pursuant to Paragraph (1) of this Subsection. For purposes of this Paragraph, a state bank may perform an evaluation in lieu of an appraisal for residential immovable property valued at or below ~~two hundred fifty~~ four hundred thousand dollars and for commercial immovable property valued at or below five hundred thousand dollars.

* * *

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 150

HOUSE BILL NO. 315
BY REPRESENTATIVE MELERINE
AN ACT

To enact R.S. 23:921(P), relative to noncompete contracts or agreements; to prohibit noncompete contracts, agreements, or provisions for interns and apprentices; to provide for confidentiality agreements and certain employment information and agreements; to provide a definition; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 23:921(P) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§921. Restraint of business prohibited; restraint on forum prohibited; competing business; contracts against engaging in; provisions for

* * *

P.(1) Notwithstanding any provision of this Section to the contrary, there shall be no contract or agreement or provision entered into by an intern, whether paid or unpaid, or apprentice and his employer restraining the intern or apprentice from engaging in a business or an employment similar to that of the employer. The contract or agreement or provision shall not restrict an intern or apprentice from pursuing employment, educational, or professional opportunities following the completion of the internship or apprenticeship. The intern or apprentice shall, however, remain subject to the employer's confidentiality, intellectual property, and data protection agreements.(2) For the purposes of this Subsection, "intern" means a student learner who participates in an internship authorized and regulated by the provisions of LAC 28:CXV.3113 or any successor regulations the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education may publish relative to a work-based learning program classified as an internship.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 151

HOUSE BILL NO. 320
BY REPRESENTATIVE FIRMENT
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 15:541(24)(a) and to enact R.S. 14:406, relative to offenses affecting law enforcement; to create the crime of unlawful exposure by an inmate; to provide for definitions; to provide for penalties; to provide with respect to sex offender registration and notification requirements; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 14:406 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§406. Unlawful exposure by an inmate

A. It is unlawful for an adult inmate who is incarcerated in an adult facility to expose his or her intimate parts to any correctional facility employee with the intent of doing any of the following:

(1) Arousing or gratifying the sexual desires of the inmate.

(2) Intimidating or harassing a correctional facility employee.

B. For the purposes of this Section, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) "Correctional facility" means any adult jail, prison, penitentiary, temporary holding center, or detention facility.

(2) "Correctional facility employee" means an employee of any adult jail, prison, penitentiary, temporary holding center, or detention facility.

(3) "Intimate parts" means the genitals, pubic hair, anus, vulva, or female breast nipples of the inmate.C.(1) Whoever violates the provisions of this Section shall be imprisoned with or without hard labor for not more than three years, fined not more than two thousand five hundred dollars, or both.

(2) Upon a second or subsequent conviction, the offender shall be imprisoned with or without hard labor for not more than five years, fined not more than twenty five thousand dollars, or both.

(3) Any sentence imposed pursuant to this Section shall run consecutively to any other sentence being served by the offender at the time of the offense.

Section 2. R.S. 15:541(24)(a) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§541. Definitions

For the purposes of this Chapter, the definitions of terms in this Section shall apply:

* * *

(24)(a) "Sex offense" means deferred adjudication, adjudication withheld, or conviction for the perpetration or attempted perpetration of or conspiracy to commit human trafficking when prosecuted under the provisions of R.S. 14:46.2(B)(2), R.S. 14:46.3 (trafficking of children for sexual purposes), R.S. 14:89 (crime against nature), R.S. 14:89.1 (aggravated crime against nature), R.S. 14:89.2(B)(3) (crime against nature by solicitation), R.S. 14:80 (felony carnal knowledge of a juvenile), R.S. 14:81 (indecent behavior with juveniles), R.S. 14:81.1 (pornography involving juveniles) which occurred prior to August 1, 2025, R.S. 14:81.2 (molestation of a juvenile or a person with a physical or mental disability), R.S. 14:81.3 (computer-aided solicitation of a minor), R.S. 14:81.4 (prohibited sexual conduct between an educator and student), R.S. 14:82.1 (prostitution; persons under eighteen), R.S. 14:82.2(C)(4) or (5) (purchase of commercial sexual activity), R.S. 14:83(B)(2) or (3) (soliciting for prostitutes), R.S. 14:92(A)(7) (contributing to the delinquency of juveniles), R.S. 14:93.5 (sexual battery of persons with infirmities), R.S. 14:106(A)(5) (obscenity by solicitation of a person under the age of seventeen), R.S. 14:283 (video voyeurism), R.S. 14:41 (rape), R.S. 14:42 (aggravated or first degree rape), R.S. 14:42.1 (forcible or second degree rape), R.S. 14:43 (simple or third degree rape), R.S. 14:43.1 (sexual battery), R.S. 14:43.2 (second degree sexual battery), R.S. 14:43.3 (oral sexual battery), R.S. 14:43.5 (intentional exposure to HIV), a second or subsequent conviction of R.S. 14:283.1 (voyeurism), R.S. 14:406 (unlawful exposure by an inmate), or a second or subsequent conviction of R.S. 14:89.3 (sexual abuse of an animal), committed on or after June 18, 1992, or committed prior to June 18, 1992, if the person, as a result of the offense, is under the custody of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections on or after June 18, 1992. A conviction for any offense provided in this definition includes a conviction for the offense under the laws of another state, or military, territorial, foreign, tribal, or federal law which is equivalent to an offense provided for in this Chapter, unless the tribal court or foreign conviction was not obtained with sufficient safeguards for fundamental fairness and due process for the accused as provided by the federal guidelines adopted pursuant to the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006.

* * *

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 152

HOUSE BILL NO. 338
BY REPRESENTATIVE CARVER
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 49:191(4) and to repeal R.S. 49:191(1)(n), relative to certain agencies within the office of the governor, including provisions to provide for the re-creation of such agencies; to provide for the effective termination date for all statutory authority for the existence of such statutory entities; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Pursuant to R.S. 49:193, the agencies transferred to or placed within the office of the governor pursuant to R.S. 36:4.1, to wit: the Louisiana State Board of Cosmetology, the Office of Financial Institutions, the Louisiana State Racing Commission, the Louisiana Cemetery Board, the State Board of Certified Public Accountants of Louisiana, the State Board of Architectural Examiners, the Louisiana Real Estate Commission, the Louisiana State Board of Home Inspectors, the State Licensing Board for Contractors, the Board of Examiners of Certified Shorthand Reporters, the Louisiana Auctioneers Licensing Board, the State Board of Examiners of Interior Designers, the Louisiana Real Estate Appraisers Board, the Louisiana State Athletic Commission, the Louisiana Motor Vehicle Commission, the Louisiana Used Motor Vehicle Commission, and the Louisiana State Polygraph Board shall

be re-created effective June 30, 2026, and all statutory authority therefor is continued in accordance with the provisions of Part XII of Chapter 1 of Title 49 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950.

Section 2. All statutory authority for the existence of the aforementioned agencies and the statutory entities made a part of them as re-created by Section 1 of this Act shall cease as of July 1, 2033, pursuant to R.S. 49:191. However, the aforementioned agencies may be re-created prior to such date in accordance with the provisions of Part XII of Chapter 1 of Title 49 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950. Section 3. The provisions of R.S. 49:193 are hereby superseded to the extent that those provisions are in conflict with the provisions of this Act.

Section 4. R.S. 49:191(4) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows: §191. Termination of legislative authority for existence of statutory entities; phase-out period for statutory entities; table of dates

Notwithstanding any termination dates set by any previous Act of the legislature, the statutory entities set forth in this Section shall begin to terminate their operations on July first of each of the following years, and all legislative authority for the existence of any statutory entity, as defined in R.S. 49:190, shall cease as of July first of the following year, which shall be the termination date:

(4) July 1, 2025 2032:
(a) Those entities transferred to or placed within the office of the governor pursuant to R.S. 36:4.1.

Section 5. R.S. 49:191(1)(n) is hereby repealed in its entirety. Section 6. This Act shall become effective on June 30, 2026; if vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on June 30, 2026, or on the day following such approval by the legislature, whichever is later.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.
A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 153
HOUSE BILL NO. 349
BY REPRESENTATIVE DOMANGUE
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 40:5.10.1(B), relative to the Imported Seafood Safety Fund; to provide for the purpose and use of appropriated funds; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
Section 1. R.S. 40:5.10.1(B) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:
§5.10.1. Imported Seafood Safety Fund

B. The monies in the fund shall be appropriated to the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and expended solely for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of R.S. 3:4749 et seq. and to administer a program to market and promote Louisiana seafood.

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 15, 2026.
A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 154
HOUSE BILL NO. 355
BY REPRESENTATIVE WYBLE AND SENATOR MIZELL
AN ACT

To designate a portion of Louisiana Highway 10 in Washington Parish as the “Veterans Park Memorial Highway”; to provide for implementation; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
Section 1. The portion of Louisiana Highway 10 beginning at the Washington-Tangipahoa parish line and extending east to the Louisiana-Mississippi state line shall be known and is hereby designated as the “Veterans Park Memorial Highway”.

Section 2. The Department of Transportation and Development is hereby directed to erect and maintain appropriate signage reflecting this designation provided local or private monies are received by the department equal to the department's actual costs for material, fabrication, mounting posts, and installation of the signage, not to exceed the sum of seven hundred fifty dollars per sign.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.
A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 155
HOUSE BILL NO. 360
BY REPRESENTATIVES EGAN, ADAMS, AMEDEE, BACALA, BAYHAM, BEAULLIEU, BERAULT, BILLINGS, BOUDREAUX, BOURRIAQUE, BOYD, BOYER, BRASS, BRYANT, CARRIER, WILFORD CARTER, CARVER, CHASSION, CHENEVERT, COATES, COX, CREWS, DESHOTEL, DEVILLIER, DICKERSON, FISHER, GALLE, GLORIOSO, HILFERTY, HORTON, KNOX, LACOMBE, LAFLEUR, LARVADAIN, MARTINEZ, MCCORMICK, MELERINE, MOORE, NEWELL, OWEN, SAWYER, SCHAMERHORN, SCHLEGEL, SPELL, STAGNI, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALTERS, WRIGHT, WYBLE, AND ZERINGUE
AN ACT

To designate a portion of Louisiana Highway 41 in Pearl River, Louisiana, as the “Sgt. Michael J. Guillory Memorial Highway”; to provide for implementation; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
Section 1. The portion of Louisiana Highway 41 in Pearl River, Louisiana, beginning at the intersection of Louisiana Highway 41 and Lock 1 Road and ending at the intersection of Louisiana Highway 41 and Louisiana Highway 36 shall be known and is hereby designated as the “Sgt. Michael J. Guillory Memorial Highway”.

Section 2. The Department of Transportation and Development is hereby directed to erect and maintain appropriate signage reflecting this designation, provided local or private monies are received by the department equal to the department's actual costs for material, fabrication, mounting posts, and installation of the signage, not to exceed the sum of seven hundred fifty dollars per sign.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.
A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 156
HOUSE BILL NO. 370
BY REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 3:3412.1(B), relative to the Grain and Cotton Indemnity Fund; to increase the assessment rate on the value of all regulated agricultural commodities charged by the commission; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
Section 1. R.S. 3:3412.1(B) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:
§3412.1. Grain and Cotton Indemnity Fund; creation; assessment; rules and regulations; suspension of assessment; eligibility for reimbursement; availability of money; prorated claims; reimbursement for administrative expenses; failure to pay; subrogation

B. The commission shall charge an assessment at the rate of one twenty-fifth of one percent on the value of all agricultural commodities regulated under this Chapter which are sold to grain dealers and cotton merchants. The assessments shall be due and payable to the commission by the licensee at the first point of sale.

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 15, 2026.
A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 157
HOUSE BILL NO. 376
BY REPRESENTATIVE KERNER
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 33:2496(1)(a)(iii) and 2556(1)(a)(iii), relative to the fire and police civil service; to provide relative to provisional appointments in the fire and police civil service for municipalities, parishes, and fire protection districts; to provide for the maximum length of such appointments; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
Section 1. R.S. 33:2496(1)(a)(iii) and 2556(1)(a)(iii) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§2496. Temporary appointments
Temporary appointments may be made to positions in the classified service without the appointees acquiring any permanent status therein as follows:

(1)(a) * * *
(iii) When a vacancy is to be filled in the classes 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 appointing authority may make a provisional appointment of any person considered qualified. A provisional appointment shall not exceed ~~sixty~~ ninety days. Successive appointments in the classes 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 shall be prohibited.

§2556. Temporary appointments
Temporary appointments may be made to positions in the classified service without the appointees acquiring any permanent status therein as follows:

(1)(a) * * *
(iii) When a vacancy is to be filled in the classes 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 appointing authority may make a provisional appointment of any person considered qualified. A provisional appointment shall not exceed ~~sixty~~ ninety days. Successive appointments in the classes 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 shall be prohibited.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.
A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 158

HOUSE BILL NO. 379
BY REPRESENTATIVE CARVER
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 18:425(B)(5), relative to election commissioners; to provide relative to the qualifications of election commissioners; to authorize a person who is seventeen years old and who is enrolled in the eleventh grade at a high school or participating at the eleventh grade level in a home study program to serve as an election commissioner under certain circumstances; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
Section 1. R.S. 18:425(B)(5) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:
§425. Commissioners

B. Qualifications and classifications.
* * *

(5) A person who is at least seventeen years of age, under the age of eighteen, and is not a qualified voter but is otherwise qualified to serve as a commissioner pursuant to this Subsection may be selected to serve as a commissioner in any precinct of the ward where he may register to vote pursuant to R.S. 18:101(A), provided that the person is enrolled in the eleventh or twelfth grade of any Louisiana public high school or state-approved nonpublic high school, is participating at the eleventh or twelfth grade level in a home study program approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, has received a diploma from any Louisiana public high school or state-approved nonpublic high school, has received a diploma for completion of a home study program approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, or has been issued a high school equivalency diploma after successfully completing the test of General Educational Development.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.
A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 159

HOUSE BILL NO. 413
BY REPRESENTATIVES CARVER AND CHASSION
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 22:1454(B)(5) and to enact R.S. 22:1454(B)(6), relative to property and casualty insurance rate making; to prohibit certain rating factors; to provide for exceptions; to provide for effectiveness; and to

provide for related matters.
Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
Section 1. R.S. 22:1454(B)(5) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 22:1454(B)(6) is hereby enacted to read as follows:
§1454. Rating standards and methods

* * *
B. In determining whether rates are excessive, inadequate, or unfairly discriminatory, consideration may be given to the following items:

* * *
(5) Claims on other lines. Insurers shall not include a rating factor in an automobile insurance rate filing that is based solely on loss experience arising from a catastrophe or natural disaster that only affected other lines of insurance. However, this Paragraph does not preclude an insurer from including such a rating factor in a multi-line policy. (6) Other relevant factors. Any other factors available at the time of the rate filing, including but not limited to rates computed in accordance with accepted actuarial standards.

* * *
Section 2. This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2027.
Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 160

HOUSE BILL NO. 450
BY REPRESENTATIVE KERNER AND SENATORS BARROW, CARTER, CONNICK, EDMONDS, HENRY, JACKSON-ANDREWS, JENKINS, KLEINPETER, PRICE, STINE, AND WHEAT
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 33:2491(E) and 2551(5), relative to the fire and police civil service; to provide relative to points awarded to veterans in competitive fire and police civil service employment; to provide for military service requirements of veterans in competitive fire and police civil service employment; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
Section 1. R.S. 33:2491(E) and 2551(5) are hereby amended and reenacted 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 names of persons eligible for appointment to the various classes of positions in the classified service, as follows:

* * *
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 of war or for one hundred eighty days or more, 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.

* * *
§2551. 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 lists containing names of persons eligible for appointment to the various classes of positions in the classified service as follows:

* * *
(5) 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 time of war or for one hundred eighty days or more, and who 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 state examiner in any manner it deems advisable.

* * *
Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.
A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 161

HOUSE BILL NO. 464
BY REPRESENTATIVES RISER AND KNOX
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 40:1749.17(A), relative to mandatory reporting of damage to utilities; to provide for notification from excavators or demolishers; to provide for notification from the regional notification center; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 40:1749.17(A) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§1749.17. Excavation or demolition; repair of damage

A.(1) Each person responsible for any excavation or demolition operations which result in any damage to an underground facility or utility shall, immediately upon discovery of that damage, notify the owner or operator of the utility or facility and the regional notification center of the location and nature of the damage and shall allow the owner or operator reasonable time to accomplish necessary repairs before continuing the excavation, demolition, or back filling in the immediate area of damage.

(2) Upon receiving the notification outlined in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, the regional notification center shall notify all owners and operators of the utilities or facilities that are in the area that may have been damaged.

* * *

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 162

HOUSE BILL NO. 506
BY REPRESENTATIVE CHASSION
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 47:463.73(A) and (G) and to enact R.S. 47:463.243, relative to motor vehicle special prestige license plates; to establish blackout license plates; to provide for the creation, issuance, design, implementation, fees, distribution, and rule promulgation applicable to such license plates; to establish the “Acadiana High School”, the “Lafayette High School”, the “Carencro High School”, the “Northside High School”, the “Southside High School”, the “David Thibodaux STEM Magnet Academy”, the “Ovey Comeaux High School”, the “Early College Academy”, and the “Edward J. Sam Accelerated School of Lafayette” license plates; to provide for the creation and application of existing issuance, design, implementation, fee, distribution, and rule promulgation applicable to Louisiana parochial, public, and private high school license plates; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 47:463.73(A) and (G) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 47:463.243 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§463.73. Special prestige license plates; Louisiana parochial, public, and private high schools

A.(1) The secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections shall establish a special prestige license plate for the Louisiana parochial, public, and private high schools which have a minimum of one hundred applicants for such plate. The license plate shall be restricted to passenger cars, pickup trucks, vans, and recreational vehicles. The license plate shall be of a color and design selected by the respective high school student council subject to the approval of the respective high school principal, provided that it is in compliance with R.S. 47:463(A)(3).

(2) The Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of motor vehicles, shall create these special prestige license plates when the applicable statutory provisions are met and the department's electronic vehicle and registration system is updated to accommodate the creation of the new plates.

* * *

G. The secretary shall establish special prestige license plates for Archbishop Hannan High School, Jesuit High School, Mount Carmel Academy, the Academy of the Sacred Heart, Saint Katharine Drexel Preparatory School, Acadiana High School, Baker High School, East Feliciana High School, Glen Oaks High School, Neville High School, Carroll High School, Brusly High School, Port Allen High School, Covington High School, Scotlandville Magnet High School, St. Michael the Archangel High School, St. Mary's Dominican High School, St. Edmund Catholic School, St. Paul's School, St. Scholastica Academy, St. Mary's Academy, Acadiana High School, Lafayette High School, Carencro High School, Northside High School, Southside High School, David Thibodaux STEM Magnet Academy, Ovey Comeaux High School, Early College Academy, Edward J. Sam Accelerated School of Lafayette, and any other parochial, public, or private Louisiana high school in accordance with the provisions of this Section as it was enacted.

* * *

§463.243. Special prestige license plate; blackout plates

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 “blackout” plate, provided that there is a minimum of one thousand applicants for such plate. The 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 these special prestige license plates when the

applicable statutory provisions are met and the department's electronic vehicle and registration system is updated to accommodate the creation of the new plates.

B. The design shall display white alpha-numeric series on a black background in compliance with R.S. 47:463(A)(3). The design shall include the word “LOUISIANA” centered at the top or bottom of the plate.

C. The special license plate shall be issued, upon application to any citizen of Louisiana in the same manner as any other motor vehicle license plate.

D. The department shall collect an annual royalty fee of twenty-five dollars that shall be disbursed in accordance with Subsection E of this Section. This fee shall be in addition to the standard motor vehicle license tax imposed by Article VII, Section 5 of the Constitution of Louisiana and a handling fee of three dollars and fifty cents for each plate to be retained by the department to offset a portion of administrative costs.

E. The annual royalty fee shall be collected by the department and forwarded to the Louisiana Fraternal Order of Police as a charitable donation to the association by the applicant.

F. The secretary shall promulgate and adopt rules and regulations as are necessary to implement the provisions of this Section.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 163

HOUSE BILL NO. 547
BY REPRESENTATIVES THOMAS AND AMEDEE
AN ACT

To enact R.S. 18:1461.3(C)(5), relative to election offenses; to provide that no person shall knowingly, willfully, or intentionally photograph, record, or otherwise reproduce voter registration information in precinct registers; to provide for penalties; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 18:1461.3(C)(5) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§1461.3. Election offenses affecting election officials or watchers; penalties

* * *

C. No person shall knowingly, willfully, or intentionally:

* * *

(5) Photograph, record, or otherwise reproduce voter registration information in precinct registers, except while performing his duties as a clerk of court or an employee of a clerk, an election day or early voting commissioner, a registrar of voters or an employee of a registrar, or the secretary of state or an employee of the secretary of state.

* * *

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 164

HOUSE BILL NO. 550
BY REPRESENTATIVE BILLINGS
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 18:1314(E), relative to parish board commissioners; to provide for the compensation of parish board commissioners; to provide for the amount of compensation; to provide relative to approval of compensation by the secretary of state; to provide for compensation during a recount; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 18:1314(E) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§1314. Parish board commissioners

* * *

E. Compensation. A parish board commissioner who serves on election day or during the counting and tabulating of provisional ballots or during a recount shall receive fifty dollars or one hundred dollars or one hundred fifty dollars for each day he serves as provided below:

(1) He shall receive one hundred fifty dollars for elections for which the secretary of state has approved such compensation. The secretary of state may provide such approval upon application by the parish board of election supervisors when it is reasonably expected that a large number of persons will vote prior to election day.

(2) He shall receive fifty one hundred dollars for elections other than those provided for in Paragraphs Paragraph (1) and (3) of this Subsection.

(3) ~~For an election held within one year following the date of the issuance of any gubernatorial declaration of an emergency, upon application of the parish board of election supervisors, the secretary of state may approve the payment of up to one hundred dollars per election or each day of assistance, if applicable, as compensation to each commissioner in addition to compensation otherwise provided for in this Subsection.~~

* * *

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 165

HOUSE BILL NO. 551

**BY REPRESENTATIVES BILLINGS AND CHASSION
AN ACT**

To amend and reenact R.S. 18:1309(J)(1), relative to use of commissioners by the registrar of voters to assist the registrar during the early voting period; to provide for assistance in conducting the nursing home early voting program; to provide for the duties of the registrar of voters relative to the use of commissioners; to provide for an oath of office to be taken by a commissioner; to provide for an affidavit to be completed by a commissioner; to provide for compensation; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 18:1309(J)(1) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§1309. Early voting; verification

* * *

J.(1) Upon approval of the secretary of state, a registrar of voters may utilize commissioners selected and trained by the registrar of voters to assist the registrar during the early voting period in the conduct of early voting by his office, including conducting the nursing home early voting program pursuant to R.S. 18:1333. A registrar of voters shall, in seeking the approval of the secretary of state, indicate to the secretary the number of commissioners that is required for such assistance. A commissioner who assists the registrar in the conduct of early voting shall take an oath of office as a deputy registrar for the early voting period and shall complete an affidavit prepared by the secretary of state that contains the name, address, and last four digits of the social security number of the early voting commissioner and an acknowledgment that the law prohibits the disclosure of confidential voter information listed in the precinct register or early voting list kept by the registrar. The affidavit shall be retained in the office of the registrar of voters. A commissioner who assists the registrar in the conduct of early voting shall be paid one hundred fifty dollars for each day of such assistance. Commissioners shall also be paid in accordance with R.S. 18:426.1(B), if applicable.

* * *

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 166

HOUSE BILL NO. 565

**BY REPRESENTATIVE MCMAKIN
AN ACT**

To amend and reenact R.S. 40:1563(C)(1) and (4), relative to powers and duties of the fire marshal; to provide for fire prevention and safety inspections of early learning centers and child day care centers; to provide relative to the application of fire safety requirements to early learning centers or child day care centers; to require written notice of a violation or required action; to provide relative to appeals of determinations by the fire marshal; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 40:1563(C)(1) and (4) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§1563. Powers and duties generally; use of deputies; responsibilities of local governing authorities with fire prevention bureaus; open structures and process structures; fees

* * *

C.(1) The fire marshal shall not conduct or supervise inspections pursuant to the provisions of Paragraphs (B)(1), (2), (3), and (4) of this Section within the jurisdiction of any local governing authority in which a fire prevention bureau has been properly established by special ordinance and accompanying resolution as provided in this Section, except as provided in Paragraph Paragraphs (4) and (5) of this Subsection.

* * *

(4)(a) The fire marshal shall remain responsible for all institutional occupancies requiring a state or federal license, detention, colleges, universities, state-owned and state-leased buildings, and schools, including early learning centers and child day care centers as defined in R.S. 17:407.33, where applicable, and the applicable federal and state life safety codes shall be the codes applying to these facilities. Nothing contained herein shall limit the right of the local fire department to consult with the fire marshal or otherwise restrict the authority of the local fire department to conduct fire preplanning for any occupancy within its jurisdiction.

(b) The state fire marshal shall enforce only those fire safety requirements expressly provided for in adopted state or federal fire and life safety codes and shall not impose additional requirements through policy, guidance, or interpretation.

(c) Any fire safety requirement imposed on an early learning center or

* As it appears in the enrolled bill

child day care center shall be proportional to the size, occupancy, and risk level of that facility, and shall not be applied in a manner consistent with a commercial or industrial occupancy unless expressly required by the applicable code.

(d) The use of standard residential appliances, including but not limited to microwaves, coffee makers, and similar devices, shall not require commercial ventilation or fire suppression systems unless expressly required by applicable code.

(e) The state fire marshal shall provide written notice of a determination of any violation or of required corrective action, including citation to the specific applicable code provision.

(f)(i) Any person aggrieved by a determination of the state fire marshal regarding fire safety requirements for an early learning center or child day care center may appeal that determination to the division of administrative law within fifteen days of receipt of written notice.(ii) All enforcement actions, including fines, penalties, or closure, shall be stayed pending final disposition of the appeal.

(iii) The state fire marshal bears the burden of proving that the requirement is expressly authorized by adopted state or federal fire and life safety codes.

* * *

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 167

HOUSE BILL NO. 570

**BY REPRESENTATIVES WILDER AND BERAULT
AN ACT**

To amend and reenact R.S. 47:1705(B)(1)(a) and (b)(i) and (2)(b), relative to ad valorem taxation; to authorize the adjustment of ad valorem millages under certain circumstances; to provide for the retention of maximum authorized millages; to require a reduction in adjusted maximum millage rates under certain circumstances; to provide for the process of adjusting millages; 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. 47:1705(B)(1)(a) and (b)(i) and (2)(b) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§1705. Information supplied to assessor and legislative auditor by tax recipient agencies; additional notices

* * *

B.(1)(a)(i) Beginning in the 2027 ad valorem tax year, for ~~For~~ any taxing authority with a governing authority membership ~~which that~~ is elected by the voters, increases in the millage rate in excess of the rates established as provided by Article VII, Section 23(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana, but not in excess of ~~the prior year's maximum authorized millage rate~~ the maximum authorized millage rate approved by the Constitution of Louisiana and approved by the taxing authority until the authorized millage rate expires, may be levied by two-thirds vote of the total membership of a taxing authority without further voter approval but only after a public hearing held in accordance with the open meetings law. Maximum millage rates not levied prior to the 2024 reassessment year, or the 2023 reassessment year for Orleans Parish, shall be permanently reduced to the adjusted maximum millage rate established for the 2026 ad valorem tax year or the 2025 ad valorem tax year in Orleans Parish.

(ii) If an immediate subsequent reassessment has an increased taxable value, the adjusted maximum millage rate shall be decreased to the maximum millage rate for the 2024 reassessment year, or the 2023 reassessment year for Orleans Parish, provided by the Constitution of Louisiana and approved by the taxing authority.

(b)(i)(aa) Beginning in the 2027 ad valorem tax year, any ~~Any~~ taxing authority with a governing authority membership ~~which that~~ is not elected by the voters may increase a millage rate in excess of the rates established as provided in Article VII, Section 23(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana, but not in excess of ~~the prior year's maximum authorized millage rate~~ approved by the Constitution of Louisiana and approved by the taxing authority until the authorized millage rate expires. ~~Such increased millage shall also be limited to an amount which would increase the ad valorem taxes collected by the taxing authority by no more than two and one-half percent of the collections for the calendar year immediately preceding the year for which the increased millage rate is effective.~~ Maximum millage rates not levied by a taxing authority prior to the 2024 reassessment year, or the 2023 reassessment year for Orleans Parish, shall be permanently reduced to the adjusted maximum millage rate established for the 2026 ad valorem tax year or the 2025 ad valorem tax year in Orleans Parish.

(bb) If an immediate subsequent reassessment has an increased taxable value, the adjusted maximum millage rate shall be decreased to the maximum millage rate for the 2024 reassessment year, or the 2023 reassessment year for Orleans Parish, provided by the Constitution of Louisiana and approved by the taxing authority.

* * *

(2) In order to accomplish this result, the following shall be mandatory:

* * *

(b) ~~Before a tax recipient body levies and collects an increased millage rate, each~~ Each tax recipient body shall adopt a separate ordinance or resolution which shall provide for such millage rate increases by two-thirds vote and shall set forth and designate not only the increased millage rate but also the adjusted millage rate as required in Subparagraph (a) above and by Article VII, Section 23(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

* * *

Section 2. This Act shall apply to all taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2027.

Section 3. This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2027, but only if the proposed amendment of Article VII of the Constitution of Louisiana contained in the Act which originated as House Bill No. 521 of this 2026 Regular Session of the Legislature is adopted at a statewide election and becomes effective.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 168

HOUSE BILL NO. 588
BY REPRESENTATIVE DOMANGUE
AN ACT

To enact R.S. 40:5.5.3(D)(15) through (18), relative to the Seafood Safety Task Force; to add members to the task force; and to provide for related matters. Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 40:5.5.3(D)(15) through (18) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§5.5.3. Seafood Safety Task Force; creation; purpose

* * *

D. The task force shall be composed of the following ~~fourteen~~ members:

* * *

(15) A representative from the oyster industry appointed by the Oyster Task Force.

(16) A representative from the crab industry appointed by the Crab Task Force.

(17) A representative from the finfish industry appointed by the Louisiana Finfish Task Force.

(18) A representative of the crawfish industry.

* * *

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 169

HOUSE BILL NO. 661
BY REPRESENTATIVE FONTENOT
AN ACT

To enact R.S. 42:1119(B)(2)(a)(vii) and to repeal R.S. 42:1119(B)(2)(a)(v), relative to nepotism; to provide an exception for a local school board to hire an immediate family member of a board member or the superintendent as a paraprofessional, custodian, or cafeteria worker under certain circumstances; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 42:1119(B)(2)(a)(vii) is hereby enacted to read as follows:
§1119. Nepotism

* * *

B.

* * *

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection:

(a)

* * *

(vii) Any local school board may employ an immediate family member of any board member or of the superintendent as a paraprofessional, custodian, or cafeteria worker provided the family member meets the required criteria of the position. Any school board member or superintendent whose immediate family member is employed by the school board shall recuse himself from any decision involving the promotion or assignment of such employee.

* * *

Section 2. R.S. 42:1119(B)(2)(a)(v) is hereby repealed.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 170

HOUSE BILL NO. 613
BY REPRESENTATIVES HORTON, AMEDEE, BAMBURG, BAYHAM,
BUTLER, CHENEVERT, COATES, COX, CREWS, DEVILLIER, ECHOLS,
EDMONSTON, EGAN, FIRMENT, MIKE JOHNSON, MELERINE, OWEN,

SCHAMERHORN, SCHLEGEL, AND WILDER

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 32:410(A)(3)(a)(x) and R.S. 40:1321(E)(3), relative to information to be identified on driver's licenses and special identification cards; to require the office of motor vehicles to display a certain image on certain identification cards to signify citizenship status; to provide for rulemaking; 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. 32:410(A)(3)(a)(x) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§410. Form of license; photograph, signature of licensee, anatomical gift statement, declaration of life-sustaining procedures, and additional information on license

A.

* * *

(3)(a) Every license issued shall bear thereon:

* * *

(x) An image of an eagle in flight to signify that the applicant is a citizen of the United States, provided that the applicant's citizenship has been verified. If the system of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of motor vehicles, is currently unable to accommodate the inclusion of new credentials, any future system upgrade or new card implementation shall include the capability to comply with the requirements of this Item.

* * *

Section 2. R.S. 40:1321(E)(3) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§1321. State identification cards; special identification cards; issuance; veteran designation; special needs or accommodation designations; fees; expiration and renewal; exceptions; promulgation of rules; promotion of use; persons less than twenty-one years of age; the Protect and Save our Children Program; Selective Service Registration

* * *

E.

* * *

(3)(a) The Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of motor vehicles, shall display an image of an eagle in flight on any special identification card issued to signify that the applicant is a citizen of the United States, provided that the applicant's citizenship has been verified.

(b) If the system of the office of motor vehicles is currently unable to accommodate the inclusion of new credentials, any future system upgrade or new card implementation shall include the capability to comply with the requirements of this Paragraph.

Section 3. The office of motor vehicles shall promulgate rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to implement the provisions of this Act, including rules governing the design, placement, and format of the citizenship indicator and acceptable documentation for verifying United States citizenship.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 171

HOUSE BILL NO. 669
BY REPRESENTATIVE ORGERON
AN ACT

To authorize the use of certain state property near Grand Isle for seafood research; to provide relative to the specification of the boundaries and size of the areas in which the research will be conducted; to provide relative to protecting the state's natural resources; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1.(A) The Grand Isle Port Commission may use, in accordance with this Act, the following described state water bottoms, water columns, and water surfaces above the specified sections of water bottoms:

An area of approximately twenty-seven and one-half acres in Bayou Rigaud, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, circumscribed by lines connecting the following points (projection in North American datum, 1983):

(1) The Northeast corner is located at 29 degrees, 14 minutes, 23.57 seconds, North, 90 degrees, 01 minutes, 08.24 seconds, West.

(2) The Southeast corner is located at 29 degrees, 14 minutes, 16.39 seconds, North, 90 degrees, 01 minutes, 00.65 seconds, West.

(3) The Southwest corner is at 29 degrees, 14 minutes, 13.15 seconds, North, 90 degrees, 01 minutes, 19.07 seconds, West.

(4) The Northwest corner is at 29 degrees, 14 minutes, 21.56 seconds, North, 90 degrees, 01 minutes, 20.98 seconds, West.

(B) The port commission is authorized to use such water bottoms, water columns, and water surfaces for the sole purpose of an off-bottom oyster (Crassostrea Virginica) culture project undertaken in cooperation with Louisiana Sea Grant program subject to approval of all state and federal agencies with jurisdiction over activities conducted in connection with the project. Section 2. The commissioner of administration, on behalf of the state of Louisiana, and the Grand Isle Port Commission are hereby authorized to enter into such agreements, covenants, conditions, and stipulations and to execute such documents as necessary to properly effectuate the use of 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 state and the port commission. In determining appropriate compensation for the use of state property authorized by this Act, the commissioner may consider potential economic development and other benefits resulting from the research contemplated.

Section 3. The Grand Isle Port Commission may, in cooperation with the Louisiana Sea Grant program, participate in a seafood research and economic development program in the area described in Section 1 of this Act.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 172

**HOUSE BILL NO. 725
BY REPRESENTATIVE DOMANGUE
AN ACT**

To enact R.S. 3:4749.4, relative to records for seafood purchases; to require retailers who purchase seafood to retain the records of purchases for at least six months; to require purchase records be made available for inspection by the department; to prohibit false or fraudulent records; to provide for civil penalties; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 3:4749.4 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§4749.4. Retailers; records

A. Records of all purchases of seafood by retailers shall be maintained for at least six months from the date the seafood was purchased. The records of purchases shall be available for inspection by the department.

B. Failing to maintain records or knowingly creating or submitting false or fraudulent purchase records shall constitute a violation of this Section and shall be subject to such civil penalties as the commissioner deems necessary.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 173

**HOUSE BILL NO. 720
BY REPRESENTATIVE RISER
AN ACT**

To amend and reenact R.S. 48:491(B)(1)(c) and (2) and to enact R.S. 48:491(B)(3), relative to tacit dedication of public roadways; to provide for the term of a tacit dedication of a roadway maintained by a parish or municipality; to provide for public works and improvements on tacitly dedicated rights of way; to provide for susceptibility to private sale; to provide for revocation; to provide for retroactive application; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 48:491(B)(1)(c) and (2) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 48:491(B)(3) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§491. Public roads

* * *

B.(1)

* * *

(c) Actual or constructive knowledge is conclusively presumed within all parishes and municipalities, ~~except as otherwise provided by R.S. 48:491(B)(3)~~; if the total period of such maintenance is four years or more, unless prior thereto and within sixty days of such actual or constructive knowledge, the prescription is interrupted or suspended in any manner provided by law.

(2)(a) Any tacit dedication of a road or street pursuant to Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall remain in force and effect and the right-of-way for such public road or street shall be subject to public use until the parish or municipality who has maintained it formally revokes the dedication.

(b) Public works and improvements constructed in the right-of-way of a road or street tacitly dedicated pursuant to Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall likewise remain subject to public use unless disposed of in accordance with applicable law by the parish or municipality. This Subparagraph shall include any boat launches, boat landings, and parking areas that have been constructed and maintained by the parish or municipality.

(c) A tacitly dedicated public road or street, and the right-of-way therefore, are not susceptible of alienation through private sale by adjoining landowners or landowners who maintain ownership of the property beneath the public right-of-way.

~~(2)~~ (3) When a local governing authority for any reason decides to dispose of any road, street, or property used for right-of-way purposes which was originally donated or tacitly dedicated to the authority or its ancestor in title, the property shall revert to the original donor or his heirs or assigns. The authority shall notify the donor or his heirs of its intention to donate the property by sending written notice via certified mail, return receipt requested, to the donor or his heirs at his last known address. The notice shall inform the donor or his heirs or his assigns of the authority's intention to have the land revert and provide him ninety days from receipt in which to respond. If, upon the expiration of the ninety-day period, no response has

been received by the authority, it shall dispose of the property in accordance with applicable law. In the donation deed from the authority to the donor or his heirs or his assigns, the authority shall reserve rights of passage for landowners who own property contiguous to the property to be reverted.

* * *

Section 2. The provisions of this Act are remedial, procedural, and interpretive of existing law and shall be given prospective and retroactive application.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 174

**HOUSE BILL NO. 747
BY REPRESENTATIVE MILLER
AN ACT**

To amend and reenact R.S. 37:1360.53(2) and (4), 1360.55(C), 1360.57, 1360.58, 1360.59(A), 1360.60, 1360.62(A) and (B), and 1360.67(A)(introductory paragraph), (B), and (C) and to repeal R.S. 37:1360.61(G)(5), relative to medical psychologists; to provide for the licensure of medical psychologists; to eliminate the certificate of advanced practice; to provide for fees; to provide relative to psychological technicians psychometricians; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 37:1360.53(2) and (4), 1360.55(C), 1360.57, 1360.58, 1360.59(A), 1360.60, 1360.62(A) and (B), and 1360.67(A)(introductory paragraph), (B), and (C) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§1360.53. Powers and duties of the board

The board shall have and exercise with respect to medical psychologists all powers and duties granted to it by R.S. 37:1261 et seq. relative to physicians. In addition, the board shall have the authority to:

* * *

(2) Approve, deny, revoke, suspend, renew, and reinstate licensure ~~or certification~~ of duly qualified applicants.

* * *

(4) Conduct hearings on charges calling for the denial, suspension, revocation, or refusal to renew a license ~~or certificate~~.

* * *

§1360.55. Qualifications of applicants

* * *

C. Any medical psychologist who obtains a medical psychology license pursuant to this Section ~~shall be~~ is exclusively licensed and regulated by the board and ~~shall is not be~~ required to maintain a license to practice psychology issued by the Louisiana Board of Examiners of Psychologists for any purpose, including renewal of the medical psychology license ~~or to receive a certificate of advanced practice~~ in accordance with R.S. 37:1360.57. The provisions of this Subsection ~~shall are~~ not be construed as prohibiting an individual from choosing to maintain dual licensure as both a medical psychologist and a psychologist. In the event that an individual chooses to maintain dual licensure as both a medical psychologist and a psychologist, that individual will be licensed and regulated as a medical psychologist by the board and will be licensed and regulated as a psychologist by the Louisiana Board of Examiners of Psychologists.

* * *

§1360.57. Certificate of advanced practice License for advanced practice of medical psychology

A. A medical psychologist who obtains a medical psychology license in accordance with R.S. 37:1360.55 and who possesses all of the following additional qualifications to the satisfaction of the board shall be issued a certificate of advanced practice license for the advanced practice of medical psychology:

(1) Three years of experience practicing as a medical psychologist.

(2) Treatment of a minimum of one hundred patients involving the use of a range of psychotropic medications, including but not limited to antipsychotics, antidepressants, psychostimulants, mood stabilizers, anxiolytics, and hypnotics, that demonstrate the competence of the medical psychologist.

(3) The recommendation of two collaborating physicians, each of whom holds an unconditional license to practice medicine in Louisiana, and who are each familiar with the applicant's competence to practice medical psychology.

(4) The recommendation of the Medical Psychology Advisory Committee.

(5) The completion of a minimum of one hundred hours of continuing medical education relating to the use of medications in the management of patients with psychiatric illness commencing with the issuance of a license by the board in accordance with R.S. 37:1360.55.

B. The fee for an initial application and license issued by the board to an advanced practice medical psychologist shall not exceed three hundred twenty-five dollars. The renewal of a license for advanced practice of medical psychology shall not exceed three hundred dollars.

§1360.58. Issuance and renewal of license

A. The board shall issue a license ~~or certificate~~ to any person who meets the qualifications provided for in this Part and the rules and regulations of the board, and who pays the respective fees fixed by the board.

B. A license ~~or certificate~~ issued ~~under~~ in accordance with the provisions of this Part shall be subject to annual renewal and shall expire and become null and void unless renewed in the manner prescribed by the board.

§1360.59. Designation of license

A. A license ~~or certificate~~ issued ~~under~~ in accordance with this Part shall designate the licensee’s status with respect to advanced practice.

* * *

§1360.60. Reinstatement of license

A. Any license ~~or certificate~~ suspended, revoked, or otherwise restricted by the board may be reinstated by the board.

B. A license ~~or certificate~~ that has expired without renewal may be reinstated by the board for a period of two years from the date of expiration, ~~provided~~ if the applicant is otherwise eligible ~~under~~ pursuant to the provisions of this Part, pays the applicable fees, and satisfies the continuing education and such other requirements as may be established by the board.

* * *

§1360.62. Standards of practice for medical psychologists holding ~~certificates~~ a license of advanced practice

A. Patients receiving care from a medical psychologist who holds a ~~certificate~~ license of advanced practice issued in accordance with this Part shall have an established primary care provider who shall be responsible for the patient’s overall medical care.

B. The primary care provider shall evaluate the patient for medical conditions in accordance with customary practice standards and as might be indicated based on the medications that the patient is receiving and risk factors that may be present. If the primary care provider refers the patient to a medical psychologist holding a ~~certificate~~ license of advanced practice for the express purpose of evaluation and treatment to include drug management, this condition shall be considered met.

* * *

§1360.67. Causes for refusal to issue, suspension or revocation of ~~licenses, permits, and certificates~~ licenses and permits

A. The board may refuse to issue, or may suspend or revoke any ~~license or certificate~~, license, or impose probationary or other restrictions on any license or certificate issued ~~under~~ pursuant to this Part for the following causes:

* * *

B. The board may, as a probationary condition, or as a condition of the reinstatement of any license ~~or certificate~~ suspended or revoked hereunder, require the license ~~or certificate~~ holder to pay all costs of the board proceedings, including investigator, stenographer, and attorney fees, and to pay a fine not to exceed five thousand dollars.

C. Any license ~~or certificate~~ suspended, revoked, or otherwise restricted by the board may be reinstated by the board.

* * *

Section 2. R.S. 37:1360.61(G)(5) is hereby repealed in its entirety.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 175

HOUSE BILL NO. 801

BY REPRESENTATIVES MARTINEZ, ADAMS, BAYHAM, BEAULLIEU, BERAULT, BILLINGS, BOUDREAUX, BOYER, BRYANT, BUTLER, CARPENTER, CARRIER, WILFORD CARTER, CHASSION, DICKERSON, DOMANGUE, FISHER, FREIBERG, GREEN, HEBERT, CHANCE HENRY, JACKSON, MIKE JOHNSON, LACOMBE, JACOB LANDRY, TERRY LANDRY, LARVADAIN, MENA, MURRAY, NEWELL, SPELL, TURNER, WALTERS, WYBLE, AND ZERINGUE AND SENATORS ALLAIN, BARROW, BARTHELEMY, BASS, BOUDREAUX, CARTER, CATHEY, CLOUD, EDMONDS, FESI, FOIL, HENSGENS, KLEINPETER, LUNEAU, MIGUEZ, MILLER, MIZELL, MYERS, OWEN, PRESSLY, REESE, SEABAUGH, SELDERS, STINE, WHEAT, AND WOMACK

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 47:463.243, relative to motor vehicle special prestige license plates; to establish the “Classic Black We Will Never Forget: Caroline and Maggie” special prestige license plate; to provide for the creation, issuance, design, implementation, fees, distribution, and rule promulgation applicable to the license plate; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 47:463.243 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§463.243. Special prestige license plate; Classic Black We Will Never Forget: Caroline and Maggie plate

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 “Classic Black We Will Never Forget: Caroline and Maggie” plate, provided that there is a minimum of one thousand applicants for such plate. The 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 this special prestige license plate when the applicable statutory provisions are met and the department’s electronic vehicle and registration system is updated to accommodate the creation of the new plates.

B. The design shall display the license plate number as a white alphanumeric series on a black background in compliance with R.S. 47:463(A)(3). The design shall include a white border with “LOUISIANA” centered at the top of the plate.

C. The special prestige license plate shall be issued, upon application, to any citizen of Louisiana in the same manner as any other motor vehicle license plate.

D. The department shall collect an annual royalty fee of twenty-five dollars that shall be disbursed in accordance with Subsection E of this Section. This royalty fee shall be in addition to the standard motor vehicle license tax imposed by Article VII, Section 5 of the Constitution of Louisiana and a handling fee of three dollars and fifty cents for each plate to be retained by the department to offset a portion of administrative costs.

E. The annual royalty fee shall be collected by the department and forwarded to the Donald J. Thibodeaux Training Center in Zachary, Louisiana. The monies received from the royalty fees shall be used for emergency vehicle operations training for local governments pursuant to R.S. 40:1375.

F. The secretary shall promulgate and adopt rules and regulations as are necessary to implement the provisions of this Section.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 176

HOUSE BILL NO. 805

BY REPRESENTATIVE ORGERON

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 26:351, relative to wines, distilled spirits, and powdered alcohol; to provide for approved containers for wines and distilled spirits; to provide for case configuration for wines and distilled spirits; to provide for application of federal regulations; to provide for exceptions; to prohibit the sale or shipment of powdered alcohol; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 26:351 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:
§351. Limitation on size of containers of beverages of high alcoholic content; standards of fill

~~Except for wines, no manufacturer or wholesaler in this state shall have in his possession any beverages of high alcoholic content outside of his bonded stockroom unless they are in containers of no greater capacity than one and seventy-five one hundredths liters. The standards of fill shall be the following:~~

~~(1)(a) All distilled spirits sold in or shipped into this state shall be in the following containers: One and seventy-five hundredths liters, one liter, seven hundred fifty milliliters, seven hundred milliliters, five hundred milliliters, three hundred seventy-five milliliters, two hundred milliliters, and fifty milliliters.~~

~~(b) If any supplier ships a particular brand of a distilled spirit into this state in a three hundred seventy-five milliliter container, he shall thereafter be prohibited from shipping that brand of beverage into the state in a five hundred milliliter container.~~

~~(c) If any supplier offers for sale in this state a particular product of a distilled spirit in a seven hundred fifty milliliter container, the particular product of distilled spirit shall not also be offered for sale in a seven hundred milliliter container at the same time, provided the supplier is given time to fully transition.~~

~~(2)(a) All wine, sold in or shipped into this state shall be in the following containers: twenty liters, nineteen and five-tenths liters, eighteen liters, seventeen liters, sixteen liters, fifteen liters, fourteen liters, thirteen liters, twelve liters, eleven liters, ten liters, nine liters, eight liters, seven liters, six liters, five liters, four liters, three liters, one and five-tenths liters, one liter, seven hundred fifty milliliters, five hundred milliliters, three hundred seventy-five milliliters, three hundred fifty-five milliliters, two hundred fifty milliliters, and one hundred eighty-seven milliliters.~~

~~(b) “Vintage wines” wines bottled prior to December 31, 1978 may be shipped into the state in containers not less than the equivalent of one hundred eighty-seven milliliters provided the proper proof of bottling dates is furnished in writing to the secretary in advance of the shipment and provided the secretary authorizes in writing that this merchandise may be shipped into the state.~~

~~(c) The provisions of this Section shall not apply to the imported alcohol beverage “Sake”.~~

~~(3)(a) Distilled spirits, whether domestically bottled or imported, subject to the metric standard of fill prescribed in Paragraph (1) of this Section shall be packed with the following number of containers per shipping case or container:~~

Container sizes	Containers per case
1.75 liters	6
1.00 liters	not more than 12
750 milliliters	not more than 12
700 milliliters	not more than 12
375 milliliters	not more than 24
355 milliliters	24
200 milliliters	not more than 48

100 milliliters _____ not more than 48
50 milliliters _____ 60
50 milliliters _____ 120(b) For purposes of this Paragraph, “container” shall mean any receptacle produced and manufactured with any substance used to package distilled spirits for delivery to the public.

(c) The provisions of this Paragraph shall not apply to package spirit-based beverages with an alcohol content below six percent.

(4)(a) Wines bottled subject to the standards of fill prescribed in Paragraph (2) of this Section shall be packed with the following number of containers per shipping case or shipping container:

Container sizes	Containers per case
5 through 20 liters	1
4 liters	4
3 liters	not more than 6
1.5 liters	not more than 6
1 liter	not more than 12
750 milliliters	not more than 12
500 milliliters	12
375 milliliters	24
355 milliliters	24
250 milliliters	24
200 milliliters	not more than 48
187 milliliters	48

(b) For purposes of this Paragraph, “container” shall mean any receptacle produced and manufactured with any substance used to package wine for delivery to the public.

(5) Upon application, in duplicate, approved by the secretary, the bottles per case requirements set forth in Paragraphs (3) and (4) of this Section may be waived if good cause can be shown by the bottler or importer.

(6) Any standard of fill as to size of containers for beverages of high alcoholic content approved by the United States Treasury Department, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco Tax and Firearms may be shipped into the state of Louisiana for the purposes of storage for shipment beyond the borders of the state of Louisiana. Only those sizes listed in Paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4) of this Section may be sold under the provisions of these Paragraphs to licensed retail dealers or to licensed wholesale dealers who are licensed in the state of Louisiana.

(8) Notwithstanding the provisions of this Part or any other provisions of law to the contrary, the secretary may, for good cause shown, after proper application by a bottler or importer and an official hearing, waive the container limitations for a period not to exceed seven consecutive days. Only standards of fill as to size of containers for beverages of high alcoholic content approved by the United States Department of the Treasury, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms may be allowed, provided these fill allowables are not in conflict with this Section.

(9) The container restrictions provided for in this Section shall not apply to cider products.

(10) No container sold in or shipped into this state shall include powdered alcohol.

A. (1) All distilled spirits and wines sold, offered for sale, or shipped into this state shall conform to the standards of fill authorized by the United States Department of the Treasury, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, as set forth in Title 27 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as amended.

(2) Any container size authorized for domestic sale by the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau is authorized for sale in this state.

(3) No additional limitation shall be imposed by the state on container size or case configuration except as expressly provided in this Section.

B. (1) The state shall not prescribe the number of containers per shipping case or shipping container for distilled spirits or wine, provided such container sizes comply with federal law.

(2) The commissioner may adopt rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act necessary for tax administration, public safety, or enforcement purposes, provided such rules do not conflict with federally authorized standards of fill.

C. (1) For purposes of this Section, “vintage wine” is wine bottled prior to December 31, 1978 and may be shipped into this state in container sizes not otherwise authorized by federal standards of fill, provided that all of the following conditions are met:

(a) The container is not smaller than the equivalent of one hundred eighty-seven milliliters.

(b) Written proof of the bottling date is furnished to the commissioner prior to shipment.

(c) The commissioner provides written authorization for such shipment.

(2) Nothing in this Subsection shall permit the sale of vintage wine in a container smaller than one hundred eighty-seven milliliters.

D. (1) The container size restrictions prescribed in this Section do not apply to alcohol beverages labeled and sold as “sake”.

(2) Sake may be sold in any container size authorized for importation and sale under federal law.

E. The container size restrictions prescribed in this Section do not apply to cider products.

F. No alcoholic beverage sold in or shipped into this state shall contain powdered alcohol.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry

THE ADVOCATE
PAGE 32

* As it appears in the enrolled bill

Secretary of State

ACT No. 177

HOUSE BILL NO. 808

BY REPRESENTATIVES MCMAHEN AND MANDIE LANDRY
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 14:43.5 and to enact Code of Criminal Procedure Article 726.1, relative to the crime of intentional exposure to HIV; to provide for elements; to provide for definitions; to provide relative to affirmative defenses; to provide relative to notice for medical conditions; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 14:43.5 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows: §43.5. Intentional exposure to HIV

A. No person shall intentionally expose another person to the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) through without the knowing and lawful consent of the victim when the offender knew that he was positive for HIV at the time of the exposure and the contact posed a substantial likelihood of transmission as follows:

(1) Through sexual contact.
(2) Through the sharing of hypodermic needles or syringes without the knowing and lawful consent of the victim, if at the time of the exposure the infected person knew he was HIV positive.

B. (3) No person shall intentionally expose another to HIV through Through any means or contact without the knowing and lawful consent of the victim, if at the time of the exposure the infected person knew he was HIV positive that poses a substantial likelihood of transmission.C. (4) No person shall intentionally expose a first responder to HIV through Through any means or contact without the knowing and lawful consent of the first responder when that poses a substantial likelihood of transmission if the offender knows at the time of the offense that he is HIV positive, and has reasonable grounds to believe the victim is a first responder acting in the performance of his duty official duties.

~~D. B.~~ For the purposes of this Section, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) “first First responder” includes a any of the following:
(a) A commissioned police officer, sheriff, deputy sheriff, marshal, deputy marshal, correctional officer, constable, wildlife enforcement agent, and or probation and parole officer, any.
(b) Any licensed emergency medical services practitioner as defined by in R.S. 40:1131, and any.
(c) Any firefighter regularly employed by a fire department of any municipality, parish, or fire protection district of the state or any volunteer firefighter of the state.

(2) “Substantial likelihood of transmission” means conduct that includes contact with blood, semen, or vaginal fluid that carries a significant probability of HIV transmission according to current and generally accepted medical and scientific evidence and standards. It does not include conduct that poses a negligible or theoretical risk of HIV transmission.

~~E. C.~~(1) Whoever commits the crime of intentional exposure to HIV violates the provisions of Paragraph (A)(1), (2), or (3) of this Section shall be fined not more than five thousand dollars, imprisoned with or without hard labor for not more than ten years, or both.

(2) Whoever commits the crime of intentional exposure to HIV against a first responder violates the provisions of Paragraph (A)(4) of this Section shall be fined not more than six thousand dollars, imprisoned with or without hard labor for not more than eleven years, or both.

~~F. D.~~(1) Any of the following shall be an affirmative defense, if proven by a preponderance of the evidence, that to a violation of this Section:

(a) That the person exposed to HIV victim knew the infected person defendant was infected with HIV positive for HIV, knew the action means, contact, or conduct could result in infection with the transmission of HIV, and gave consent to the action means, contact, or conduct with that knowledge.

(2) (b) It is also an affirmative defense that That the transfer of bodily fluid, tissue, or organs blood, semen, or vaginal fluid occurred after advice from a licensed physician that the accused defendant was noninfectious; and the accused defendant disclosed his HIV-positive status to the victim.

(3) (c) It is also an affirmative defense that That the HIV-positive person disclosed defendant either:

(i) Disclosed his HIV-positive status to the victim; and took practical means to prevent transmission as advised by a physician or other healthcare provider or is.

(ii) Is a healthcare provider who was following professionally accepted infection control procedures.

(d) That the defendant, at the time of the alleged transmission, disclosed to the victim that the defendant was receiving medical care for HIV and maintained a viral load consistent with levels recognized by prevailing medical standards that effectively eliminated the risk of HIV transmission through sexual contact.

(2) The defendant bears the burden of proof for asserting any affirmative defense provided in this Subsection.

E. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to criminalize conduct that poses no medically recognized risk of HIV transmission.

Section 2. Code of Criminal Procedure Article 726.1 is hereby enacted to

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

read as follows:

Art. 726.1. Notice of medical condition

A. If a defendant intends to introduce documents or testimony relating to a medical condition or related treatment on the basis of an affirmative defense, he shall notify the district attorney in writing of such intention and file a copy of the notice with the clerk not later than ten days prior to trial or in a reasonable time as the court may permit. The court may, for cause shown, allow late filing of the notice or grant additional time to the parties to prepare for trial or issue any other orders as may be appropriate. Upon motion of either party, the court shall order that such records be filed under seal. Nothing in this Article shall be construed to relieve a defendant of any obligation imposed pursuant to Article 725.

B. If the defendant fails to provide notice as required by Paragraph A of this Article, the court may exclude the introduction of any documents or testimony of any witness offered by the defendant on the issue of medical condition or related treatment.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 178

HOUSE BILL NO. 834
BY REPRESENTATIVE MCMAHEN
AN ACT

To enact R.S. 3:2467, relative to designation and operation of animal shelters; to provide for the care, holding, and disposition of lost, stray, or at-large domestic animals; to authorize certain governing authorities to designate animal shelters; to require shelters to comply with minimum standards of care and applicable hold periods; to provide for owner notification and acquisition of unclaimed animals; to provide for the powers, authority, and discretion of local governmental subdivisions regarding animal control and shelter operations; to promote humane treatment of animals; to provide for limitations and liability; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 3:2467 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§2467. Designation of animal shelters; optional acquisition of ownership of stray animals

A.(1) Any local governmental subdivision in this state may designate any animal shelter to provide sheltering services for lost, stray, and at-large domestic animals found within its respective jurisdiction.

(2) A designated animal shelter may be owned or operated by a local governmental subdivision, private entity, nonprofit organization, licensed veterinarian, or any other entity reasonably competent to provide sheltering services.(3) A designated shelter shall comply with applicable state and local laws pertaining to animal shelters.

(4) A local governmental subdivision shall retain full discretion to:

(a) Select, contract with, or operate a shelter.

(b) Determine the scope of services provided.

(c) Enter into cooperative agreements with other local governmental subdivisions.

(d) Adopt local standards or ordinances that meet or exceed the requirements of this Section.

(e) Establish longer holding periods by local ordinance.

(f) Revoke the designation.

B.(1) A designated animal shelter may acquire sole ownership of a lost, stray, unowned, or at-large animal only after compliance with all applicable state or local laws, regulations, or ordinances regarding hold periods for that animal. If no hold period is specified by any statute, parish, or municipality, the minimum stray hold period shall be three days, excluding legal public holidays, to allow for owner identification and recovery.

(2) During the initial hold period, the shelter shall do all of the following:

(a)(i) Makes a reasonably diligent effort to locate the owner and return the animal to the owner. The shelter shall scan the animal for a microchip and check for any other identifying information, including tattoos or collars with tags or any other registration information at least twice, with the scans or checks conducted at least twenty-four hours apart. The shelter shall maintain a record of the dates the scans or checks were performed for at least one year.

(ii) If the shelter obtains information identifying the animal's owner, the shelter shall make a diligent effort to notify the owner and provide at least three days, exclusive of legal public holidays, for the owner to respond, commencing from the first attempt to notify. If the owner is located, the owner shall have seven days from notification to reclaim the animal unless the owner relinquishes the animal to the shelter or another person.

(b) Maintains continuous possession of the animal. Possession by the shelter may be constructive, and shall include allowing persons to foster animals, provided that any such foster shall return the animal to the shelter upon the shelter's request, unless the hold period has expired and the shelter transfers ownership of the animal.

(c) Makes the animal, or a photograph with a written description of the animal, available for public viewing and allows persons seeking lost animals to view such animals and related records.

C.(1) If an animal remains unclaimed after the expiration of the applicable hold period provided in this Section and after the shelter has made a

diligent effort to identify, notify, and return the animal to its owner, the local governmental subdivision or designated shelter may acquire ownership of the animal and may transfer ownership to another person, whether natural or juridical, consistent with applicable law. The designated animal shelter may place an animal with or transfer ownership to a rescue organization.

(2) If ownership is acquired pursuant to this Section and the shelter thereafter transfers ownership to another person, natural or juridical, the shelter shall not disclose the identity or contact information of the transferee to any person, including any alleged prior owner, except pursuant to a lawfully issued subpoena or with the written consent of the transferee.

D. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to:

(1) Require a local governmental subdivision to designate an animal shelter.

(2) Alter or impair existing laws, regulations, or ordinances in place that authorize a shelter to acquire immediate ownership of an animal by abandonment, transfer, relinquishment, or any other lawful means.

(3) Create a statewide regulatory licensing scheme for animal shelters.

(4) Increase the financial burden of local governmental subdivisions.

E. No local governmental subdivision or designated animal shelter, or any officer or employee thereof, shall be subject to civil damages arising from actions taken in good faith in compliance with this Section, except for acts or omissions constituting gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.

F. This Section shall be construed to promote humane treatment of animals, preserve local governmental flexibility, and avoid unnecessary regulatory burden.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 179

HOUSE BILL NO. 845
BY REPRESENTATIVES BAYHAM AND PHELPS
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 32:414(I)(1), relative to reinstatement fees for certain suspended licenses; to provide for an increase in reinstatement fees applicable to a person whose license was suspended for operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcoholic beverages, narcotic drugs, or certain stimulants; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 32:414(I)(1) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§414. Suspension, revocation, renewal, and cancellation of licenses; judicial review

* * *

I.(1) The reinstatement fee for a license of a person who has been convicted of or forfeited bond on or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to a charge of operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of beverages of high alcoholic content, of low alcoholic content, of narcotic drugs, or of central nervous system stimulants shall be ~~one~~ two hundred dollars if one conviction appears listed on his record prior to application for reinstatement; ~~two~~ four hundred dollars if two such convictions appear on his record prior to application for reinstatement; and ~~three~~ six hundred dollars for each conviction on his record after the second conviction prior to application for reinstatement, and the requirements of R.S. 32:896 relative to proof of financial responsibility have been satisfied.

* * *

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 180

HOUSE BILL NO. 847
BY REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 3:1206(A) and 1207(C) and (G) and to enact R.S. 3:1206(C), relative to the election of district supervisors for the state soil and water conservation commission; to establish the method and administration of elections; to provide for supervisor terms, the filling of vacancies, and eligibility requirements for reappointment or reelection; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 3:1206(A) and 1207(C) and (G) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 3:1206(C) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§1206. Election of three supervisors for each district

A. Within thirty days after the date of issuance by the secretary of state of a certificate of organization of a soil and water conservation district, nomination petitions may be filed with the state soil and water conservation commission to nominate candidates for supervisors of the district. The commission shall have authority to extend the time within which nominating petitions may be filed. No nominating petition shall be accepted by the board, unless it ~~shall be the registrar of voters in the parish where the~~

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

~~signers reside has certified, pursuant to R.S. 18:3, that the petition has been subscribed by twenty-five or more qualified voters within the district, who are qualified to vote under the constitution and law of this state. Qualified voters may sign more than one such nominating petition to nominate more than one candidate for supervisor. The commission shall give due notice of an election to be held for the election of three supervisors for the district. The names of all nominees on behalf of whom nominating petitions have been filed within the time herein designated in this Subsection shall be printed, arranged in the alphabetical order of the surnames, upon ballots, with a square before each name and a direction to insert an X mark in the square before any three names to indicate the voter's preference. All qualified voters within the district who are qualified to vote under the constitution and laws of this state shall be eligible to vote in the election. Only qualified voters shall be eligible to vote, submitted to the secretary of state as candidates in an election to be held by the secretary of state as a private election. The three candidates who shall receive the largest number, respectively, of the votes cast in such the election shall be the elected supervisors for such the district. The state commission shall pay all the expenses of such election, shall supervise the conduct thereof, shall prescribe regulations governing the conduct of such election, and shall publish the results thereof.~~

C. The secretary of state and the commissioner of agriculture and forestry may adopt rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the intent and purposes of this Section.

§1207. Appointment, qualifications, tenure of supervisors

~~C. The three elected supervisors of the district shall be elected annually, one each year. These elections of supervisors shall be held throughout the state regularly on the second Saturday in June, each year, in accordance with the general procedure and in the manner prescribed in R.S. 3:1206. Terms of office of all supervisors so elected shall begin on July 1st first, following the date of their election. All supervisors presently in office and serving on the governing body of a conservation district, shall remain in office until their terms expire, but from and after August 1st, 1956, all vacancies shall be filled in the manner above prescribed, and whenever the term of any supervisor expires, it shall be filled by an election to be held on the second Saturday in June after the expiration of said term.~~

~~G. Any supervisor may be removed by the commission upon notice and hearing, for neglect of duty or malfeasance in office, but for no other reason. A supervisor shall not qualify for reappointment or reelection unless he shall have attended at least sixty-six and two-thirds percent of the scheduled district meetings, within a twelve month period, provided, however, upon a showing of good cause, this condition may be waived by resolution duly adopted by the state soil and water conservation commission.~~

~~Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.~~

~~A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State~~

~~-----~~
ACT No. 181

~~---~~
**HOUSE BILL NO. 858
BY REPRESENTATIVE RISER
AN ACT**

~~To enact R.S. 44:4(65), relative to global positioning data for individual animals; to establish a public records exemption for Department of Wildlife and Fisheries data that identifies the location of individual animals; and to provide for related matters.~~

~~Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:~~

~~Section 1. R.S. 44:4(65) is hereby enacted to read as follows:~~

~~§4. Applicability~~

~~This Chapter shall not apply:~~

~~(65) To any global positioning data on wildlife or aquatic life collected by or in the possession of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries that would reveal the location of individual animals.~~

~~Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.~~

~~A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State~~

~~-----~~
ACT No. 182

~~---~~
**HOUSE BILL NO. 883
BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHLEGEL
AN ACT**

~~To amend and reenact R.S. 14:90.3(B), (C)(introductory paragraph), (1), (9), and (10), and (D) through (K) and to enact R.S. 14:90.3(C)(11) and (12) and (L) through (R) and R.S. 27:19.1 and 19.2, relative to restrictions against illegal online gambling; to provide for penalties for violations thereof; to provide for enforcement; to provide for remedies; and to provide for related matters.~~

~~Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:~~

~~Section 1. R.S. 14:90.3(B), (C)(introductory paragraph), (1), (9), and (10), and~~

~~(D) through (K) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 14:90.3(C)(11) and (12) and (L) through (R) are hereby enacted to read as follows:~~

~~§90.3. Gambling by computer~~

~~* * *~~

~~B. Gambling by computer is the intentional conducting, or directly assisting in the conducting as a business of any game, contest, lottery, or contrivance whereby a person risks the loss of anything of value in order to realize a profit when accessing the Internet, World Wide Web, or any part thereof by way of any computer, computer system, computer network, computer software, or any server. Any game, contest, or promotion that is available on the internet or accessible on a mobile phone, computer terminal, or similar access device that utilizes a dual-currency system of payment allowing the player to exchange the currency for any prize or award, cash, or cash equivalents, or any chance to win any prize or award, cash, or cash equivalents, and simulates any form of gambling constitutes gambling by computer.C. For purposes of this Section, the following definitions apply:~~

~~(1) “Client” means anyone physically located within this state using a computer to access a computer server to make gambling by computer wagers.~~

~~* * *~~

~~(9) “Merchant payment processor” means an entity that establishes a contractual relationship with a person engaged in the business of gambling by computer for the purpose of processing payment transactions on behalf of such person. A “merchant payment processor” does not include any federally insured financial institution, its subsidiaries or affiliates, or any payment card network.~~

~~(10) “Platform provider” means any person storing or hosting content, files, data, and other information on a web server to make the content, files, data, or other information accessible on a website via a computer, mobile device, tablet, or other interactive device. A “platform provider” does not include any federally insured financial institution, its subsidiaries or affiliates, or any payment card network.~~

~~(11) “Server” means a computer that listens for and services a client.~~

~~(12) “World Wide Web” means a server providing connections to mega lists of information on the Internet; it is made up of millions of individual web sites linked together.~~

~~D. Whoever Any client, as defined by this Section, who commits the crime of gambling by computer shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars, or imprisoned for not more than six months, or both.~~

~~E. Whoever engages in gambling by computer, including anyone who designs, develops, manages, supervises, maintains, provides, or produces any computer services, computer system, computer network, computer software, or any server providing a Home Page, Web Site, or any other product accessing the Internet, World Wide Web, or any part thereof offering to any client for the primary purpose of the conducting as a business of any game, contest, lottery, or contrivance whereby a person risks the loss of anything of value in order to realize a profit shall be fined not more than twenty one hundred thousand dollars, or imprisoned with or without hard labor; for not more than five years, or both.~~

~~F. Any applicant, licensed entity, platform provider, geolocation provider, gaming content supplier, promoter, endorser, media affiliate, or any other person who knowingly supports or facilitates the operation, conduct, or promotion of gambling by computer within this state shall be fined not more than twenty thousand dollars, or imprisoned with or without hard labor for not more than five years, or both. The financial penalties set forth in this Subsection shall be doubled when the knowing support or facilitation of the operation or conduct of gambling by computer involves an individual under twenty-one years of age.~~

~~G.(1) No merchant payment processor shall knowingly accept or process any financial transaction in connection with the participation of a person physically located in this state who is gambling by computer. A merchant payment processor shall be deemed to have constructive knowledge that all persons and website URLs identified by the attorney general pursuant to R.S. 27:19.1 are engaged in gambling by computer.~~

~~(2) A merchant payment processor may, on its own initiative, block, prohibit, prevent, or otherwise refuse to honor any financial transaction that it reasonably believes is or will be a restricted transaction described in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection. A merchant payment processor shall not be liable in tort to any person for such preventative measures.~~

~~(3) A merchant payment processor who does not comply with a cease and desist notice pursuant to R.S. 27:19.1 shall be subject to the penalties in Subsection F of this Section.~~

~~H.(1) No platform provider shall receive or transmit through its service any exchange of information that it reasonably believes is or will be sent in connection with the participation of a person in gambling by computer. A platform provider shall be deemed to have constructive knowledge that all persons and website URLs identified by the attorney general pursuant to R.S. 27:19.1 are engaged in gambling by computer.~~

~~(2) A platform provider may, on its own initiative, block the receipt or transmission through its service of any exchange of information that it reasonably believes is or will be sent in violation of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection. A platform provider shall not be liable in tort to any person for such preventative measures. The provisions of this Paragraph apply only to information regarding illegal conduct of gambling by computer.~~

~~(3) A platform provider who does not comply with a cease and desist notice pursuant to R.S. 27:19.1 shall be subject to the penalties in Subsection F of this Section.~~

(4) A platform provider shall be deemed to have constructive knowledge that all persons and website URLs identified by the attorney general pursuant to R.S. 27:19.1 are engaged in gambling by computer. A platform provider who accepts and offers an advertisement for a person or website URL identified by the attorney general pursuant to R.S. 27:19.1 shall constitute prima facie evidence of support of gambling by computer.

I. Each gambling by computer wager offered or accepted by a person constitutes a separate violation for purposes of this Section. Each individual promotion of illegal online gambling in this state constitutes a separate violation.

J. Without limiting the penalties provided in this Section, the court shall order forfeiture of any profits, gains, gross receipts, or other benefits earned by the person in connection with violations of this Section.

F. K. The conducting or assisting in the conducting of gaming activities or operations upon a riverboat, at the official gaming establishment, by operating an electronic video draw poker device, by a charitable gaming licensee, or at a pari-mutuel wagering facility, conducting slot machine gaming at an eligible horse racing facility, or the operation of a state lottery which is licensed for operation and regulated under the provisions of Chapters 4 and 11 of Title 4, Chapters 4, 5, 6, and 7 of Title 27, or Subtitle XI of Title 47 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, shall not be considered gambling by computer for the purposes of this Section, so as long as the wagering is done on the premises of the licensed establishment.

G. L. The conducting or assisting in the conducting of pari-mutuel wagering at licensed racing facilities under the provisions of Chapter 4 of Title 4 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, shall not be considered gambling by computer for the purposes of this Section so as long as the wagering is done on the premises of the licensed establishment.

H. M. Nothing in this Section shall prohibit, limit, or otherwise restrict the purchase, sale, exchange, or other transaction related to stocks, bonds, futures, options, commodities, or other similar instruments or transactions occurring on a stock or commodities exchange, brokerage house, or similar entity.

I. N. The providing of Internet or other on-line access, transmission, routing, storage, or other communication related services, or Web Site design, development, storage, maintenance, billing, advertising, hypertext linking, transaction processing, or other site related services, by telephone companies, Internet Service Providers, software developers, licensors, or other such parties providing such services to customers in the normal course of their business, shall not be considered gambling by computer even though the activities of such customers using such services to conduct a prohibited game, contest, lottery, or contrivance may constitute gambling by computer for the purposes of this Section. The provisions of this Subsection shall not exempt from criminal prosecution any telephone company, Internet Service Provider, software developer, licensor, or other such party if its primary purpose in providing such service is to conduct gambling as a business.

J. O. Except as provided in R.S. 27:305, participation in any fantasy sports contest as defined by R.S. 27:302 shall not be considered gambling by computer for the purposes of this Section.

K. P. Sports wagering shall not be considered gambling by computer for purposes of this Section so as long as the wagering is conducted in compliance with Chapter 10 of Title 27 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 or Chapter 10 of Subtitle XI of Title 47 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950.

Q. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to impose liability upon a platform provider solely for the hosting, publication, transmission, or display of information provided by a third party to the extent such liability is preempted by 47 U.S.C. 230.

R. This Section does not apply to any federally insured financial institution, its subsidiaries or affiliates, or any payment card network.

* * *

Section 2. R.S. 27:19.1 and 19.2 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§19.1. Attorney general; illegal online gambling; cease and desist notice

A. The attorney general, or the chairman of the board, acting in the board's discretion, may send a written cease and desist notice to any person who operates, conducts, or promotes gambling by computer within this state in violation of R.S. 14:90.3, including platform providers as defined in R.S. 14:90.3 who allow the exchange of information regarding gambling by computer or merchant payment processors as defined in R.S. 14:90.3 who allow the exchange of currency in furtherance of gambling by computer. The cease and desist notice shall do all of the following:

- (1) State, generally, the illegal activity being conducted.
- (2) State that the person has no more than ten days after the date notice is received to cease the illegal activity.
- (3) State that failure to comply with Paragraph (2) of this Subsection may result in a fine as described in R.S. 14:90.3.

B. If the chairman of the board issues a cease and desist notice pursuant to this Section, the chairman shall promptly forward a copy of the notice to the attorney general. The attorney general shall maintain a depository to collect, maintain, and retain each cease and desist notice sent in accordance with this Section. The attorney general shall maintain a listing, which will be publicly available on the website of the attorney general, identifying the name of each gambling by computer operator and associated online gambling website URL address, platform provider, or merchant payment processor that has been issued a cease and desist notice pursuant to this Section by either the board or the attorney general. Noncompliance with this Subsection is not a defense to any action commenced pursuant to R.S. 14:90.3.

C. The manner of service of a cease and desist notice issued in accordance with this Section shall be made in compliance with Chapters 2 and 3 of Title II, Book II of the Code of Civil Procedure.

D. A cease and desist notice served in accordance with this Section is admissible in any proceeding pursuant to R.S. 14:90.3 and constitutes prima facie evidence that the person has knowledge that gambling by computer or the promoting or marketing of gambling by computer was occurring on the internet site of the gambling by computer operator, that the platform provider was allowing the exchange of information, or that the merchant payment processor was allowing the exchange of currency in furtherance of gambling by computer.

E. A person outside of this state who owns, maintains, or operates an internet website that transmits information through or with a platform provider and who knows or should know that the information is broadcast within this state submits to the jurisdiction of this state for enforcement pursuant to this Section.

F. Prior to sending a cease and desist notice, the attorney general may provide reasonable notice to the board to enable the board to determine if it will join in the notice.

G. If the attorney general has reason to believe that a person is offering, operating, conducting, promoting, supporting, or acting in furtherance of gambling by computer or taking any other action in violation of R.S. 14:90.3, he may bring an action in the name of the state to restrain by temporary or permanent injunction the conduct giving rise to such violation.

H. The attorney general may exercise his authority in furtherance of the investigation and enforcement of this Section, including, without limitation, to issue subpoenas.

I. The attorney general may utilize the division to conduct investigations and enforce the provisions of this Section and the provisions of R.S. 14:90.3.

J. The attorney general may enter into agreements with the division, the board, or any other federal or state law enforcement agency for the exchange and release of investigatory and other information.

K. The attorney general and the court shall construe liberally this Title and R.S. 14:90 et seq., relating to gambling and betting, to prevent prohibited activities.

§19.2. Attorney general; illegal online gambling; other civil remedies

A. In addition to any other remedy under law, upon application by the attorney general, regardless of whether proceedings have been initiated pursuant to this Chapter, a court may issue any relief it deems appropriate to prevent and restrain activities prohibited by this Chapter. Such relief may include a temporary restraining order, preliminary injunction, or injunction against any person in violation of R.S. 14:90.3 to prevent or restrain gambling by computer and any related transactions or activities, including, without limitation, the removal of any gambling by computer website, the freezing of bank or credit accounts associated with such website or such gambling by computer activity, and the removal of a person's access to such websites or accounts who participates in the gambling by computer activity. In an action seeking injunctive relief, violation of this Chapter shall conclusively be determined irreparable harm.

B.(1) In addition to the remedies available in Subsection A of this Section, the attorney general may seek an ex parte injunction to do all the following:

- (a) Compel a platform provider as defined in R.S. 14:90.3 to remove or disable access to a website violating this Chapter, or a hypertext link to a website violating this Chapter.
 - (b) Enjoin a merchant payment processor as defined in R.S. 14:90.3 from processing transactions for the gambling by computer operator.
 - (c) Compel a person in violation of R.S. 14:90.3 to discontinue supporting, marketing, promoting, or conducting gambling by computer in this state.
- (2) In such case, a hearing on the ex parte injunction shall be held within thirty days, and after such hearing the court may convert the injunction to a preliminary injunction.

C. Relief granted pursuant to this Section against a platform provider that is not otherwise engaged in gambling by computer shall:

- (1) Be limited to the removal of, or disabling of access to, the website violating this Chapter, or a hypertext link to a website violating this Chapter, that is stored on a computer server that such platform provider controls or operates.
- (2) Specify the website to which it applies.
- (3) Specify the website or hypertext link to be removed or other access to be disabled.

D. Any violation of an order entered against a platform provider or merchant payment processor as defined in R.S. 14:90.3 is punishable by a fine of fifty thousand dollars for a first violation and a fine of one hundred thousand dollars for each subsequent violation for each day that the gambling by computer activity remains accessible on the website to persons physically located in this state or for a merchant payment processor, each subsequent gambling by computer transaction that is processed and each act in support of gambling by computer.

E. Relief granted pursuant to this Section against a merchant payment processor or other person that supports the operation, conduct, or promotion of gambling by computer in violation of R.S. 14:90.3 that is not otherwise engaged in illegal online gambling shall:

- (1) Be limited to the suspension of processing transactions for the gambling by computer operator and with persons physically located in this state, or be limited to ceasing support of the operation, conduct, or promotion of gambling by computer in this state.

(2) Specify the website to which it applies.
Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.
A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 183

HOUSE BILL NO. 907
BY REPRESENTATIVE MILLER
AN ACT

To enact R.S. 40:978.2.3, relative to prescriptions; to provide for civil and criminal immunity for the distribution or use of Naloxone and other opioid antagonist beyond their shelf-life end date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 40:978.2.3 is hereby enacted to read as follows:
§978.2.3. Naloxone; distribution or use after shelf-life end date; limitation of liability

A. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a person who prescribes, dispenses, distributes, or furnishes naloxone or another opioid antagonist shall not be subject to criminal or civil liability solely on the basis that any labeled shelf-life end date for such product has passed.

B. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a person acting in good faith who furnishes or administers naloxone or another opioid antagonist, including one for which any labeled shelf-life end date has passed, to an individual reasonably believed to be undergoing an opioid-related drug overdose shall be immune from criminal and civil liability for such furnishing or administration except in the event of gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.

C. A licensed healthcare practitioner shall not be subject to disciplinary action by a professional licensing board for any action for which the practitioner is granted civil and criminal immunity under Subsections A and B of this Section. D. As used in this Section, the term “shelf-life end date” means any labeled date required by 21 CFR part 211.137 or any successor regulation.

E. Notwithstanding any provision of this Section, a federally certified health care provider, facility, or entity shall comply with federal regulations and requirements, including such regulations prohibiting the prescribing, dispensing, distributing, furnishing, or administering drugs whose shelf-life end date has passed.

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 in 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 15, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 184

2026 Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 923
BY REPRESENTATIVE BERAULT
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 23:4, 61, 62, 63, 64.1(A)(introductory paragraph) and (2) and (B)(introductory paragraph) and (1), 76(C)(4)(f) and (i), 382, 384(A), 385(B), 390(C), 1123, 1178(A)(introductory paragraph), (B), and (E), 1310.3(A), 1372, 1378(A)(2)(c) and (E), 1538(A)(1), 1541(A), (E), and (F)(1), 1541.1(A) and (B), 1593, 1595(B)(1) and (C), 1599, 1601(8)(a) and (b), 1624, 1625, 1626(B) and (C), 1627, 1629(A), 1630, 1714(A), 1749.2(A), and 2051(A) and R.S. 36:301(C)(1), to enact R.S. 23:1.1, and to repeal Part II of Title 23 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 23:41 through 49, 1178(D), 1226(C)(2), and 1601(10)(b), relative to the continuing of technical corrections and revisions of provisions of Title 23 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950; to provide for the reorganization of Louisiana Works; to provide for legislative intent; to provide for workforce and social service programs; to provide for community action agencies; to provide definitions; to provide for the community services block grant; to provide for the apprenticeship council; to provide for the duration, determination, and eligibility of unemployment benefits; to provide for notification requirements under certain circumstances; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 23:4, 61, 62, 63, 64.1(A)(introductory paragraph) and (2) and (B)(introductory paragraph) and (1), 76(C)(4)(f) and (i), 382, 384(A), 385(B), 390(C), 1123, 1178(A)(introductory paragraph), (B), and (E), 1310.3(A), 1372, 1378(A)(2)(c) and (E), 1538(A)(1), 1541(A), (E), and (F)(1), 1541.1(A) and (B), 1593, 1595(B)(1) and (C), 1599, 1601(8)(a) and (b), 1624, 1625, 1626(B) and (C), 1627, 1629(A), 1630, 1714(A), 1749.2(A), and 2051(A) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 23:1.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

TITLE 23

LABOR AND WORKER’S WORKERS’ COMPENSATION
CHAPTER 1. LOUISIANA WORKS
PART I. ESTABLISHMENT, POWERS, AND DUTIES

* * *

§1.1 Integrated case management; service integration of various workforce and social service programs

A. The legislature recognizes that the department provides services to support individuals with various needs and in various stages of life. However, the conventional service delivery system of requiring individuals to access various offices within the state and even within the department to address those multiple needs creates barriers for the delivery of those services and entry into the workforce. These needs can be better met, more efficiently and less costly, through integrated case management at a single service location with a single case worker, even when those services may be provided by multiple state agencies. It is the intent of the legislature to provide a comprehensive, streamlined social services and workforce delivery system that incorporates integrated case management models for customers and their families served by multiple departments and programs.

B. For the purposes of this Section, the following terms have the meanings ascribed to them:

(1) “Integrated case management” means an accessible, customer-centered approach that coordinates the necessary services that meet the needs of each individual or family which, if applicable, establishes a comprehensive, integrated service plan that addresses all of those needs and outcomes, which is continually monitored and updated as necessary.(2) “Integrated service plan” means a plan that is based on the customer’s strengths, risks, service needs, and improvement plan.

(3) “Service integration” means a process by which a range of social, education, and workforce employment and training services are delivered in a coordinated and seamless manner to provide customer-oriented services, increase early intervention and prevention opportunities, improve outcomes, and establish provider accountability through performance measures. Service integration includes:

(a) A “One Door” business model which makes it easier for the customer to obtain services and allows various programs to work seamlessly together across multiple agencies.

(b) Cross-training among the various program staff across multiple governmental, nonprofit, and private sector agencies and organizations to ensure a general understanding of all programs through which a comprehensive plan may be developed for a customer to access.

(c) Flexible use of funding among the federal and state programs and, if applicable, departments, agencies, and community programs, comprising a multi-disciplinary team to ensure that the customer receives services for which he is eligible.

* * *

§4. Divisions of the ~~commission~~ department

In addition to divisions, bureaus, boards, and commissions established within the ~~commission~~ department by law, the secretary, with the approval of the governor, may establish any division or bureau deemed advisable for the administration or enforcement of any law with which he is charged. The secretary may combine or consolidate the activities of two or more divisions or bureaus of the ~~commission~~ department, or provide for the establishment of any other when such action is deemed advisable for the more efficient and economical administration of the work and duties of the ~~commission~~ department.

* * *

§61. Purpose

~~The provisions of this Part are intended to maximize community participation in the administration and implementation of programs designed to develop employment opportunities for individuals with low income and to ameliorate the impact of such income level on their physical and mental well-being provide assistance to local communities by working through a network of community action agencies to support employment in order to reduce poverty, revitalize low-income communities, and stabilize low-income families and individuals in rural and urban areas to become fully self-sufficient.~~ To accomplish this purpose, the legislature enacts this Part for the purpose of establishing a procedure for the designation of community action agencies; fixing the responsibilities of community action agencies; defining community action programs; and establishing a formula for the allocation of community service block grant funds.

§62. Definitions

As used in this Part:

(1) “Community action agency” means a public agency or private nonprofit corporation designated by Louisiana Works having authority under its charter or bylaws, or both, to administer community action programs, which has been designated as a community action agency by the parish governing authority anti-poverty, workforce, and family-support services pursuant to federal and state law.

(2) “Community action program” means a community-based and operated program which provides services, assistance, and other activities of sufficient scope and size to give promise of progress toward the elimination of poverty in a community.

(3) “Low income” means a household income level established by Louisiana Works, after public hearings and contained within the Community Development Block Grant State Plan, herein referred to as “state plan”, below which an individual will be qualified for services delivered through a

community action program. The household income level shall not exceed the income eligibility guidelines established by congress.

(4) “One Door” means a coordinated, customer-centered service delivery model through which individuals and families may access multiple workforce, education, and human services programs through a single entry point.

~~§63. Community action agency; appointment, responsibilities~~
~~A. The parish governing authority, by resolution or ordinance, shall designate a community action agency to administer the applicable provisions of this Part and such designation shall be on an annual basis. Prior to making such designation, the parish governing authority shall conduct a public hearing, after giving public notice of its intention to designate an agency. The public hearing shall include an evaluation of the administrative and programmatic capabilities of the agency or agencies under consideration for designation as the community action agency for the area.~~

~~Prior to making such designation, the local governing authority shall consider the previous accomplishments of the agency or agencies under consideration for designation and the ability of each to conduct community action programs, including but not limited to the following service components designed to assist program participants to:~~ For purposes of this Part, “community action agency” means an entity which was previously designated on the day before the enactment of the Coats Human Services Reauthorization Act of 1998 or is designated by the chief executive officer of this state, pursuant to Section 676A of the Community Services Block Grant Act and has a tripartite board as described in R.S. 23: 64.1 or other mechanism as defined by the Community Services Block Grant Act.

B. Louisiana Works shall be the designated lead agency for the purposes of carrying out state activities as provided for in the Community Services Block Grant Act. Louisiana Works shall develop a state plan with assurances that funds made available to community action agencies shall be used to do all of the following:

- (1) Secure and retain meaningful employment.
- (2) Attain an adequate education.
- (3) Make better use of available income.
- (4) Secure and maintain adequate housing.
- ~~(5) Undertake family planning consistent with personal and family goals, and religious and moral convictions.~~
- ~~(6) Obtain services for the prevention and treatment of habit forming chemicals and substances, and for rehabilitation services, where needed.~~
- (7) Obtain emergency assistance through loans or grants to meet immediate and urgent individual and family needs, including health services, nutritious foods, housing, employment, and related assistance.
- (8) Achieve greater participation in the affairs of the community.
- ~~(9) Be informed of and obtain income substitutes.~~
- ~~(10) (6) Make more frequent and effective use of other programs, public and private, that offer services related to the purpose of this Part.~~

~~B. C.~~ As may be determined necessary or at the request of a legislator or legislative delegation representing a district or districts in which the community action agency provides services, the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget may direct Louisiana Works, the appropriate state funding agency, or the legislative fiscal office to conduct evaluations of community action agencies providing services under pursuant to the provisions of this Part. Such The evaluations may involve specific programs or encompass the entire range of activities, including administration, of any community action agency. Such The evaluations shall be transmitted to the local governing authority, the appropriate legislative delegation, the department, the Senate Committee on Local and Municipal Affairs, the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs, and the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget.

~~E. D.~~ A community action agency shall:
(1) Compile information and data which reflects the needs of low income individuals in the geographical area served by the agency and identify the extent to which those needs are unmet by public and private agencies serving the area.

(2) Develop and implement programs and projects designed to serve unmet needs of individuals with low income and provide for maximum feasible participation in these programs and projects by eligible individuals.

(3) Establish procedures and adopt rules which enable area residents to influence the characters of services provided by community action agencies.

(4) Join with and encourage private organizations to undertake activities in support of the community action program that will result in additional use of private resources and capabilities in accomplishing the purposes of this Part.

~~(5) Provide technical assistance to public and private agencies engaged in activities related to the community action program to enable them to seek out, secure, and administer public and private funds available for their activities.~~

~~(6) Provide other services that are determined by Louisiana Works to be consistent with the purposes of this Part. The department shall establish these requirements in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq.~~

~~D. E.~~ Each community action agency must prepare and submit annually to Louisiana Works, ~~the Senate Committee on Local and Municipal Affairs, the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs, and the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget, not later than sixty days prior to the end of the applicable fiscal year period used by the community action agency,~~ a budget document which shall present a complete financial plan for the ensuing fiscal year period which has been approved and adopted by the community action agency's governing ~~board body~~. The chief administrative

officer of the community action agency shall be responsible for the preparation of the budget document, which shall include ~~at a minimum the following:~~

~~(1) A budget message signed by the chief administrative officer which shall present a summary description of the proposed financial plan, policies, and objectives.~~

~~(2) A detailed and comprehensive breakdown of all programs administered with CSBG funds, estimates of all grants and funds received, estimates of expenditures itemized by function and object, administrative costs incurred, and contractual services secured, all reported for both the current and succeeding fiscal year grant periods. The budget document shall also include a complete listing of all employees and their classifications and salary levels, including any related fringe benefits and shall be signed by the secretary or his designee.~~

~~E. F.~~ Louisiana Works or the appropriate funding agency shall impose, by rules and regulations, ~~such any~~ requirements and restrictions upon the execution of community action agency budgets which provide for sound fiscal management, internal controls, budgetary compliance, and overall fiscal accountability. These shall, at a minimum, provide for quarterly reporting of actual revenue receipts and expenditures, new or supplementary grants of funds, and all other deviations from the original budget submission. ~~The departments shall report to the Senate Committee on Local and Municipal Affairs, the House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs, and the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget instances identified wherein a community action agency's operations have not complied with the requirements of this Section.~~

§64.1. Governing Tripartite board

A. Each community action agency ~~or private nonprofit organization~~ shall administer its programs through a governing board which shall consist of ~~from a minimum of fifteen to a maximum of thirty-one members who shall be selected by the community action agency or private nonprofit organization. Agencies that are serving parishes meeting the definition of rural areas as defined in R.S. 3:313 and receiving an annual Community Service Block Grant allocation of less than eighty thousand and one cent may petition Louisiana Works for a downward exception to the minimum number of board members required. For community action agencies meeting this distinction, the board shall consist of a minimum of nine to a maximum of thirty-one members. Boards requesting this exception shall make a written request to Louisiana Works no less than one hundred eighty days prior to the desired effective date.~~ Each board will be constituted so as to assure that:

* * *

(2) ~~At least~~ No fewer than one-third of the members of the governing board shall be individuals with low income who reside in the area to be served by the agency, or representatives of those individuals. Persons representing individuals with low income need not themselves have incomes below the level established by Louisiana Works for purposes of this Part; however, these representatives must reside in the same geographic area as the individuals they represent and must be chosen in accordance with democratic selection procedures adequate to assure that they are representatives of the ~~poor~~ low income in the area served.

* * *

B. Each local governing authority or public agency designated as a community action agency shall establish an advisory board, with advisory powers only, ~~that shall consist of fifteen to thirty-one members~~ which shall be constituted to assure ~~that both of the following:~~

(1) At least one-third of the members are persons chosen from the area served in accordance with democratic selection procedures adequate to assure that they are representative of the ~~poor~~ low-income individuals and families in the area served;~~or,~~

* * *

§76. Forecasting

* * *

C.

* * *

(4) The principals of the conference shall be as follows:

* * *

(f) Two members, each of whom shall be a faculty member of a public or private university or college in Louisiana, who shall be ~~econometricians~~ economists and have occupational forecasting expertise or expertise in economic planning and ~~industry/occupation~~ industry-occupation matrix formulation, to be selected by the other five principals of the conference from a list of not less than three nor more than five nominees submitted by the secretary of Louisiana Board of Regents Works.

* * *

(i) One member selected by the governor from a list of three nominees submitted by the Louisiana Minority Supplier Development Council Chamber of Commerce Foundation.

* * *

§382. Apprenticeship council

A. The secretary shall appoint an apprenticeship council, composed of three representatives each from employer and employee organizations respectively, and of two representatives of the general public. The three employer representatives shall be selected from lists supplied by employer organizations which are participating in bona fide apprenticeship programs. The three employee representatives may be representatives of labor organizations, who have been nominated by state labor federations. The state official in charge of trade and industrial education shall, ex officio,

be a member of the council. Each member shall be appointed for a term of three years. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term of his predecessor shall be appointed for the remainder of the term. ~~Each member may appoint a designee to serve in his stead. Each member who desires to have a designee shall provide written notice to the secretary for approval. The written notice shall name the individual who shall be the official designee until the member or the secretary revokes the designation. Designees in a representative capacity may participate and vote in council meetings.~~ Each member of the council not otherwise compensated by public monies, shall be reimbursed for transportation and shall be paid thirty-five dollars per day for each day spent in attendance at meetings of the apprenticeship council.

B.(1) The apprenticeship council shall meet at the call of the secretary or the director of apprenticeship and shall aid in formulating policies for the effective administration of this Chapter. Subject to the approval of the secretary, the apprenticeship council ~~may~~ shall do all of the following:

(a) ~~recommend~~ Recommend standards and procedures for registration and de-registration of apprenticeship programs in conformity with established programs approved by the United States Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship, ~~and~~

(b) ~~Recommend, for approval, for approval of~~ apprenticeship agreements which in no case shall be lower than those prescribed by this Chapter and by the United States Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship, or lower than approved national standards; ~~shall issue such,~~

(c) Recommend rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the intent and purposes thereof; ~~and shall,~~

(d) ~~perform such~~ Perform other functions as the secretary may direct.

(2) Not less than once a year the apprenticeship council shall make a report, through the secretary, of its activities and findings to the legislature and to the public.

* * *

§384. Powers and duties of director

A. The director, under the supervision of the secretary and with the advice and guidance of the apprenticeship council, is authorized to administer the provisions of this Chapter. The director shall, ~~in cooperation with advice from~~ the apprenticeship council, set up conditions and training standards for apprentice agreements, which shall in no case be lower than those prescribed by this Chapter and by the United States Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship, or lower than approved national standards.

* * *

§385. Apprenticeship programs; registration and function

* * *

B. An apprenticeship program shall be registered in any ~~trade occupation~~ or group of ~~trades~~ occupations in accordance with this Chapter and with the standards of United States Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship. An apprenticeship program shall cooperate with educational authorities in regard to the education of apprentices; shall establish a schedule of operations; shall establish wage rates and working conditions for apprentices; shall specify the ratio of apprentices to journey workers employed in any ~~trade occupation~~ in accordance with this Chapter and the

United States Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship; and shall adjust apprenticeship disputes.

* * *

§390. Settlement of controversies or complaints

* * *

C. Upon the complaint of any interested person or upon his own initiative, the director of apprenticeship may investigate to determine if there has been a violation of the terms of an apprenticeship agreement made ~~under pursuant~~ to this Chapter and hold hearings, inquiries, and other proceedings necessary to ~~such~~ the investigations and determination. The director of apprenticeship shall investigate programs only as necessary to establish compliance, and then only upon proper notice. The parties to ~~such~~ the agreement shall be given a fair and impartial hearing, after reasonable notice thereof. All hearings, investigations, and determinations shall be made under authority of reasonable rules and procedure prescribed by the ~~secretary with advice from the~~ apprenticeship council, ~~subject to the approval of the secretary.~~

* * *

§1123. Disputes as to condition or capacity to work; additional medical opinion regarding an examination under supervision of the secretary

If any dispute arises ~~between two physicians~~ as to the condition of the employee, or the employee's capacity to work, the assistant secretary, upon application of any party, shall order an additional medical opinion regarding an examination of the employee to be made by a medical practitioner selected and appointed by the assistant secretary. The medical examiner shall report his conclusions from the examination to the assistant secretary and to the parties and ~~such~~ the report shall be prima facie evidence of the facts therein stated in any subsequent proceedings ~~under pursuant~~ to this Chapter.

* * *

§1178. Cost containment meeting; incentive discount

A. The office shall develop and implement informational cost containment meetings for all employers, upon request, on the target list compiled pursuant to R.S. 23:1177 that shall, at a minimum:

* * *

B. The office shall inform all eligible employers on the target list ~~of the dates and locations of the opportunity to schedule cost containment meetings to be held in areas throughout the state, as determined by the office.~~ The

employers shall be informed that if a designated representative from the company attends the meeting, the company will be granted a reduction in its experience modifier at the rate determined in R.S. 23:1179(B).

* * *

~~E. Procedures to establish proof of attendance of a cost containment meeting by designated representatives of eligible employers shall be established by rule by the office.~~ Employers who would otherwise be eligible shall be allowed to requalify for this reduction only once every four years.

* * *

§1310.3. Initiation of claims; voluntary mediation; procedure

A. A claim for benefits, the controversion of entitlement to benefits, or other relief ~~under~~ pursuant to the Workers' Compensation Act shall be initiated by the filing of the appropriate form with the office of workers' compensation administration. Mailing, facsimile transmission, or electronic transmission of the form and payment of the filing fee within ~~five~~ seven days of any ~~such~~ mailing or transmission constitutes the initiation of a claim ~~under~~ pursuant to R.S. 23:1209.

* * *

§1372. Louisiana Workers' Compensation Second Injury Board; creation, domicile, membership

The Louisiana Workers' Compensation Second Injury Board, hereinafter referred to as the board, is created. The board, which shall be domiciled in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, shall be composed of five members or their designee, who shall be the secretary of state, the state treasurer, the commissioner of insurance, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of ~~Health Children and Family Services~~, and the assistant secretary of the office of workers' compensation administration.

* * *

§1378. Determination of liability of fund

A.

* * *

(2) No employer or insurer shall be entitled to reimbursement unless it is clearly established that the employer had actual knowledge of the employee's preexisting permanent partial disability prior to the subsequent injury. For injuries occurring after December 31, 2010, actual knowledge shall be established only by any one of the following circumstances:

* * *

(c) The employer employs, retains, or re-employs ~~employees from the an employee with a PPD employee registry maintained by Louisiana Works and which is created and maintained in accordance with rules promulgated by the office of workers' compensation.~~

* * *

E. Written notice of the decision of the board shall be given to all parties to the hearing and the representatives designated by the party on the reimbursement form submitted to the board. The decision of the board shall be final; however, an appeal therefrom may be taken by any of the parties within thirty days after the date of the decision of the board. If an appeal is taken, the board shall be made party defendant, and service and citation shall be made in accordance with applicable law upon the attorney general or one of his assistants and the assistant secretary of the office of workers' compensation within Louisiana Works. The appeal shall be to the Nineteenth Judicial District Court, parish of East Baton Rouge. All appeals in all ~~such~~ cases shall be tried de novo.

* * *

§1538. Payroll reports; failure of employer to file; incorrect reports; determination of rates

A.(1) If the administrator finds that any employer has failed to file any payroll report or has filed a report which the administrator finds incorrect or insufficient, the administrator may make an estimate of the information required from the employer on the basis of the best evidence reasonably available to him at the time, and notify the employer ~~thereof by registered mail addressed to his last known address by mail or electronic delivery to the last known address or electronic contact information on record.~~ Unless the employer files the report or a corrected or sufficient report, as the case may be, no later than twenty days after the ~~mailing of the notice~~ date of notification, the administrator may compute ~~such~~ the employer's rate of contribution on the basis of ~~such~~ the estimates, and the rate so determined shall be subject to increase or decrease on the basis of subsequently ascertained information.

* * *

§1541. Notice of benefits charged against employer's experience rating record; employer's right to contest; application for review; procedure

A. The administrator shall, not later than ninety days after the close of each calendar quarter, render a statement to each employer of benefits paid each individual and charged to his experience-rating record. These benefit charges are conclusive and binding upon the employer unless he files an application to review the charges setting forth his reasons therefor within thirty days after the ~~mailing of the notice~~ date the notification is sent to his last known address or electronic contact information on record.

* * *

E. The administrator shall notify each employer, no later than December thirty-first of each year, of his rate of contribution for the forthcoming calendar year as determined for any relevant experience-rating year pursuant to this Part. This determination shall be conclusive and binding upon an employer unless within thirty days after the ~~mailing of notice hereof to his last known address~~ date the notification is delivered to the employer's last known address or electronic contact information on record the employer

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

files an application for review and redetermination, setting forth his reasons ~~therefor~~. If the administrator grants ~~such~~ the review, the employer shall be promptly notified ~~thereof~~ and shall be granted an opportunity for a fair hearing, but no employer shall have standing, in any proceeding involving his rate of contribution or contribution liability, to contest the chargeability of any benefits to his experience-rating record as to cases wherein he has previously been notified and had an opportunity for hearing, review, and appeal. The employer shall be promptly notified of the administrator's action which shall become final unless, within thirty days after the ~~mailing of notice thereof~~ date the notification is delivered to his last known address or electronic contact information on record, a petition for judicial review is filed in the district court of employer's domicile. In any proceeding ~~under this provided for in this Subsection~~, the findings of the administrator as to facts shall be presumed to be prima facie correct if supported by substantial and competent evidence. These proceedings shall be heard in a summary manner and shall be given precedence over all other civil cases except cases arising ~~under pursuant to Part VI of this Chapter and Chapter 10 of this Title~~. An appeal may be taken from the decision of the district court in the same manner, but not inconsistent with the provisions of this Chapter as in other civil cases.

F.(1) Within thirty days after the ~~mailing~~ date the notification is delivered to his last known address or electronic contact information on record, the employer may contribute any amount to his experience-rating account.

§1541.1. Notice of chargeability of benefits to base-period employers; employer's right to contest; appeals; procedure

A. The administrator shall issue, upon the commencement of payment of a claim, a determination of chargeability of benefits to base-period employers. The determination shall be conclusive and binding upon any ~~such~~ base-period employer unless he files an appeal, setting forth his reasons within thirty days after the date of ~~mailing notification of any such~~ determination. Legal holidays and days on which the agency is closed shall serve to extend the delay periods. Except as otherwise provided in this Chapter, an appeal shall be considered timely if the appeal is filed during the benefit year in which the determination was issued and the failure to file a timely appeal was the result of an administrative error or a physical inability of the party filing the appeal. The party filing the appeal shall provide competent evidence regarding the administrative error or physical inability. Any appeal filed after the benefit year shall not be considered timely. This Subsection shall not apply if a court ruling is issued before the appeal is filed.

B. If appealed, then upon being given the opportunity to be heard, the employer shall be promptly notified of the administrative law judge's action, which shall be final unless the employer files a petition for judicial review in the ~~state judicial~~ district court of the employer's domicile within thirty days of the date of ~~mailing notification of an such~~ action. In any court proceeding under pursuant to this Subsection, the findings of the administrative law judge as to facts shall be presumed to be prima facie correct, if supported by substantial and competent evidence. These proceedings shall be heard in summary manner and shall be given precedence over all other civil cases, except cases arising under pursuant to Part VI of this Chapter or Chapter 10 of this Title. An appeal may be further taken from the decision of the state judicial district court in the same manner, but not inconsistent with the provisions of this Chapter, as provided in other civil cases.

§1593. Weekly benefits payable; deduction of earnings

An eligible individual who is employed in any week shall be paid with respect to such week a benefit equal to his weekly benefit amount less any wages payable to him with respect to such week in excess of fifty percent of his current weekly benefit amount, ~~or fifty dollars, whichever is lower~~. This benefit, if not a multiple of one dollar, shall be computed to the nearest multiple of one dollar.

§1595. Duration of benefits

B.(1) The maximum number of weekly benefits that a claimant may be eligible for in a benefit year shall ~~depend on the average of the three most recently published state seasonally adjusted unemployment rates preceding the month in which the claimant files his first claim for benefits be determined semi-annually, based on the average of the three most recently published state seasonally adjusted unemployment rates available prior to January first and July first of each calendar year. A claimant filing an initial claim for benefits between January first and June thirtieth shall be subject to the maximum duration determined based on the average unemployment rate preceding January first. A claimant filing an initial claim between July first and December thirty-first shall be subject to the maximum duration determined based on the average unemployment rate preceding July first.~~

C. On a ~~biannual~~ semi-annual basis, Louisiana Works shall publish on its website the maximum number of weekly benefits that a claimant may be eligible for in a benefit year, provided for in Subsection B of this Section, ~~for a claimant who has filed an initial claim for unemployment benefits in any week in that month. This publication shall occur no later than January first and July first of each calendar year.~~

§1599. Waiver of ~~certified~~ mail notification requirement

An employer, his duly authorized representative, or the claimant may

waive the right ~~under~~ pursuant to this Chapter to receive written notices or determinations by ~~certified~~ mail. The waiver shall be in writing and shall be ~~mailed or transmitted electronically~~ to the office of unemployment insurance administration within Louisiana Works in a manner prescribed by the department. If the right to receive written notices and determinations by ~~certified~~ mail has been waived, written notices or determinations may be transmitted by ~~first class mail or by~~ electronic delivery. A notice or determination is deemed delivered when it has been mailed or electronically transmitted. Delivery of a notice or determination, whether mailed or electronically transmitted, shall be deemed complete on the date shown on the notice. Delivery to the last known address or electronic contact information on record shall constitute sufficient notice.

§1601. Disqualification for benefits

An individual shall be disqualified for benefits:

(8)(a) For the week, or fraction thereof, with respect to which the individual makes a false statement or representation knowing it to be false, or knowingly fails to disclose a material fact in obtaining or increasing benefits, whether or not the individual is successful in obtaining or increasing benefits, or otherwise due to his fraud receives any amount as benefits ~~under pursuant to this Chapter to which the individual was not entitled, for the remainder of the benefit year subsequent to the commission of the fraudulent act and continuing until the benefits so obtained plus any penalty imposed in accordance with R.S. 23:1714 are repaid, or until ten years have elapsed from the date of disqualification the claim for repayment has prescribed, whichever comes first.~~

(b) All benefits paid with respect to such weeks shall be immediately due and on demand paid in accordance with department regulations to the administrator for the fund, and ~~such the~~ individual shall not be entitled to further benefits until repayment has been made or the claim for repayment has prescribed. If information indicating that a claimant has earned any unreported wages for weeks claimed is obtained by the administrator, prior to the administrator rendering a determination on the issue, the claimant shall be notified by mail or other delivery method, including electronic delivery. The claimant shall have seven days from the date of mailing to respond, or if notice is not by mail, then the claimant shall have seven days from the delivery date of ~~such the~~ notice to respond as directed by the department.

§1624. Monetary determination and notice of claim

~~An agent designated by the administrator shall take the claim. A determination of eligibility made on the basis of base period wage credits shall be made promptly and shall include a statement as to whether benefits are payable, the week with respect to which benefits shall commence, the weekly benefit amount payable and the maximum duration of benefits. Within thirty days of the date the claim was filed, notice of this monetary determination shall be mailed or electronically delivered to the claimant and, if the claimant is eligible, to the last employer or employing unit and to all of the base period employers or mailed to their last known address or electronic contact information on record. For any determination that begins a statutory period for appeal, protest, or other action, delivery by mail or electronic transmission shall satisfy the notice requirements. Delivery, whether mailed or electronically transmitted, shall be deemed complete on the date shown on the notice. Delivery to the last known address or electronic contact information on record shall constitute sufficient notice.~~

§1625. Notice of determination on claims

If a disqualification is alleged, or appears to exist, notice of the determination together with the reasons therefor shall be promptly delivered to the claimant and to the employer from whose employment the disqualification issue arose ~~or mailed to using their the last known address or electronic contact information on record. For any determination that begins a statutory period for appeal, protest, or other action, delivery by mail or electronic transmission shall satisfy the notice requirements. Delivery, whether mailed or electronically transmitted, shall be deemed complete on the date shown on the notice. Delivery to the last known address or electronic contact information on record shall constitute sufficient notice.~~

§1626. Redetermination; notice

B. The administrator may reconsider a nonmonetary determination whenever he finds that benefits have been allowed or denied on the basis of misrepresentation or that an error in interpretation of fact or application of law has occurred or whenever either of the parties entitled to notice of determination as specified in R.S. 23:1625 protests the decision within fifteen days from the date of the determination. Legal holidays and days on which the agency is closed shall serve to extend the delay period. The administrator shall make findings and conclusions and on the basis thereof affirm, modify, or reverse the determination. Notice of such the redetermination shall be promptly given to the parties specified in R.S. 23:1625. If the administrator finds that the evidence at hand does not justify redetermination of a protested determination, he may, upon notification of the parties specified in R.S. 23:1625, transfer the protest, without further determination, to the appeal referee for appeal proceedings. In the event that an appeal involving an original determination is pending at the time a redetermination is issued, the appeal, unless withdrawn, shall be treated as an appeal from the redetermination.

C. Furthermore, the administrator shall reconsider a final determination or decision to pay benefits whenever he finds that ~~such the~~ determination or decision may have been improper based upon a subsequent event relative to the claimant's separation from employment, including a conviction or an admission of guilt or complicity to avoid or minimize judicial penalty which would indicate that the award of benefits may have been improper. The administrator shall promptly issue a notice of ~~such the~~ redetermination as provided by R.S. 23:1625. Legal holidays and days on which the department is closed shall serve to extend the delay periods. The administrator shall make findings and conclusions and on the basis thereof affirm, modify, or reverse the determination or decision. Any party to ~~such the~~ redetermination may file an appeal ~~therefrom~~ pursuant to R.S. 23:1629. Should a redetermination denying the award of benefits become final, ~~such the~~ benefits improperly paid shall be recoverable as provided by R.S. 23:1713. Any ~~such~~ redetermination shall be made within five years of the original award.

§1627. Determination in labor dispute cases
Whenever any claim involves the application of the provisions of R.S. 23:1601(4) the individual handling the claim shall, if so directed by the administrator, promptly transmit all the evidence with respect to ~~such the~~ case to the administrator. The administrator or the representatives he may designate shall, on the basis of the evidence submitted and ~~such the~~ additional evidence as he may require, make a determination with respect thereto. ~~Such The~~ determination shall be the final decision on the claim, unless within fifteen days after the date notification ~~was given or~~ was mailed ~~or electronically delivered~~ to a party's last known address ~~or electronic contact information on record~~, an appeal is filed with an appeal referee.

§1629. Appeals to appeal referee; time for filing; notice of hearing and decision

A.(1) Within fifteen days after ~~the date of notification of a determination was given or was mailed to his last known address~~, the claimant or any other party entitled to notice of a determination may file an appeal ~~from such determination~~ with an appeal referee ~~either by mailing such appeal, as evidenced by the postmarked date, or by delivering such appeal by mail or other methods prescribed by the department.~~ Legal holidays and days on which the department is closed shall serve to extend the delay periods. The appeal referee shall ~~mail~~ provide a "notice to appear for a hearing" to all parties to the appeal at least seven days prior to the date of hearing. ~~The notice shall be sent by mail unless the party has consented to electronic delivery.~~ Copies of the statements by the claimant and employer, which were used in the appealed determination, shall be sent ~~with such notice if requested to the parties if the request is received at least two business days prior to the scheduled hearing.~~

(2)(a) A party to an appeal may expressly waive the seven-day advance notice requirement ~~by written waiver executed after the appeal has been filed.~~

(b) ~~A copy of the written waiver shall be included in the record.~~
(3) Nothing in this Section shall ~~be construed to dispense with the requirement that a "notice to appear for hearing" be mailed prevent the department from providing a notice to appear for a hearing by mail, or with the party's consent, by electronic delivery.~~

(4) Except as otherwise provided in this Chapter, an appeal shall be considered timely if the appeal is filed during the benefit year in which the determination was issued and the failure to file a timely appeal was the result of an administrative error or a physical inability of the party filing the appeal. The party filing the appeal shall provide competent evidence regarding the administrative error or physical inability. Any appeal filed after the benefit year shall not be considered timely. This Paragraph shall not apply if a court ruling is issued before the appeal is filed.

§1630. Review of decision by board of review; notice of board's decision
A. The board of review may on its own motion, within fifteen days after the date of notification ~~or of mailing of~~ a decision of an appeal referee, initiate a review of ~~such the~~ decision. The board of review may otherwise allow ~~an appeal from such decision to be filed; any party entitled to notice of a decision to file an appeal by mail or any other methods prescribed by the department~~ within fifteen days after the date of notification ~~or of mailing of~~ a decision of an appeal referee, ~~by any party entitled to notice of such decision, if such appeal is either mailed, as evidenced by the postmarked date, or is delivered by any such party.~~ An appeal filed by any ~~such~~ party shall be allowed as of right if ~~such the~~ decision was not unanimous, or if the determination was not affirmed by the appeal referee. Legal holidays and days on which the agency is closed shall serve to extend the delay periods. Upon review on its own motion or upon appeal, the board of review may, on the basis of the evidence previously submitted in ~~such the~~ case, or upon the basis of ~~such~~ any additional evidence as it may direct be taken, affirm, modify, or reverse the findings and conclusions of the appeal referee. The board of review may remove to itself or transfer to another appeal referee the proceedings on any claims pending before an appeal referee. Any proceedings so removed to the board of review prior to the completion of a fair hearing shall be heard by the board of review in accordance with the requirements of this Chapter with respect to proceedings before an appeal referee.

B. The board of review shall make a determination and notify all parties of its decision, including its findings and conclusions in support thereof, within sixty days from the date an appeal is received or initiated by the board. Notices shall be mailed to the party's last known address unless the party has

consented to electronic delivery in which case the notice may be transmitted electronically to the contact information on record. Should the board of review, within sixty days from the date an appeal is received or initiated, direct that additional evidence be taken, the board of review shall make a determination and notify all parties of its decision, including its findings and conclusions in support thereof, within sixty days from the date it receives the additional evidence. ~~Such The~~ decision shall be final unless, within fifteen days after the mailing of notice thereof ~~the date of notification of the board's decision to the party's last known address, or, in the absence of such mailing, within fifteen days after the delivery of such notice or electronic contact information on record~~, a proceeding for judicial review is initiated pursuant to R.S. 23:1634. Upon denial by the board of review of an application for appeal from the decision of an appeal referee, the decision of the appeal referee shall be deemed to be a decision of the board of review within the meaning of this Section for purposes of judicial review and shall be subject to judicial review within the time and in the manner provided for with respect to decision of the board of review, except that the time for initiating ~~such a~~ review shall run from the date of notice of the order of the board of review denying the application for appeal.

C. Except as otherwise provided for in this Chapter, an appeal shall be considered timely if the appeal is filed during the benefit year in which the determination was issued and the failure to file a timely appeal was the result of an administrative error or a physical inability of the party filing the appeal. The party filing the appeal shall provide competent evidence regarding the administrative error or physical inability. Any appeal filed after the benefit year shall not be considered timely. This Subsection shall not apply if a court ruling is issued before the appeal is filed.

§1714. Penalties
A. A civil penalty shall be assessed if benefits are determined to have been overpaid as a result of a fraud disqualification made pursuant to R.S. 23:1601(8) in the amount of ~~twenty dollars or twenty-five percent, whichever is greater, fifty percent of the total overpayment amount.~~ Except as otherwise provided in Subsection C of this Section and any provisions of law in this state relating to the deposit, administration, release, or disbursement of money in the possession or custody of this state to the contrary notwithstanding, fifteen percent of each ~~such~~ overpayment amount recovered shall be deposited with the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States of America to the credit of the account of this state in the Unemployment Trust Fund established and maintained pursuant to 42 U.S.C.A. §1101, et seq., as amended, and ten percent of each ~~such~~ overpayment amount recovered shall be deposited in the penalty and interest account established by R.S. 23:1513 and used to offset collection expenses.

§1749.2. Notice of overpayment delinquency; suspension of license
A. ~~The commission~~ Louisiana Works may send ~~by certified mail, return receipt requested, a notice of overpayment delinquency to an obligor~~ informing the obligor of the ~~commission's~~ department's intention to submit his name to the licensing authority for suspension of his license. If an obligor holds multiple licenses, the ~~commission~~ department may issue a single notice of its intention to submit multiple suspensions.

§2051. Designees
A. Each council member may appoint a designee to serve in his stead. Each council member who desires to have a designee shall provide written notice ~~of such to the chairman of the council for approval by the chairman.~~ ~~Such The~~ written notice shall name the individual who shall be the official designee until the council member ~~or the chairman~~ revokes ~~such the~~ designation. No council member shall be represented in a meeting other than by the official designee.

Section 2. R.S. 36:301(C)(1) is hereby amended and reenacted as follows:
§301. Louisiana Works; creation; domicile; composition; purposes and functions

C.(1) Louisiana Works shall be composed of ~~the executive office of the secretary, the office of management and finance, the office of workforce development, the office of unemployment insurance administration, the office of workers' compensation administration, and such any other offices as shall be created by law. The Louisiana Workforce Investment Council, as more specifically provided in R.S. 23:2042 et seq., shall be placed within the executive office of the secretary office of management and finance under the purview of the secretary.~~

Section 3. Part II of Chapter 1 of Title 23 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 23:41 through 49, 1178(D), 1226(C)(2), and 1601(10)(b) are hereby repealed in their entirety.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.
A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 185

HOUSE BILL NO. 977

BY REPRESENTATIVE BEAULLIEU
AN ACT

To amend and reenact the heading of Chapter 20-A of Title 51 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to enact Part II of Chapter 20-A of Title 51 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 51:1771 through 1775, and to repeal Act No. 481 of the 2025 Regular Session, relative to minors' use of applications; to provide for definitions; to provide for application store requirements; to provide for developer requirements; to provide for protections; to provide for liability; to provide for applicability; to provide for enforcement; to provide for penalties; 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. Act No. 481 of the 2025 Regular Session shall not become effective.

Section 2. The heading of Chapter 20-A of Title 51 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 is hereby amended and reenacted and Part II of Chapter 20-A of Title 51 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 51:1771 through 1775, is hereby enacted to read as follows to read as follows:

~~CHAPTER 20-A. PROTECTION OF CHILDREN'S INTERNET DATA~~
~~ONLINE PROTECTIONS FOR MINORS~~

PART I. PROTECTION OF CHILDREN'S INTERNET DATA

§1761. Legislative findings

* * *

PART II. PROTECTION OF CHILDREN ON APPLICATIONS

§1771. Definitions

As used in this Part, the following terms have the following meanings:(1) "Age category" means one of the following categories of individuals based on age:

- (a) "Child" means an individual who is under thirteen years old.
- (b) "Younger teenager" means an individual who is at least thirteen years old and under sixteen years old.
- (c) "Older teenager" means an individual who is at least sixteen years old and under eighteen years old.
- (d) "Adult" means an individual who is at least eighteen years old.
- (2) "Age category data" means information about a user's age that is collected by a covered application store provider and shared with a developer.
- (3) "Age rating" means a classification that provides an assessment of the suitability of an application's content for different age groups.
- (4) "Application" means a software program that is designed to run on a connected device or a mobile device.
- (5) "Connected device" means a smartphone, tablet, computer, gaming console, or virtual reality device that enables users to connect to the internet and download software applications.
- (6) "Content description" means a description of the specific content elements that informed an application's age rating.
- (7) "Covered application store" means a publicly available website, software application, or electronic service that allows users to download applications from third-party developers onto a mobile device or connected device.
- (8) "Covered application store provider" means a person who owns, operates, or controls a covered application store that allows users in this state to download applications.
- (9) "Developer" means a person who owns or controls an application made available through a covered application store in this state.
- (10) "Family account application" means an application that does all of the following:

- (a) Offers subaccounts or profiles within the application.
- (b) Requires a paid subscription or account creation with payment method verification as the application's primary business model.
- (c) Does not permit account creation by individuals under eighteen years of age.
- (d) Verifies that the primary account holder is an adult using commercially available methods that are reasonably designed to ensure accuracy.
- (11) "Minor" means an individual who is under the age of eighteen and is not emancipated or married.
- (12) "Minor account" means an account with a covered application store provider that is established by an individual who the covered application store provider has determined through its age verification methods is under eighteen years of age, and is not emancipated or married, and requires affiliation with a parent account.
- (13) "Mobile device" means a phone or general-purpose tablet that does all of the following:

- (a) Provides cellular or wireless connectivity.
 - (b) Is capable of connecting to the internet.
 - (c) Runs a mobile operating system.
 - (d) Is capable of running applications through the mobile operating system.
 - (14) "Mobile operating system" means software that does all of the following:
- (a) Manages mobile device hardware resources.
 - (b) Provides common services for mobile device programs.
 - (c) Controls memory allocation.
 - (d) Provides interfaces for applications to access device functionality.
 - (15) "Parent" means, with respect to a minor, individuals who have legal authority to make decisions on behalf of the minor.
 - (16) "Parent account" means an account with a covered application store provider that is both of the following:

- (a) Is verified to be established by an individual whom the covered application store provider has determined is at least eighteen years old through the covered application store provider's age verification methods.

- (b) May be affiliated with one or more minor accounts.

(17) "Parental consent disclosure" means the following information that a covered application store provider is required to provide to a parent or legal guardian before obtaining parental consent:

- (a) If the covered application store provider has an age rating for the application or in-application purchase, the application's or in-application purchase's age rating.

(b) If the covered application store provider has a content description for the application or in-application purchase, the application's or in-application's content description.

- (c) A description of:

- (i) The personal data collected by an application from a user.
- (ii) The personal data shared by the application with a third party.
- (d) If personal data is collected by the application, the methods implemented by the developer to protect the personal data.

(18)(a) "Pre-loaded application" means an application that is present on a mobile device at the time of purchase, initial activation, or first use of the device by a consumer.

(b) Pre-loaded application does not include core operating system functions, essential device drivers, basic-device operations, essential phone applications, settings applications, emergency services applications, or security or system maintenance applications essential to device functionality.

(19) "Significant change" means a material modification to an application's terms of service or privacy policy that does any of the following:

- (a) Changes the categories of data collected, stored, or shared.
- (b) Alters the application's age rating or content descriptions.
- (c) Adds new monetization features, including in-application purchases and advertisements.
- (d) Materially changes the application's functionality or user experience.
- (20) "Verifiable parental consent" means authorization that is all of the following:

- (a) Is provided to a covered application store by an individual whom a covered application store provider has verified is an adult.
- (b) Is given after the covered application store provider has clearly and conspicuously provided the parental consent disclosure to the individual.
- (c) Requires the parent or legal guardian to make an affirmative choice to grant consent or decline consent.

§1772. Application stores

A. A covered application store provider shall do all of the following:

- (1) At the time an individual who is located in this state creates an account with a covered application store provider, do both of the following:
- (a) Request age information from the individual.
 - (b)(i) Verify the individual's age category using commercially available methods that are reasonably designed to ensure accuracy, including but not limited to a means of verification provided through the use of a real-time age verification system authorized by the commissioner of the office of motor vehicles.

(ii) For individuals under eighteen years of age, a method is commercially available if it includes affirmative age attestation by someone who is reasonably believed to be the parent or legal guardian, along with other information collected in the ordinary course of account creation or use.

(2) If the age verification methods or process described in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection determines the individual to be a minor, the covered application store provider shall do both of the following:

- (a) Require the account to be affiliated with a parent account.
 - (b) Obtain verifiable parental consent from the holder of the affiliated parent account before allowing the minor to do any of the following:
- (i) Download an application.
 - (ii) Purchase an application.
 - (iii) Access an application that has been pre-loaded into a device.
 - (iv) Enable the functionality to make in-application purchases.
 - (3) After receiving notice of a significant change from a developer, notify the user of the significant change, and for a minor account, notify the holder of the affiliated parent account and obtain renewed verifiable parental consent.
 - (4) Provide to a developer, in response to a request authorized pursuant to 51:1773, both of the following:

- (a) The age category for a user located in this state.
 - (b) The status of verified parental consent for a minor located in this state.
 - (5) Notify a developer when a parent revokes parental consent.
 - (6) Protect personal age verification data by doing all of the following:
- (a) Limiting collection and processing to data necessary for:
- (i) Verifying a user's age.
 - (ii) Obtaining parental consent.
 - (iii) Maintaining compliance records.
 - (b) Transmitting personal age verification data using industry-standard encryption protocols that ensure data integrity and data confidentiality.

B. A covered application store provider shall not do any of the following:

- (1) Enforce a contract or terms of service against a minor unless a covered application store provider has obtained verifiable parental consent.
- (2) Knowingly misrepresent the information in the parental consent disclosure.
- (3) Share age verification data except between a covered application store provider and a developer as required by this Part or as required by law.

§1773. Developer requirements

A. A developer shall do all of the following:

- (1) Verify through the covered application store's data sharing methods:

(a) The age category of users located in this state.
(b) For a minor account, whether verifiable parental consent has been obtained pursuant to R.S. 51:1772(A)(2)(b).
(2) Notify covered application store providers of a significant change to the application.
(3) Enforce all age-related restrictions.
(4) Enforce any developer-created age-related restrictions.
(5) Ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Any developer required by R.S. 9:2800.29 to age-verify users at the application level shall continue to be responsible for age verification. No provision in this Part shall be construed to eliminate this responsibility. A developer who is required by law to conduct age verification at the application level, but to whom R.S. 9:2800.29 does not apply, may utilize the age signal from the covered application store to fulfill its age verification obligation.
(6) Implement any developer-created safety-related features or defaults.
(7) Request from the covered application store provider personal age verification data or parental consent:
(a) At the time a user downloads an application or purchases an application.
(b) When implementing a significant change to the application.
(c) To comply with applicable law.
B. A developer may request personal age verification data or parental consent:
(1) No more than once during a twelve-month period to verify the accuracy of user age verification data or continued account use within the verified age category.
(2) When there is reasonable suspicion of account transfer or misuse outside the verified age category.
(3) At the time a user creates a new account with a developer.
C.(1) A developer, other than one required to verify age pursuant to R.S. 9:2800.29, pursuant to R.S. 51:1773(A)(5), shall use the verified age signal from an operating system or application store to do all of the following:
(a) Enforce legally required minimum age restrictions.
(b) Ensure compliance with all laws and other obligations.
(c) In the provision of any age-appropriate defaults, safeguards, or experiences, except as provided in this Section.
(2) If the developer determines that an internal age signal conflicts with the age signal from a covered application store, the developer may rely on the signal from the covered application store unless the developer has actual knowledge that its internal signal is more accurate. If the developer has actual knowledge that its internal signal is more accurate, such as if the user provided proof of age to the developer, the developer shall use its internal signal or the lower of the two signals.
D. A developer shall not do any of the following:
(1) Enforce a contract or terms of service against a minor unless the developer has verified through the covered application store provider that verifiable parental consent has been obtained.
(2) Knowingly misrepresent any information in the parental consent disclosure.
(3) Sell age category data to any person.
E. (1) Notwithstanding Subsections A through D of this Section, a developer of a family account application may:
(a) Use the age range of the primary account holder as the age category for purposes of applying age-related safety defaults and access to features within the application.
(b) Permit the primary account holder to attest to the age categories of associated subaccounts.
(2) A developer of a family account application remains subject to all other requirements of this Section.
§1774. Protections
A.(1) A covered application store provider is not liable for a violation of this Part if the covered application store provider demonstrates a good faith effort to comply with the requirements in R.S. 51:1772.
(2) A developer is not liable for a violation of this Part if the developer demonstrates that the developer complied with the requirements in R.S. 51:1773.
B. For the purposes of setting the age category of an application and providing content description disclosure to a covered application store provider, a developer complies with R.S. 51:1773(C) if the developer uses widely adopted industry standards to determine the application's age category and the content description disclosures and if the developer applies those standards consistently and in good faith.
C. The protection described in this Section applies only to actions brought pursuant to this Part and shall not limit a developer or covered application store provider's liability under any applicable law.
D. Nothing in this Part shall displace any other available remedies or rights authorized under the laws of this state or the United States.
E. Nothing in this Part shall be construed to do any of the following:
(1) Prevent a covered application store provider or developer from taking reasonable measures to do any of the following:
(a) Block, detect, or prevent distribution to minors of unlawful material, obscene material, or other harmful material.
(b) Block or filter spam.
(c) Prevent criminal activity.
(d) Protect the application store or application security.
(2) Require a covered application store provider to disclose user information to a developer beyond age category or verification of parental consent status.

(3) Allow a covered application store provider or developer to implement measures required by this Part in a manner that is arbitrary, capricious, anticompetitive, or unlawful.
(4) Require a developer to collect, retain, reidentify, or link any information beyond any of the following:
(a) What is necessary to verify age categories and parental consent status as required by this Part.
(b) What is collected, retained, reidentified, or linked in the developer's ordinary course of business.
(5) Relieve a developer of its obligation to conduct age verification as required by R.S. 9:2800.29.
§1775. Enforcement; penalties
A. The attorney general may bring a civil action to enforce any violations of this Part.
B. A covered application store or developer that violates the provisions of this Part shall be subject to a civil fine of up to ten thousand dollars per violation set by the attorney general.
C.(1) At least forty-five days before the day on which the attorney general initiates an enforcement action against a person who is subject to the requirements of this Part, the attorney general shall provide the person with a written notice that identifies each alleged violation and an explanation of the basis for each allegation.
(2) Except as provided in Paragraph (3) of this Subsection, the attorney general shall not initiate an action if the person cures the notice violation within forty-five days after the date on which the person receives the notice by providing the attorney general with a written statement indicating that the violation is cured and no further violations will occur.
(3) The attorney general may initiate a civil action against a person who does either of the following:
(a) Fails to cure a violation after receiving the written notice described in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection.
(b) Commits another violation of the same provision after curing a violation and providing a written statement in accordance with Paragraph (2) of this Subsection.
(4) If a court of competent jurisdiction grants judgment or injunctive relief to the attorney general, the court shall award the attorney general reasonable attorney fees, court costs, and investigative costs.
(5) A person who violates an administrative order or court order issued for a violation of this Part shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than five thousand dollars for each violation set by the attorney general. A civil penalty in accordance with this Section may be imposed in any civil action brought by the attorney general.
(6) All monies received from the payment of a fine or civil penalty imposed and collected pursuant to the provisions of this Section shall be used by the attorney general for consumer protection enforcement efforts or to promote consumer protection and education.
Section 3. If any provision of this Act or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Act which can be given effect without the invalid provisions or applications, and to this end the provisions of this Act are hereby declared severable.
Section 4. The Louisiana State Law Institute is authorized and directed to amend R.S. 51:1761 through 1763 to change every reference from "Chapter" to "Part".
Section 5. Section 1 and this Section 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, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.
Section 6. Sections 2, 3, 4 and this Section of this Act shall become effective on July 1, 2027.
Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.
A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 186

HOUSE BILL NO. 1012 (Substitute for House Bill No. 843 by Representative Boyd)
BY REPRESENTATIVES BOYD, BAYHAM, BILLINGS, CARRIER, WILFORD CARTER, CHASSION, FISHER, DANA HENRY, JORDAN, KNOX, LAFLEUR, TERRY LANDRY, LARVADAIN, LYONS, MARCELLE, MARTINEZ, MOORE, MURRAY, NEWELL, TAYLOR, AND WILEY AND SENATORS BARROW, BOUDREAUX, CLOUD, JACKSON-ANDREWS, JENKINS, LUNEAU, MIZELL, AND PRICE
AN ACT
To enact R.S. 44:11.2(A)(10) and (K), relative to public records; to limit access to the personal information of a victim of a sex offense; to provide for definitions; to create the Sexual Assault Survivor Empowerment and Privacy Protection Act; to provide relative to time delays related to the removal of published personal information; to provide for criminal penalties; and to provide for related matters.
Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
Section 1. R.S. 44:11.2(A)(10) and (K) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§11.2. Limited access to personal information for protected individuals
A. As used in this Section, the term “protected individual” shall mean:

(10) A victim of a sex offense as defined in R.S. 15:541.

K.(1) A request made by a victim of a sex offense as provided in Subsection E of this Section shall include with it a police report, protective order, or final judgment indicating that the person is or is alleged to be a victim of a sex offense.(2) A person shall not knowingly publish the personal information of a victim of a sex offense if he knows or reasonably should know that publishing the personal information poses an imminent and serious threat to the protected individual and the publishing of the personal information results in any of the following:

- (a) An assault in any degree.
- (b) Harassment.
- (c) Trespass.
- (d) Malicious destruction of property.

(3)(a) Notwithstanding Subsection F of this Section, not later than five days after receiving a request as provided by Subsection E of this Section from a victim of a sex offense, the public body shall acknowledge receipt of the request in writing by certified mail or by email and take steps reasonably necessary to ensure that the personal information is not published.

(b) Notwithstanding Subsection F of this Section, if the personal information of a victim of a sex offense was published prior to receipt of a request as provided in Subsection E of this Section, the public body shall provide for the removal of the personal information of the victim within seventy-two hours after acknowledgment of receipt of the request or provide to the victim a reason in writing why the request has not been fulfilled.

(4) Notwithstanding Subsection I of this Section, a person who violates this Section as it relates to personal information of a victim of a sex offense is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding eighteen months or a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars, or both. Neither this provision nor any other penalty provision provided for in this Section shall apply to a public body.

Section 2. The legislature recognizes the importance of empowering those individuals who are victims of sex offenses and the need to protect their privacy and personal information from disclosure. It is therefore the intent of the legislature to enact statutory provisions to limit public access to personal information of victims of sex offenses and to provide for legal consequences for the unauthorized release of this information. This Act shall be known and may be cited as the “Sexual Assault Survivor Empowerment and Privacy Protection Act.”

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 187

HOUSE BILL NO. 1027
BY REPRESENTATIVE HEBERT
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 40:1581(F), relative to real estate appraiser liability in certain circumstances; to provide relative to smoke and carbon dioxide detectors in one- or two-family dwellings; to provide for licensed real estate appraiser liability; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 40:1581(F) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§1581. Smoke detectors; carbon monoxide detectors; one- or two-family dwellings

F. The real estate agent and the licensed real estate appraiser shall not be liable for the seller’s failure to comply with the provisions of this Section.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 188

HOUSE BILL NO. 1033
BY REPRESENTATIVE BACALA
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 14:61(B)(introductory paragraph) and (1)(a)(v) and R.S. 51:3052(introductory paragraph) and (2) and to enact R.S. 14:61(B)(1)(a)(viii) through (x), relative to critical infrastructure; to provide relative to the definition of critical infrastructure; to provide for effectiveness; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 14:61(B)(introductory paragraph) and (1)(a)(v) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 14:61(B)(1)(a)(viii) through (x) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§61. Unauthorized entry of a critical infrastructure

* * *
B. For the purposes of this Section, the following words ~~shall~~ have the following meanings:

(1)(a) “Critical infrastructure” means any and all structures, sites, equipment, or other immovable or movable property located within or upon any of the following:

* * *
(v) Transportation facilities, such as ports, railroad switching yards, pipelines, ~~and~~ trucking terminals, airports, heliports, spaceports, aerospace facilities, landing strips, mass transit and passenger rail terminals, postal facilities, and freight transportation facilities.

* * *
(viii) Government facilities.

(ix) Military installations.

(x) Oil and gas exploration platforms, vehicles, and equipment, including wireline equipment.

* * *
Section 2. R.S. 51:3052(introductory paragraph) and (2) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§3052. Definitions

As used in this Chapter, the following terms have the following meanings ascribed unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

* * *
(2) “Critical infrastructure” means ~~a~~ any of the following:

(a) A communication infrastructure system;

(b) A cybersecurity system;

(c) An electric grid;

(d) A hazardous waste treatment system;~~or,~~

(e) A water treatment facility.

(f) Transportation facilities, such as ports, railroad switching yards, pipelines, trucking terminals, airports, heliports, spaceports, aerospace facilities, landing strips, mass transit and passenger rail terminals, postal facilities, and freight transportation facilities.

(g) Water control structures, including floodgates or pump stations.

(h) Wireline, wireless communications, and data network internet facilities, and any equipment or communication wires that are connected or appurtenant to the facilities, including but not limited to broadcast television equipment, video equipment, fiber optics, and any lines or wires that are used for transmission from the facilities.

(i) Government facilities.

(j) Military installations.

(k) Oil and gas exploration platforms, vehicles, and equipment, including wireline equipment.

* * *
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 15, 2026.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 189

HOUSE BILL NO. 1034
BY REPRESENTATIVE BACALA
AN ACT

To enact R.S. 14:329.9, relative to offenses affecting the public generally; to authorize the establishment of temporary protection zones; to provide for information to be disseminated regarding temporary protection zones; to provide relative to the duration of a temporary protective zone; to provide for penalties; to provide for a limitation; to provide for effectiveness; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 14:329.9 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

~~§329.9. Temporary protection zones; establishment; penalties~~

~~A. The parish president, mayor, sheriff, chief of police, or chief executive officer of a political subdivision may, when necessary to ensure public safety, issue a proclamation that establishes one or more temporary protection zones within the territorial jurisdiction of the political subdivision. A temporary protection zone may include highways, shorelines, waterways, or other areas within the jurisdiction of the issuing authority.~~

~~B.(1) Any proclamation that establishes a temporary protection zone shall be in writing and contain all of the following:~~

~~(a) The circumstances that necessitate the establishment of the temporary protection zone.~~

~~(b) The geographic boundaries of the temporary protection zone, with sufficient specificity to provide reasonable notice to the public.(c) The date and time when the proclamation of the temporary protection zone takes effect.~~

~~(d) A description of the restrictions on access to or activity within the temporary protection zone.~~

(2) The proclamation shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed with the clerk of court's office.

C. A temporary protection zone established pursuant to this Section shall remain in effect only as long as necessary to ensure the security of the area and shall not remain in effect for longer than seventy-two hours from the date and time of issuance. Nothing in this Section prohibits the issuing authority from establishing a new temporary protection zone upon the expiration of a previously established zone, provided that the establishment of the zone is still warranted pursuant to Subsection A of this Section.

D. A person who, after being advised of the establishment of a temporary protection zone pursuant to this Section, violates any provision of the proclamation that established the zone or any lawful directive given by a law enforcement officer relating to the enforcement of the zone shall be punished as follows:

(1) If the violation involves the wrongful use of public property, the offender shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars or imprisoned for not more than six months, or both.

(2) If the violation involves serious bodily injury or property damage in excess of five thousand dollars, the offender shall be imprisoned at hard labor for not more than five years.

(3) If the violation involves the death of any person, the offender shall be imprisoned at hard labor for not more than twenty-one years.

E. This Section does not grant a parish president, mayor, sheriff, chief of police, or chief executive officer of a political subdivision the authority to act in a manner inconsistent with R.S. 40:1796.

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 15, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 190

HOUSE BILL NO. 1088

BY REPRESENTATIVES BACALA, BAYHAM, BEAULLIEU, DEWITT,
ECHOLS, EGAN, FISHER, JACKSON, MOORE, OWEN, SAWYER, TAYLOR,
VENTRELLA, WYBLE, AND YOUNG
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 47:303.1(B)(5) and to enact R.S. 47:305.82, relative to sales and use tax rebates; to authorize a state and local sales and use tax rebate on purchases of certain equipment, machinery, materials, and other items used in aerospace facilities and aerospace activities; to provide for requirements, limitations, and conditions with respect to the rebate; to provide for duties and functions of Louisiana Economic Development and the Department of Revenue with respect to the rebate; to provide for administration of the rebate; to provide for issuance of direct payment numbers to certain taxpayers; to provide for definitions; to provide for effectiveness; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 47:303.1(B)(5) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 47:305.82 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§303.1. Direct Payment Numbers
* * *
B.
* * *

(5) A DP Number shall be issued to a taxpayer who has entered into an agreement with the state pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 47:305.73 or 305.82 and who obtains the required approvals and meets all of the qualifications provided in this Section except Subparagraphs (1)(a) and (c) of this Subsection. The taxpayer may possess the DP Number for the entire term of the agreement that the taxpayer enters into pursuant to R.S. 47:305.73 or 305.82.
* * *

§305.82. Rebate; sales and use tax imposed by any taxing authority for purchases of equipment and other items used in aerospace facilities and aerospace activities

A. As used in this Section, the following terms shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this Subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

(1)(a) "Aerospace activity" means any act or activity related to the research, development, testing, manufacture, preparation, launch, operation, reentry, descent, landing, or post-landing recovery of a launch vehicle, spacecraft, payload, or related equipment, including but not limited to integration, conditioning, transport, and associated ground support operations, whether conducted on-site or involving overflight.

(b) The term "aerospace activity" shall not mean any act or activity related to general administrative, managerial, or support functions, including but not limited to human resources, payroll, bookkeeping, accounting, legal, marketing, sales, information technology support, or other similar office or overhead activities, regardless of whether these functions are performed on-site at a manufacturing facility or elsewhere.

(2) "Approved aerospace facility" means an aerospace facility that is located in Louisiana and certified by Louisiana Economic Development in accordance with the provisions of this Section.

(3) "Approved aerospace facility contractor" means all of the following:
(a) A contractor or subcontractor purchasing, leasing, operating, or maintaining the approved aerospace facility.

(b) A contractor or subcontractor providing services for the construction, repair, maintenance, or improvement of the approved aerospace facility or equipment used in aerospace activities at an approved aerospace facility.

(4) "Approved aerospace facility owner" means the entity that enters into the agreement with Louisiana Economic Development as provided for in this Section.

(5) "Department" means the Department of Revenue.

B.(1)(a) Subject to the limitations provided in Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph, an approved aerospace facility owner or approved aerospace facility contractor shall be eligible for a rebate, to be paid annually, of sales and use taxes of any taxing authority paid for the purchase, lease, rental, or use of machinery, equipment, materials, supplies, or services used directly in aerospace activities at an approved aerospace facility.

(b) Only purchases made on or after July 1, 2026, shall be eligible for the rebate authorized in this Subsection.

(2) To be certified as an approved aerospace facility by Louisiana Economic Development, the aerospace facility owner shall provide a sworn attestation that the project will create a minimum of two hundred new direct, permanent, full-time jobs in Louisiana and intends to expend at least one billion dollars in new capital investment in Louisiana on or after July 1, 2026, but before July 1, 2031.

(3)(a) A facility that has been certified as an approved aerospace facility shall enter into an agreement with Louisiana Economic Development that comports with the requirements of this Paragraph.

(b) The agreement shall provide a term of rebate eligibility with an initial term of twenty years, a list of all eligible recipients of the rebate, and language that authorizes the state to terminate the agreement and recapture any rebates if the approved aerospace facility fails to fulfill, or if Louisiana Economic Development determines that the facility will be unable to fulfill its statutory and contractual obligations. Failure to create a minimum of two hundred new direct, permanent, full-time jobs in Louisiana or to expend one billion dollars in new capital investment in Louisiana by July 1, 2031, shall result in the termination of the rebate agreement with Louisiana Economic Development.

(c) Upon the expiration of the initial term of the agreement, Louisiana Economic Development may renew the agreement for an additional ten years.

(d) Louisiana Economic Development may include in the agreement any additional conditions that it deems appropriate.

(4) An approved aerospace facility shall be issued a Direct Payment Number in accordance with the applicable provisions of R.S. 47:303.1.

(5) The department may utilize any collection remedy authorized by R.S. 47:1561.2 for any rebates subject to recapture based on termination of the agreement with Louisiana Economic Development or a determination that the purchase did not qualify for the rebate. If a rebate is subject to recapture, the approved aerospace facility owner shall reimburse the department or its agent for any costs incurred. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, recapture of a rebate based on a termination of the agreement may be initiated within the later of a time period set forth in R.S. 47:1561.2 or two years after the date of termination of the agreement.

C.(1) Requests for the rebate of sales and use taxes levied by taxing authorities pursuant to the provisions of this Section shall be processed by the department. A taxpayer shall request a rebate of state tax using a form and in the manner prescribed by the department.

(2) A taxpayer who requests a rebate pursuant to Subsection B of this Section shall do all of the following:

(a) Obtain certification from Louisiana Economic Development that the aerospace facility is an approved aerospace facility eligible to receive a rebate. A copy of the certification shall be submitted to the department with the rebate request.

(b) Submit documentation to the department evidencing the purchases eligible for the rebate.

D.(1) Requests for the rebate of local sales and use taxes pursuant to the provisions of this Section shall be processed by the appropriate local taxing authority. A taxpayer shall claim a rebate of local tax using a form and in the manner required by the local taxing authority.

(2) A taxpayer who requests a rebate pursuant to Subsection B of this Section shall submit documentation to the local taxing authority evidencing the purchases eligible for the rebate.

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

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 191

HOUSE BILL NO. 1091

BY REPRESENTATIVE BOUDREAUX
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 40:1567(A)(1)(a) and (B), relative to local fire departments; to require a fire department to obtain an identification number from the National Emergency Response Information System; to require reporting of all incidents; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 40:1567(A)(1)(a) and (B) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§1567. Fire departments; fire department identification number; fire reports

A.(1)(a) Every municipal fire department, fire protection district, and volunteer fire department, as recognized by its local governing authority, shall obtain a fire department identification (FDID) number from the state fire marshal National Emergency Response Information System.

* * *

B. Organizations which have been issued an FDID number shall submit ~~structural fire reports of all incidents~~ electronically pursuant to the standards set by the state fire marshal.

* * *

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2026.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 192

HOUSE BILL NO. 52
BY REPRESENTATIVE VILLIO
AN ACT

To amend and reenact Code of Criminal Procedure Article 779(A), relative to trial without jury; to provide for the trial of misdemeanors; to provide for certain misdemeanors which may be tried by the court without a jury; to provide for prospective and retroactive application; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Code of Criminal Procedure Article 779(A) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

Art. 779. Trial of misdemeanors

A. A defendant charged with a misdemeanor in which the punishment, as set forth in the statute defining the offense, may be a fine in excess of ~~one~~ two thousand five hundred dollars or imprisonment for more than six months must be tried by a jury of six jurors, all of whom ~~must~~ shall concur to render a verdict.

* * *

Section 2. The provisions of this Act shall be given prospective application and retroactive application to June 8, 2025.

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.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 193

HOUSE BILL NO. 122
BY REPRESENTATIVE NEWELL
AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 33:9074(E), relative to Orleans Parish; to provide relative to the Spring Lake Subdivision Improvement District; to provide relative to the taxes and fees imposed within the district; to provide relative to the term and renewal of such taxes and fees; to increase the maximum fee authorized to be imposed within the district; to provide for effectiveness; and to provide for related matters.

Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published as provided by Article III, Section 13 of the Constitution of Louisiana.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 33:9074(E) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§9074. Spring Lake Subdivision Improvement District

* * *

E. Taxing authority. (1)(a) ~~The city council governing authority of the city of New Orleans is hereby authorized to may~~ levy and collect the special taxes or fees; as authorized by the ~~Spring Lake Subdivision Improvement District, as hereinafter specifically provided for a term not to exceed eight years, district. The taxes or fees shall be levied and collected in the same manner and at the same time as all other ad valorem taxes on property subject to taxation by the city are levied and collected. The governing authority of the city may levy~~ a special ad valorem tax not to exceed five mills or fees not to exceed ~~two hundred dollars~~ three hundred twenty-five dollars per year upon all taxable real property situated within the boundaries of the ~~Spring Lake Subdivision Improvement District. The election on the question of the imposition of the fee may be renewed subject to the provisions of this~~

~~Subparagraph~~ district. The tax or fee ~~herein~~ authorized in this Subsection shall be levied and collected only after the question of its imposition has been submitted to and approved by a majority of the registered voters of the district ~~voting on the question at a regularly scheduled primary or general election to be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Louisiana Election Code who vote on the proposition at an election held for that purpose in accordance with the Louisiana Election Code. The amount of the tax or fee may be changed by duly adopted resolution of the board of commissioners, not to exceed the maximum amount authorized in this Subsection. No such tax or fee shall be levied until a plan requiring or requesting the levy of a tax or fee is finally and conclusively adopted in accordance with the procedures prescribed in this Section.~~

(2) ~~The tax or fee shall expire at the time provided in the proposition authorizing the tax or fee, not to exceed eight years, but may be renewed if approved by the voters in the manner provided in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection. If the tax or fee is renewed, the term of the imposition of the tax or fee shall be as provided in the proposition authorizing such renewal, not to exceed eight years.~~

(3) ~~The proceeds of said~~ the tax or fee shall be used solely and exclusively for the purposes and benefit of the district. The proceeds shall be paid over to the Board of Liquidation, City Debt, day by day as the same are collected and received by the appropriate officials of the city of New Orleans and maintained in a separate account. ~~The Spring Lake Subdivision Improvement District~~ district shall provide the Board of Liquidation, City Debt, the approved annual budget against which a quarterly advance disbursement will be provided based on projected expenditures. All such disbursements to the district and subsequent expenditures by the district shall be reconciled quarterly. The proceeds shall be paid out by the Board of Liquidation, City Debt, upon warrants or drafts drawn on the Board of Liquidation, City Debt, by the appropriate officials of the city and the treasurer of the district and shall be used by the district solely for the purposes provided in this Section. The city may retain one percent of the amount collected as a collection fee.(2) ~~Notwithstanding any other provision in this Section to the contrary, no tax or fee authorized in this Section shall be levied until the maximum amount of the tax has been approved by a majority of the registered voters of the district voting on the question at a regularly scheduled primary or general election conducted in accordance with the Louisiana Election Code.~~

* * *

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.

A true copy:

Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 194

HOUSE BILL NO. 141
BY REPRESENTATIVE MUSCARELLO
AN ACT

To amend and reenact Code of Civil Procedure Article 253(B)(2) and Code of Criminal Procedure Article 14.1(B), relative to private information in court filings; to revise the types of information prohibited in court filings; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Code of Civil Procedure Article 253(B)(2) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

Art. 253. Pleadings, documents, and exhibits to be filed with clerk

* * *

B.

* * *

(2) On and after January 1, 2026, all filings as provided in Paragraph A of this Article and all other provisions of this Chapter filed by an attorney shall only be filed in person in paper form or transmitted electronically in accordance with a system established by a clerk of court or by Louisiana Clerks' Remote Access Authority. The filer shall be responsible for ensuring that private information is not included in filings. No filing shall include the first five digits of any social security number, tax identification numbers, state identification numbers, driver's license numbers, financial account numbers, ~~full dates of birth~~, or any information protected from disclosure by state or federal law. The clerk of court shall adopt a system for the electronic filing and storage of any pleading, document, or exhibit filed with a pleading. A pleading or document filed electronically is deemed filed on the date and time stated on the confirmation of electronic filing sent from the system, if the clerk of court accepts the electronic filing. Public access to electronically filed pleadings and documents shall be in accordance with the rules governing access to paper filings.

* * *

Section 2. Code of Criminal Procedure Article 14.1(B) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

Art. 14.1. Electronic filings

* * *

B.(1) Beginning January 1, 2026, all filings as provided in this Article and all other provisions of this Code, except for expungement proceedings, filed by an attorney shall only be filed in person in paper form or transmitted electronically in accordance with a system established by a clerk of court or by the Louisiana Clerks' Remote Access Authority. The Except as provided in Subparagraph (2) of this Paragraph, the filer shall be responsible for ensuring that private information is not included in filings. No filing shall include the first five digits of any social security number, tax identification numbers, state identification numbers, driver's license numbers, financial account numbers, full dates of birth, or any information protected from disclosure by state or federal law. The clerk of court shall adopt a system for the electronic filing and storage of any pleading, document, or exhibit other than those documents or exhibits introduced and filed at a hearing or trial. Furthermore, in a court that accepts electronic filings in accordance with this Paragraph, the official record shall be the electronic record. A pleading or document filed electronically is deemed filed on the date and time stated on the confirmation of electronic filing sent from the system, if the clerk of court accepts the electronic filing. Public access to electronically filed pleadings and documents shall be in accordance with the rules governing access to written filings.(2) Nothing in this Article shall limit the information required to be provided by a prosecuting agency pursuant to Article 388.

* * *

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 195

**HOUSE BILL NO. 164
BY REPRESENTATIVE HEBERT
AN ACT**

To amend and reenact R.S. 13:716, relative to the Fifteenth Judicial District Court; to authorize the commissioner to preside over criminal, civil, domestic and family law matters; to provide for the powers and duties of the commissioner over criminal, civil, domestic and family law matters; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
Section 1. R.S. 13:716 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:
§716. Commissioner; duties; powers; contempt

A. ~~The commissioner of the Fifteenth Judicial District Court shall perform such duties as are assigned by the chief judge of the district in accordance with rules which shall be prescribed by the elected judges of the court, not inconsistent herewith or with the constitution and laws of the state.~~

B.(1) ~~The commissioner shall have all powers of a district judge not inconsistent with the constitution and laws of the state of Louisiana and the United States, including but not limited to the power to administer oaths and affirmations, take acknowledgments, affidavits, and depositions, sign orders, act in felony and misdemeanor charges, hear preliminary motions, accept pleas in misdemeanor cases including misdemeanor cases preliminary to trial on the merits, conduct trials of misdemeanor cases, fix bail, and sign and issue search and arrest warrants upon probable cause being shown and in accordance with Paragraph (2) of this Subsection.~~

(2) ~~In felony cases, the commissioner shall not try and adjudicate preliminary hearings, motions for discovery, motions to suppress, motions to quash, and trials on the merits. The commissioner may be designated and assigned to hear and determine any felony pretrial matter pending before the court, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Paragraph. The commissioner shall not adjudicate felony cases.~~

(3) ~~In misdemeanor cases, the commissioner may be designated to hear, determine, and adjudicate any matter pending before the court.~~

(4) ~~In civil cases, the commissioner may be designated and assigned to conduct hearings, including evidentiary hearings, and trials, except motions for injunctive relief and temporary restraining orders. In furtherance of the above, civil trials and hearings by the commissioner shall be governed by the following rules:~~

(a) ~~The commissioner may conduct any or all proceedings on any matter pending before the court and order the entry of judgment in any case where the parties consent to the matter being heard and adjudicated by the commissioner. Each judgment so entered shall be signed by a judge of the district. The clerk of court, at the time the action is filed, shall notify the parties of their right to consent to the exercise of such jurisdiction. The decision of the parties shall be communicated to the clerk. An aggrieved party may appeal a judgment of the commissioner rendered pursuant to the authority of this Subsection in the same manner as an appeal from any other judgment of a district court.~~

(b) ~~If any party does not consent to the matter being heard and adjudicated by the commissioner, then the commissioner may be designated to conduct the trials and hearings and to submit to the judge of the appropriate division, proposed findings of fact and recommendations for the disposition thereof of any matter or motion pending before the court or any application for post trial relief made therein. In such cases, the commissioner shall file his proposed findings and recommendations with the court, and a copy shall forthwith be mailed, postage prepaid, to all parties or their counsel of record. Within ten days after transmittal of such copy, any party may traverse such findings or recommendations in writing in such manner as shall be specified by the rules~~

~~of the district court. The judge of the appropriate division shall make a de novo determination of any findings or recommendations to which objection is made. The judge may accept, reject, or modify in whole or in part the findings or recommendations made by the commissioner and also may receive further evidence or recommit the matter to the commissioner with instructions.~~

C. ~~The commissioner shall have the same powers as a judge to punish for contempt of court, as set forth in Code of Civil Procedure Articles 221 through 227.~~

A. ~~The commissioner has all powers of a district judge not inconsistent with the United States Constitution, the Constitution of Louisiana, and applicable federal and state laws.~~

B. ~~The commissioner has jurisdiction over criminal, civil, domestic relations, and family law matters.~~

C. ~~The provisions of this Section do not affect or limit the jurisdiction of a district judge as provided by law.~~

D. ~~Subject to the provisions of Subsections E through G of this Section, the commissioner shall perform such duties as are assigned by the Fifteenth Judicial District Court in accordance with the rules prescribed by the elected judges of the court.~~

E.(1) ~~The powers of the commissioner when hearing criminal matters may include but are not limited to the following:~~

(a) ~~Administering oaths and affirmations.~~
(b) ~~Taking acknowledgments, affidavits, and depositions.~~
(c) ~~Qualifying jurors for grand jury and petit jury duty.~~
(d) ~~Acting on misdemeanor and felony charges through arraignment; however, the commissioner shall not accept pleas of nolo contendere.~~

(e) ~~Presiding over traffic arraignments and accepting pleas of guilty or nolo contendere for traffic offenses issued pursuant to Title 32 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 by issuing recommendations for review and approval by the district court with a corresponding waiver to a right to trial before a district judge made on the record by the defendant.~~(f) ~~Signing and issuing search and arrest warrants upon probable cause being shown.~~

(g) ~~Reviewing probable cause affidavits within forty-eight hours of warrantless arrests.~~

(h) ~~Fixing bail including but not limited to conducting hearings for the purpose of fixing bail and issuing protective orders, if a condition of bail, or if required by statute.~~

(i) ~~Conducting seventy-two hour hearings as provided in Code of Criminal Procedure Article 230.1.~~

(j) ~~Signing waivers of extradition only upon the written consent of the defendant and the expressed waiver of the defendant's right to have his extradition heard by a district court.~~

(k) ~~Supervising all conditions of bail.~~
(l) ~~Supervising special conditions related to domestic violence, protective orders, and any other probation conditions.~~

(m) ~~Reviewing and acting on petitions for temporary protective orders and matters of domestic violence, including the issuance of temporary orders of protection and temporary restraining orders, until such time as hearings may be conducted on the matters.~~

(n) ~~Conducting hearings regarding protective orders and making recommendations to the appropriate district judge for the issuance of a preliminary or permanent injunction.~~

(2) ~~The commissioner has the same powers as a district judge to fine and punish for contempt of court as set forth in Code of Criminal Procedure Articles 20 through 25.~~

F.(1) ~~The powers of the commissioner when hearing civil matters may include but are not limited to the following:~~

(a) ~~Administering oaths and affirmations and performing marriage ceremonies.~~
(b) ~~Taking acknowledgments, affidavits, and depositions.~~
(c) ~~Qualifying jurors for petit jury duty.~~

(d) ~~Reviewing and acting on petitions for temporary protective orders and matters of domestic violence, including the issuance of temporary orders of protection and temporary restraining orders, until such time as hearings may be conducted on the matters.~~

(e) ~~Conducting hearings regarding protective orders and making recommendations to the appropriate judge for the issuance of a preliminary or permanent injunction.~~

(2) ~~The commissioner has the same powers as a district judge to fine and punish for contempt of court as set forth in Code of Civil Procedure Articles 221 through 227.~~

G.(1)(a) ~~The powers of the commissioner when hearing domestic relations and family law matters include but are not limited to the following:~~

(i) ~~Administering oaths and affirmations.~~
(ii) ~~Taking acknowledgments, affidavits, and depositions.~~
(iii) ~~Conducting hearings, including evidentiary hearings and trials in matters for which the commissioner has been designated and assigned to hear.~~

(b) ~~The commissioner has the same powers as a district judge to punish for contempt of court as set forth in Code of Civil Procedure Articles 221 through 227.~~

(2) ~~Civil, domestic relations, and family law matter trials and hearings by the commissioner shall be governed by the following rules:~~

(a) ~~The commissioner may conduct any and all proceedings on any matter pending before the court and order the entry of judgment in any case where the parties consent in writing to the matter being heard and adjudicated~~

by the commissioner. Each judgment entered shall be signed by a judge of the district. The clerk of court, at the time the action is filed, shall notify the parties of their right to consent to the exercise of such jurisdiction. The decision of the parties shall be communicated to the clerk. When the parties' consent is required as provided in this Subsection, the failure of the clerk to file the written waiver in the record shall not affect the validity or enforcement of a commissioner's findings or judgment. An aggrieved party may appeal a judgment of the commissioner rendered pursuant to this Subsection in the same manner as an appeal from any other judgment of a district court.

(b) If any party does not consent to the matter being heard and adjudicated by the commissioner, the commissioner may be designated to conduct the trial or hearing and submit to the judge of the appropriate division proposed findings of fact and recommendations for the disposition of any matter or motion pending before the court or any application for post-trial relief. In such cases, the commissioner shall file his proposed findings and recommendations with the court, and shall mail a copy, postage prepaid, to all parties or their counsel of record. Within ten days after transmittal of such copy, any party may traverse the findings or recommendations in writing in a manner specified by the rules of the district court. The judge of the appropriate division shall make a de novo determination of any findings or recommendations to which objection is made. The judge may accept, reject, or modify in whole or in part the findings or recommendations made by the commissioner and may also receive further evidence or recommit the matter to the commissioner with instructions.

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State

ACT No. 196

HOUSE BILL NO. 851
BY REPRESENTATIVES ILLG, BAYHAM, COATES, COX, DESHOTEL,
DEWITT, DICKERSON, DOMANGUE, FREIBERG, GEYMAN, GREEN,
DANA HENRY, TRAVIS JOHNSON, JACOB LANDRY, MANDIE LANDRY,
MACK, MOORE, ORGERON, RISER, SAWYER, SCHAMERHORN,
SCHLEGEL, AND ZERINGUE AND SENATOR CATHEY

AN ACT
To amend and reenact R.S. 30:2531(A)(4) and to enact R.S. 30:2531(A)(5), relative to littering; to prevent the intentional release of balloons; to provide for exceptions and penalties; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
Section 1. R.S. 30:2531(A)(4) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 30:2531(A)(5) is hereby enacted to read as follows:
§2531. Intentional littering prohibited; criminal penalties; simple littering prohibited; civil penalties; special court costs
A. Intentional littering.

* * *

(4) Whoever violates the provisions of this Subsection by intentionally releasing a balloon or by organizing an event that includes a planned, intentional release of twelve or more balloons is subject to the penalties provided in Paragraph (A)(2) of this Subsection.

- (a) The provisions of this Subsection shall not apply to the following:
- (i) Persons under the age of seventeen.
 - (ii) The negligent or unintentional release of a balloon.
 - (iii) The release of a balloon indoors.
 - (iv) The release of a balloon made of biodegradable or photobiodegradable material.
 - (v) The release of a balloon for scientific or meteorological purposes by or on behalf of a governmental agency, under a governmental contract, or by an educational institution.
 - (vi) The release of a balloon that is attached to a radio tracking device by a person who holds a valid amateur radio operator license.
 - (vii) A hot air balloon that is recovered after launch.

(b) For purposes of this Subsection, the intentional release of multiple balloons at a single event, location, or time is a single violation.

(4)(5) A violation of this Subsection shall be cited within one year of the date on which law enforcement knew or reasonably should have known of the commission of the act.

* * *

A true copy:
Nancy Landry
Secretary of State
