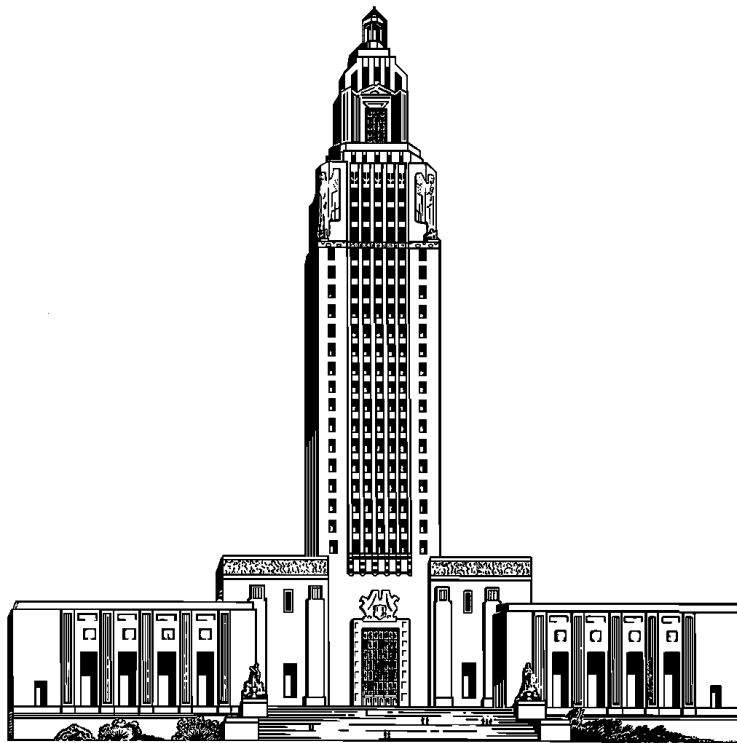


HIGHLIGHTS

of the
2007 Regular Session
of the
Louisiana Legislature



Prepared by:
House Legislative Services
July, 2007

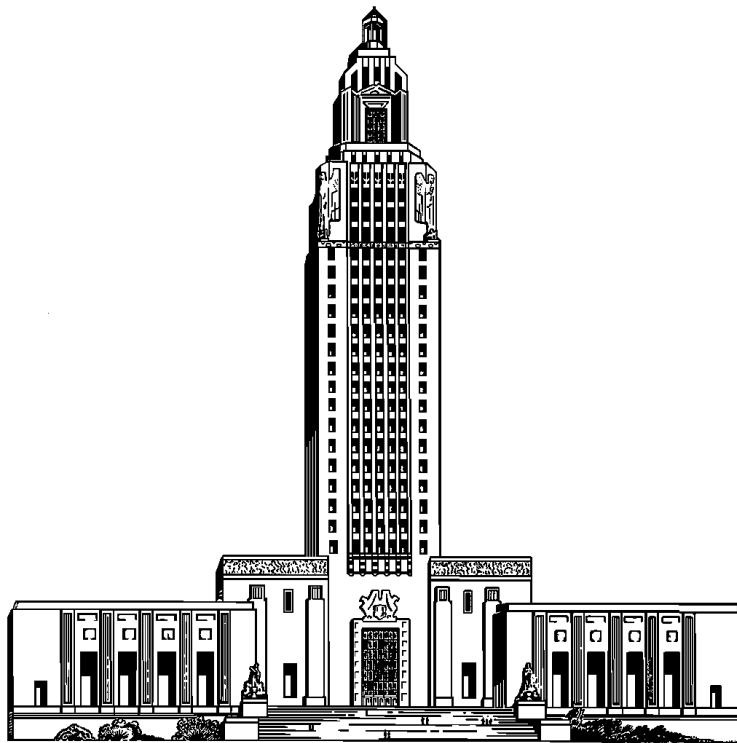
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This public document was published by the Louisiana House of Representatives at a total cost of \$352.94. 140 copies were printed by House Legislative Services, P. O. Box 44486, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804, to provide a summary of selected legislation (Highlights) from the 2007 Regular Session. This material was printed in accordance with the standards for printing by state agencies published pursuant to R.S. 43:31.

HIGHLIGHTS

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ADMINISTRATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

NEW CRIMES

HB 184 by Martiny *(Last Action – Act No. 73)*

Makes it a crime to misappropriate or take utility property valued in excess of \$100 belonging to another without the consent of the owner to the misappropriation or taking. Provides that the intent to permanently deprive the owner of the property is an essential element of the crime. Provides for penalties of a fine of not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment, with or without hard labor, for not less than two years nor more than 10 years, or both.

HB 113 by M. Powell *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Creates the crime of organized retail theft. Defines "organized retail theft" as the intentional procuring, receiving, or concealing of stolen retail property with the intent to sell, deliver, or distribute that property. Provides penalties, when the aggregate amount of the misappropriation, taking, purchasing, possessing, procuring, receiving, or concealing in any 180-day period amounts to a value less than \$500, of imprisonment with or without hard labor for not more than two years, or a fine of not more than \$2,000, or both, and when the value is more than \$500, imprisonment with or without hard labor for not more than 10 years, or a fine of not more than \$10,000, or both.

HB 969 by Downs and Geymann *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Creates the crime of prohibited sexual conduct between an educator and a student. Provides that the consent of a student, whether or not that student is 17 years of age or older, or lack of knowledge of the student's age shall not be defenses. Provides for the penalties of a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment for not more than six months, or both. For a second or subsequent offense, an offender may be fined not more than \$5,000 and shall be imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not less than one year nor more than five years.

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE

HB 313 by Scalise *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Increases the time period for filing an indictment when a defendant is continued in custody from 60 days to 120 days for indictment for felony offenses for which the punishment may be death or life imprisonment.

Administration of Criminal Justice

HB 137 by St. Germain *(Last Action – Act No. 71)*

Provides that the district attorney may petition the court for a sale pending forfeiture of any vessel, vehicle, aircraft, merchandise, or other property which is subject to forfeiture and if the hearing has not been held within 60 days of filing a claim or 180 days of the seizure under certain conditions. Further provides that after notice to interest holders and claimants and a contradictory hearing, if the court rules favorably, the court may order an immediate sale of such vessel, vehicle, aircraft, merchandise, or other property and the proceeds thereof to be deposited until a final judicial disposition is reached. Pursuant to court order, the proceeds shall be held subject to claims of parties in interest to the same extent as the vessel, vehicle, aircraft, merchandise, or other property so sold would have been subject to such claim. Provides that the use of minimum bids is required to ensure that the greater of 50% of the fair market value or 100% of the principal for any interest holder is obtained. Provides for published notice prior to sale.

HB 436 by Martiny *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Provides for an extensive re-write of the law regarding the delivery of indigent defender services in the state. House Bill No. 436 renames the existing indigent defense assistance board and transforms that board into a board with broad regulatory and enforcement capabilities. The bill authorizes the development of uniform standards and guidelines for the delivery of indigent defender services and provides for the authority to sanction attorneys for non-compliance with those standards and also provides for monthly reporting on the district level revenues and expenditures. The bill provides for an improved delivery of indigent defender services through the adoption of uniform standards, regular reporting and enforcement and provides for a system of consistency, monitoring and compliance regarding the delivery of indigent defender services. The bill transfers the existing board members from the Indigent Defense Assistance Board to the Louisiana Public Defender Board. The board is charged with developing mandatory statewide standards and guidelines for the practice of indigent defense delivery which are adopted by rules in accordance with the APA. The bill repeals the provisions of law authorizing individual indigent defender boards in judicial districts.

GAMING

HB 484 by Triche *(Last Action – Senate Calendar)*

Authorizes bars and restaurants having alcoholic beverage permits to make available tables and areas of licensed premises separated for adult patronage only, for the purpose of conducting promotional poker tournaments. Provides for conditions for conducting the tournaments.

Administration of Criminal Justice

SEX OFFENSES

HB 970 by Cazayoux *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Provides for a comprehensive revision of the sex offender registration and notification provisions, including the following major changes:

- (1) Amends the definition of "aggravated offense" and requires those offenders to register for life.
- (2) Adds the definition of "sexual offense against a victim who is a minor" and requires those offenders to register for a period of 25 years.
- (3) Provides that all other sex offenders shall register for a period of 15 years.
- (4) Requires juveniles over the age of 14 who have been adjudicated delinquent for certain offenses to register with local law enforcement agencies.
- (5) Requires sex offenders and child predators to register with the sheriff of the parish of residence, where the offender attends school, where the offender works, and in the parish of conviction.
- (6) Requires the offenders to provide additional information to law enforcement upon registration.
- (7) Decreases the time period in which an offender has to register from 10 days to three business days.
- (8) Requires in-person verification by the offender on a periodic basis. Those convicted of an aggravated offense must verify registration every three months, those convicted of a sexual offense against a victim who is a minor must verify registration every six months, and all other sex offenders shall verify on an annual basis. Requires the offender to submit fingerprints to the sheriff in the parish of residence on an annual basis.
- (9) Amends the procedures in which the sex offender must notify law enforcement of a change of address.
- (10) Amends the community notification requirement regarding notification to the superintendent of park, playground, and recreational districts.
- (11) Consolidates provisions regarding emergency procedures for sex offenders who are displaced or evacuated.

Administration of Criminal Justice

- (12) Amends the provisions regarding the duties of the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections, the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information, and the courts regarding their obligations to notify offenders of their registration and notification requirements.
- (13) Amends provisions relative to the Sex Offender Registry Technology Fund to provide that for 2007-2008 FY, residual monies shall be appropriated to the office of the attorney general, \$200,000 of which shall be allocated for acquisition, implementation, and support of a computer system to assist sheriffs to monitor and track offenders. For 2008-2009 FY, \$150,000 shall be allocated to the office of the attorney general, \$50,000 for personnel and other costs, and \$100,000 for maintenance costs.
- (14) Adds new provision which provides that court records are subject to disclosure to the district attorney, sheriff, or other law enforcement officers for the purpose of fulfilling their duties with regard to sex offender registration and notification requirements, without the necessity of obtaining a court order or other authorization for release of such records.
- (15) Provides that the crime of failure to register shall include the failure to register, periodically renew and update registration, provide proof of residence, notification of change of address, or other registration information, or community notification. Provides that knowingly providing false information to law enforcement shall also constitute a failure to register.
- (16) Requires community notification to be made upon change of residence or every five years.
- (17) Provides that the court may waive sex offender registration and notification requirements in cases of felony carnal knowledge when the victim is 13 years or older and the perpetrator is less than four years older than the victim. Prohibits waiver of these requirements in all other cases, and provides that any order waiving such requirements shall be null and void.

AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AQUACULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

HB 101 by Strain *(Last Action – House Committee)*

HB 108 by Ritchie *(Last Action – Sent to Governor)*

SB 39 by Lentini *(Last Action – House Committee)*

All of these bills would have made cockfighting illegal. As it finally passed, HB 108 prohibits persons from organizing or conducting cockfights and from possessing, training, purchasing, or selling any chicken with the intent that the chicken engage in an unlawful cockfight. Provides for penalties.

Repeals a provision exempting fowl and most birds from the cruelty to animals statute, but exempts certain traditional Mardi Gras activities and the standard transportation and agricultural processing of agriculture products from that statute.

HB 806 by Thompson *(Last Action – Sent to Governor)*

Requires the Louisiana Center for Rural Initiatives to plan, develop, and implement a Delta Development Initiative to be implemented in Caldwell, Catahoula, Concordia, East Carroll, Franklin, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Pointe Coupee, Richland, Tensas, and West Carroll Parishes.

Provides that the Delta Initiative's purpose is to provide for an approach to finding solutions to the Delta region's problems related to poverty, education, health care, economic development and jobs, housing, and culture. In executing the initiative, requires the center to consult and coordinate with both public and private entities.

Components of the initiative are to include a government leadership academy, a rural entrepreneurship program, and a business incubator, and the bill requires the center to develop value-added agriculture enterprises and education and workforce development plans. Further requires the center to address housing and healthcare needs and promote tourism throughout the Delta region.

APPROPRIATIONS

APPROPRIATION BILLS

HB 1 by Alario *(Last Action – Sent to Governor)*

The General Appropriation Bill totals approximately \$29.3 billion, of which \$8 billion is State General Fund (Direct), and \$15.7 billion are Federal Funds. Approximately \$8 billion in Federal and other funds are related to hurricane-disaster relief and recovery efforts.

The following is a summary of major funding items in various areas of the state budget.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Additional federal funding to the Division of Administration Office of Community Development for disaster recovery, including match for local governments and state buildings and housing program expenses	\$	104.9 million
Additional federal funding to the Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness to enhance the capacity of state and local jurisdictions to prevent, respond to, and recover from incidents of terrorism	\$	32.9 million
Additional self-generated funds to the Community Development Block Grant Program for Housing Revolving Loan Fund and Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund	\$	20 million
Additional self-generated funds to the Louisiana Stadium and Exposition District due to increased revenues from events at the Superdome and Arena	\$	15.5 million
Funding and 4 positions to the Division of Administration for implementation of a statewide interoperability communications system for law enforcement and first responders	\$	11.5 million
Funding to the Division of Administration to redesign and begin implementation of the statewide financial and information system	\$	10.2 million
LA Indigent Assistance Board for the District Assistance Program (additional funding)	\$	7.5 million
Funding and 38 positions for the Division of Administration Office of Facility Planning to manage and assist with FEMA funded capital projects	\$	3.5 million
Additional funding and 77 new positions for the Military Department for operations and administration of various military facilities	\$	3.4 million

Appropriations

Increased funding and 63 new positions for the Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness for hazard mitigation and other recovery efforts	\$	1.6 million
Additional funding and 6 positions for the Louisiana State Racing Commission for increased veterinarian services	\$	700,000
Funding and 87 positions for the new 156-bed Northwest Louisiana War Veterans Home located in Bossier City, LA	\$	5.6 million
Funding and 70 positions for the new 156-bed Southeast Louisiana War Veterans Home located in Reserve, LA	\$	5.1 million
Additional funding and 25 positions for an additional 35 beds at the Southwest Louisiana War Veterans Home in Jennings, LA	\$	1.9 million
Additional funding to the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement to develop a curricula and training program for large-scale response to critical emergency situations related to school violence	\$	150,000
Funding in the Executive Department for legal representation in child protection cases	\$	514,005
Funding in Mental Health Advocacy for legal representation of children in child protection cases	\$	250,000
Funding for a web-based online application and employment center in the Department of Civil Service	\$	1.2 million
Funding to implement the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 through information technology projects, voter education efforts and addressing voter accessibility issues	\$	15.1 million
Increased compensation for commissioners-in-charge and certified commissioners who serve at polling places on election day	\$	5.7 million
Additional funding to New Orleans City Park for operational expenses	\$	2.3 million
State aid to local public libraries (\$1.5 million increase)	\$	3 million

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Support for the following sporting events:

1)NBA Allstar Game	\$	2.5 million
2)Essence Music Festival	\$	1.2 million
3)Sugar Bowl	\$	1.1 million
4) FORE! Kids Foundation (Zurich Golf Classic)	\$	337,750
5) Independence Bowl	\$	359,160
6) New Orleans Bowl	\$	335,217

Appropriations

Governor's Rapid Response Program	\$	10 million
Economic Development Matching Grant Program	\$	6.0 million
Advertising, promotion, and marketing related services	\$	5.5 million
Northrop Grumman Ship System	\$	3.3 million
Louisiana Technology Park	\$	2.8 million
Bulk Rice Facility	\$	2.1 million
CG Railway	\$	1.8 million
Union Tank Car (\$1.7 million increase)	\$	3.3 million

PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS

Public Safety Services

Funding and 50 positions for the Office of State Police for a 50-member cadet class	\$	5.3 million
Additional funding and 7 positions for the Office of State Police for maintenance of the 700 and 800 Mhz communications systems	\$	4.9 million
Funding for State Police for 482 replacement vehicles	\$	4.6 million
Additional federal funding for the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission for increased safety efforts in child safety booster seats, alcohol impaired driving, motorcycle safety grants, and safety belt performance	\$	4.5 million
Funding for implementation of the State Uniform Building Code	\$	3.5 million
Funding for State Police for software the mobile data terminals used by state troopers to verify drivers' licenses, vehicle licenses and other NCIC intelligence	\$	2.4 million
Additional funding for the four regional crime labs	\$	2 million
Funding for State Police for tasers for all state troopers	\$	750,500
Additional funding and 7 positions for the State Fire Marshal for efforts to enforce the statewide building code	\$	714,000
Additional funding and 8 positions for State Police for additional crime lab analysts	\$	636,000
Additional funding for State Police to replace expiring bullet-proof vests	\$	591,000
Funding for the St. Tammany Parish Coroner's Forensic Ctr., the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office Crime Lab, the Jefferson Parish Regional DNA Lab, the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office Crime Lab, and the State Police Crime Lab	\$	450,000
Funding for special entrance pay rates for Communications Specialists in State Police	\$	163,000

Appropriations

Corrections Services

Local Housing of Adult State Inmates	\$	131 million
Adult Work Release Program	\$	22 million
Additional funding to increase the per diem rate paid to local authorities by \$1 from \$22.39 to \$23.39	\$	6.6 million
Additional funding and 259 positions for Elayn Hunt Correctional Center for a new skilled nursing facility which will house 279 chronically and terminally ill inmates	\$	9.9 million
Additional funding and 60 positions for Probation and Parole to reduce sexual/violent offender caseloads for P&P agents	\$	3.9 million
Additional funding for Probation and Parole for 115 replacement vehicles for P&P officers	\$	2.4 million
Additional funding for substance abuse treatment for inmates	\$	2 million
Additional funding and 21 positions for the J. Levy Dabadie Correctional Center to provide operational expenses for 80 inmates to provide labor services at England Air Park in Pineville, LA	\$	1.2 million
Additional funding in the rehabilitation program for fast track carpentry and welding programs to prepare inmates in these fields to fill available jobs	\$	810,000
Additional funding for a pilot vocational education janitorial/custodial program to be conducted at Winn, C. Paul Phelps, Dixon, Allen, and Avoyelles correctional centers	\$	500,000
Additional funding and 3 positions for an internal audit section, as recommended by the legislative auditor	\$	393,236

Youth Services

Local Housing of Juvenile Offenders	\$	4.5 million
Additional funding for contract services for prevention and diversion programs for troubled youth	\$	5.3 million
Additional funding for acquisitions and major repairs	\$	4.9 million
Additional funding and 72 positions to cover 4 shifts in a four dormitory, 35-bed expansion at Bridge City Correctional Center for Youth	\$	4.6 million
Additional funding for services delivered by the LSU Health Sciences Center for additional medical, dental, and mental health services for youth in secure care	\$	3 million
Additional funding for 6 developmental psychiatric beds for the treatment of mentally disabled and mentally challenged youth	\$	657,000
Additional funding for operating costs at WARE Detention Center	\$	600,000

Appropriations

HEALTH AND HOSPITALS

Medicaid

Total Funding	\$	6.42 billion
(\$1.67 billion SGF and Stat Ded)		
Major adjustments include:		
Funding for healthcare redesign initiatives	\$	292.6 million
(\$116.5 million SGF and Stat Ded)		
Funding for \$2 pay increase for direct service workers	\$	113.3 million
(\$32 million SGF)		
Funding for the Community Hospital Pool and additional funding for rural hospitals	\$	103.0 million
(\$28.4 million SGF and Stat Ded)		
New Waiver slots	\$	88.5 million
(\$26.1 million SGF)		
Funding to increase Medicaid rates to private providers	\$	97.6 million
(\$27.5 million SGF and Stat Ded)		

Mental Health and Addictive Disorders

Total Funding	\$	433.2 million
Major adjustments include:		
Funding for psychiatric, forensic and detox beds, crisis response and crisis intervention units	\$	86.6 million
(\$48.3 million SGF)		
LSU Health Care Services Division (HCSD)		
Increased Medicaid funding for hospital operations	\$	50.8 million
Increased Uncompensated Care Costs reimbursement for hospital operations	\$	19.9 million

SOCIAL SERVICES

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Initiatives		
Funding for FY 06-07	\$	79.3 million
Funding for FY 07-08	\$	73.6 million
FY 07-08 TANF Initiatives:		
Private Pre-K	\$	8.5 million
After School	\$	12.5 million
Jobs for America's Graduates (JAGS)	\$	500,000
General Education Development (GED) testing	\$	500,000
Truancy	\$	744,470
Microenterprise Development	\$	750,000

Appropriations

Teen Pregnancy	\$	5.5 million
Domestic Abuse	\$	1.5 million
Community Response	\$	1.5 million
Individual Development Accounts	\$	3.5 million
Fatherhood Initiatives	\$	1.5 million
CASA	\$	3.7 million
Drug Courts	\$	5 million
Child Abuse/Neglect	\$	16 million
Nurse Family Partnership	\$	2 million
Abortion Alternatives	\$	1 million
Head Start Initiatives	\$	5 million
Earned Income Tax Credit	\$	1.5 million
Freedom Schools	\$	3.5 million
Solutions to Poverty (SUNO Project)	\$	1 million
Homeless Initiative	\$	1 million
TOTAL	\$	73.6 million

Increase in the reimbursement rates to foster parents and residential care providers	\$	8.3 million
Quality Rating System for child care providers	\$	4.2 million
LaJET and Nutrition Education	\$	2.1 million
State Independent Living Program to provide independent living services to eligible consumers (\$1 million increase)	\$	1.5 million

NATURAL RESOURCES

Additional funding for the Department of Environmental Quality for Non-Point Source Pollution Project in the Terrebonne Basin that should result in pollution reduction strategies to control runoff from agricultural areas, urban areas, and home sewage systems	\$	550,000
Additional funding for the Department of Environmental Quality for bioassessment research that has been expanded to the lower Mississippi River area	\$	514,000
Additional funding for the Department of Environmental Quality for anticipated overtime to process expedited permits	\$	101,000
Addition funding and 4 new positions for Wildlife and Fisheries for aquatic weed control efforts	\$	3.8 million
Addition funding for Wildlife and Fisheries for replacement vehicles	\$	503,000

Appropriations

TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Elimination of 97 vacant positions to reduce the number of authorized positions from 4,986 to 4,889 for the Department of Transportation of Development.

Contract Maintenance to provide for mowing, litter abatement, traffic signal maintenance and installation, rest area security, guardrail maintenance and painting	\$	28.9 million
Heavy equipment replacement in the Highway Districts	\$	23.8 million
Intelligent Transportation System program, which provides motorist assistance patrols, cameras to monitor traffic, traveler information systems including dynamic message signs to provide traveler information	\$	9.6 million
LA Swift bus service between Baton Rouge and New Orleans. FEMA funding for this service will end June 30, 2007.	\$	7.3 million
The Parish Road Program is funded at the same total amount as FY 06-07. However if HB 873 is enacted into law, population changes since July 2005 would have no effect on the allocation of these funds	\$	40 million
The Mass Transit Program allocation will be based on population and passenger count numbers prior to the hurricanes, so no participant in this program will lose funding due to loss of population	\$	6 million
HIGHER EDUCATION	\$	2.8 billion

The total \$2.8 billion appropriation for Higher Education represents an increase of \$207 million (8%) over FY 06-07 existing budget as of December 2006. State General Fund increased by \$228 million (19.4%). Funding includes an additional \$116 million to ensure 100 percent Formula Funding for higher education institutions and to provide additional funding for non-formula institutions and institutions funded above 100 percent; an additional \$30 million for pay increases to faculty; \$22 million for hurricane-affected campuses to assist with student enrollment, faculty recruitment and retention, and to help restore and recover key research and operational capacity, \$5 million for the Community and Technical College Development Pool, and an additional \$14.5 million for workforce training focused on construction trades, nursing and allied health professions.

Appropriations

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Minimum Foundation Program \$ 3.12 billion

The Legislature approved HCR No. 208 as the FY 07-08 MFP and appropriated \$3.12 billion – \$2.86 billion SGF and \$260 million Statutory Dedicated Funds. Certificated pay increases of \$2,375 and support personnel non-certificated pay increases of \$1,000 are provided.

The MFP – HCR No. 208 has significant features:

- 1) At-Risk Weight of 21%.
- 2) 25% State Minimum Support for Level 1.
- 3) Local Contribution Methodology in lieu of Local Fiscal Wealth.
- 4) 10% cap on increases in net assessed property value used in the MFP.
- 5) 15% cap on increases in sales tax base used in the MFP.
- 6) \$91.50 Mandated Costs Per Pupil Funding.
- 7) 10 Year Phase out of Hold-Harmless.
- 8) 50% of new Level 1 and 2 monies for certificated pay raises and retirement benefits if the system's average teacher salary is below the SREB average.

LA4

The LA4 Early Childhood Program is appropriated \$83 million
and may serve up to 17,000 four-year olds \$ 83.0 million
Nonpublic Educational Assistance \$ 34.3 million

TOPS

The Tuition Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) will provide
more than 43,000 awards valued at more than \$119 million for
FY 07-08 \$ 119 million

GO GRANTS

The GO GRANT is the new need-based financial assistance program
budgeted in the Office of Student Financial Assistance for
FY 07-08 \$ 15 million

HB 828 by Alario - Ancillary Appropriations *(Last Action – Sent to Governor)*

Provides for the establishment and reestablishment of agency ancillary funds, to be specifically known as auxiliary funds, internal service funds, or enterprise funds for working capital for certain state institutions, officials, and agencies. Includes the Office of Group Benefits and Office of Risk Management. Appropriates total funding of \$1,723,066,804

Appropriations

as follows: \$11,043,985 from State General Fund (Direct), \$296,791,459 through Interagency Transfers, \$89,000,000 from Statutory Dedications, \$1,317,913,982 from Fees and Self-Generated Revenues; and \$8,423,378 from federal funds.

Authorizes and directs the commissioner of administration to adjust the means of finance for the Department of Health and Hospitals, Medical Vendor Payments, contained in the General Appropriation Act (HB 1 of the 2007 R.S.). Decreases the appropriation from the State General Fund by \$10 million and increases the appropriation from the Louisiana Medical Assistance Trust Fund by \$10 million.

Authorizes and directs the commissioner of administration to make necessary reductions to appropriations contained in the General Appropriation Act (HB 1 of 2007 R.S.) and this Act to effect a State General Fund savings of not to exceed \$30 million. Provides that such reductions may include personnel costs and costs related to vacant positions.

HB 931 by Alario - Judicial Expense Act *(Last Action – Sent to Governor)*

Appropriates funds for FY 2007-2008 for the ordinary operating expenses of the judicial branch of government with total funding of \$138,681,153 from the following sources: \$122,048,046 out of the State General Fund (Direct); \$7,963,107 from statutory dedications out of the Judges' Supplemental Compensation Fund, the Trial Court Case Management Fund, and the Patients' Compensation Fund; and \$8,670,000 through interagency transfers from the Department of Social Services.

Funding for the ordinary operating expenses of the judicial branch of government is provided as follows:

(1)	Louisiana Supreme Court	\$ 60,226,006
(2)	Courts of Appeal	38,987,877
(3)	District Courts	29,386,504
(4)	Criminal Court, Parish of Orleans	5,089,202
(5)	Juvenile and Family Courts	2,014,006
(6)	Other Courts (Required by Statute)	2,391,177
(7)	Other Courts (Not Required by Statute)	586,381
	TOTAL	<u>\$138,681,153</u>

Appropriates an additional \$113,654 out of the State General Fund (Direct) to provide for an increase in the pensions for retired justices and judges of all courts and widows of justices and judges of all courts in the Unfunded Retirement System, subject to legislative authorization.

Appropriations

HB 920 by Salter - Legislative Expenses *(Last Action –Sent to Governor)*

Provides for the expenses of the legislature and legislative service agencies. Appropriates \$66,582,428 from the state general fund for FY 2007-2008 including the following:

House of Representatives	\$ 27,910,435
Senate	\$ 19,060,136
Auditor	\$ 7,919,066
Legislative Fiscal Office	\$ 2,273,604
Louisiana State Law Institute	\$ 988,305
Legislative Budgetary Control Council	\$ 8,430,882
Total state general fund	\$ 65,832,428

Appropriates \$350,000 from the state general fund to establish the Legislative Auditor Ancillary Enterprise Fund as an agency working capital fund; appropriates \$13,369,187 from the fund, which is authorized to be used for expenses of the auditor's office.

Appropriates \$500,000 from the state general fund to the Louisiana Host Committee, LLC, to be used to defray the expenses incurred in hosting the Louisiana event at the National Conference of State Legislatures in Boston in 2007.

Provides that legislative assistants who were employed on or before December 1, 2007, may retain the salary they were earning on December 1, 2007 through August 14, 2008.

HB 774 by Alario - Supplemental Appropriations *(Last Action – Act No. 6)*

Provides for net changes in Fiscal Year 2006-2007 appropriations as follows: State General Fund (Direct) increases by \$47,513,773; Interagency Transfers increase by \$7,500,000; Fees and Self-Generated Revenues increase by \$44,000,000; Statutory Dedications increase by \$20,000,000; Federal Funds decrease by \$300,000.

HB 953 by Alario - Supplemental Appropriations *(Last Action – Sent to Governor)*

Provides for net changes in Fiscal Year 2006-2007 appropriations as follows: State General Fund (Direct) increases by \$54,937,967; Interagency Transfers increase by \$51,985,195; Fees and Self-Generated Revenues increase by \$9,132,307; Statutory Dedications decrease by \$24,393,380; Federal Funds increase by \$11,359,394.

HB 765 by Alario - Supplemental Appropriations *(Last Action – Sent to Governor)*

Increases Fiscal Year 2006-2007 appropriations from the State General Fund (Direct) by \$1,081,637,947, and from Statutory Dedications by \$797,000,000.

EXPENDITURE LIMIT

HCR 10 by Alario *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Directs the commissioner of administration to change the expenditure limit for FY 2006-2007 from \$10,318,239,142 to \$12,196,877,089 to provide for the appropriation authority for the appropriations specified in HB No. 765 of the 2007 R.S., and describes such appropriations.

HB 228 by Scalise *(Last Action – House Committee)*

Would have required recalculation of the expenditure limit as new federal estimates became available in March of each year. Would have required the governor to submit a proposal to reduce the executive budget so as not to exceed the expenditure limit if such recalculations resulted if the executive budget was in excess of the recalculation. Would have required recalculation of the expenditure limit for Fiscal Year 2007-2008 using the federal estimates for personal income for Louisiana available on March 31, 2007.

SPECIAL FUNDS

HB 270 by Alario *(Last Action – Act No. 30)*

Removes the limitation on the proceeds of the 3/100 of 1¢ sales and use tax levied by the La. Tourism Promotion District which may be used for tourism promotion purposes.

HB 919 by Alario *(Last Action – Sent to Governor)*

Dedicates all mineral leases or mineral exploration in the Attakapas Wildlife Management Area for deposit into the La. Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation Fund to provide for purposes of conservation, protection, preservation, management, and replenishment of the state's natural resources and wildlife.

HB 615 by Alario *(Last Action – Sent to Governor)*

Provides with respect to the use and deposit of monies in a variety of special treasury funds. Provisions are added governing the use of monies appropriated from the Calcasieu Parish Fund and Calcasieu Parish Higher Education Fund. The limitation on the balance in the Louisiana Economic and Port Development Fund and the required transfer of monies to the state general fund are deleted. The Louisiana Mega-Project Development Fund is established as a special treasury fund.

Transfers monies from the state general fund for Fiscal Year 2006-2007 for deposit into the following special treasury funds:

Appropriations

FEMA Reimbursement Fund	\$ 77,861,727
2004 Overcollections Fund	13,628,242
Louisiana Interoperability Telecommunication Fund	11,468,930
Louisiana Economic Development Fund	8,329,848
Youthful Offender Management Fund	5,343,302
Criminal Identification and Information Fund	10,148,719
Medical Assistance Trust Fund	414,257,191
Health Care Redesign Fund	120,228,927
Environmental Trust Fund	8,557,287
Waste Tire Management Fund	3,544,348
Higher Education Initiatives Fund	42,192,585
Academic Improvement Fund	29,311,448
Utility and Carrier Inspections/Supervision Fund	322,712
Motor Carrier Regulation Fund	2,145
Economic/Rate and Hearing Exam Supplemental Fee Fund	27,608
Telephonic Solicitation Relief Fund	13,817
Coastal Protection and Restoration Fund	200,000,000
Insure Louisiana Incentives Fund	100,000,000
Poverty Point Reservoir Development Fund	576,500
2004 Overcollections for Quality Educators Program	1,000,000

Transfers \$150,000,000 from the Louisiana Economic and Port Development Fund for deposit into the 2004 Overcollections Fund.

Transfers \$380,000,000 of monies which had been appropriated from the FEMA Fund for deposit into the 2004 Overcollections Fund.

Transfers \$4,000,000 from the Incentive Fund, and \$9,946,595 from the Higher Education Initiatives Fund, all for deposit into the state general fund.

Transfers \$15,000,000 from the state general fund for deposit into the Unclaimed Property Leverage Fund in the event HB No. 531 of the 2007 R.S. is vetoed.

HB 612 by Alario *(Last Action – Sent to Governor)*

Provides with respect to the purposes for which monies may be appropriated from several special treasury funds. The sunset of the 2004 Overcollection Fund was deleted. The purposes for use of monies appropriated from the FEMA Fund were changed to clarify that monies appropriated from this fund may be used to provide bridge funding for the Department of Education for expenses related to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Provisions of the State Emergency Response Fund requiring a transfer of monies from this fund to the Louisiana Citizens Property Insurance Fund were deleted. The Tobacco Settlement Enforcement Fund was established for support of activities of the Department of Justice in enforcement of the provisions of the Master Settlement Agreement. The state treasurer is

Appropriations

required to deposit \$400,000 per year into this fund from the state general fund.

HB 722 by Quezaire *(Last Action – Senate Committee)*

Beginning July 1, 2008, required Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) monies to be restricted to costs for design, construction and related debt service and specifically prohibited the use of TTF monies for retirement or health care contributions. Changed the State Highway Improvement Fund to an account within the TTF and specified that at least \$50 million from the State Highway Improvement Account and the newly created Priority Program Account within the TTF were to be annually dedicated to state highways ineligible for federal assistance. Beginning July 1, 2008, fully dedicated registration and license fees and taxes on trucks and trailers collected toward construction of state highways ineligible for federal highway assistance.

From July 1, 2008 through July 1, 2010, dedicated the state sales tax on motor vehicles to have been distributed to newly created special accounts within the Transportation Trust Fund.

SB 146 by Dupre *(Last Action – Sent to Governor)*

Creates the Windfall Highway, Infrastructure, and Protection Fund (the WHIP Fund). Requires that mineral revenues in excess of the amount of mineral revenues required to be deposited in the Budget Stabilization Fund (the "Rainy Day" Fund) be credited to the WHIP Fund. In FY 2008-2009, 25% of such excess revenues are deposited into the fund; for FY 2009-2010 and thereafter 50% of such excess revenues are to be deposited to the fund. Requires DoTD, the Dept. of Natural Resources, and Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority to annually submit a proposed budget to the appropriate legislative oversight committees for approval. Provides that, initially, 70% of the funds be used for DoTD projects and that 30% be used for hurricane protection and coastal protection and restoration projects. Increases the amount for DoTD projects to 80% in FY 2015 and 90% in FY 2017.

SB 238 by McPherson *(Last Action – Act No. 172)*

Creates the Health Care Redesign Fund. Provides that monies from the fund may only be appropriated for specified health care initiatives or for initiatives that meet specified criteria.

SB 98 by Schedler *(Last Action – Sent to Governor)*

Creates the New Opportunities Waiver Fund for the purpose of adding additional waiver slots from a dedicated source of revenue. Dedicates to the fund 12% of all recurring revenue in excess of the Revenue Estimating Conference's official forecast. Limits the dedication to \$50 million in any fiscal year.

Appropriations

HB 87 by Morrish *(Last Action – Senate Committee)*

Would have created the Citizens Insurance Recovery Fund and dedicated the first \$100 million of the annual proceeds from the state tax on property and casualty insurance premiums into the fund until bonds issued by Louisiana Citizens Property Insurance Corporation as a result of the hurricanes of 2005 had been paid.

HB 258 by J H Smith *(Last Action – House Committee)*

Would have established the Afghanistan/Iraq Bonus Fund as a special treasury fund and provided for a one-time "bonus" of \$500 for Louisiana residents who have served as active duty members of the U.S. military in Afghanistan or Iraq.

HB 321 by Burrell *(Last Action – Senate Calendar)*

HB 531 by Montgomery *(Last Action – Sent to Governor)*

Each of the bills dedicate \$15 million from the unclaimed property account in the state treasury to the Unclaimed Property Leverage Fund and would have allowed appropriation of monies from the fund to costs associated with completing unbuilt portions of I-49.

HB 531 creates two accounts within the Unclaimed Property Leverage Fund - the I-49 North Account and the I-49 South Account. Provides for equally dividing the amount in the Unclaimed Property Leverage Fund to the separate accounts. The I-49 North Account is for construction of I-49 North of I-20 in Shreveport to the Louisiana/Arkansas line, with funding first going toward I-49 north of I-220.

HB 321 additionally would have deposited \$15 million from unclaimed property for FY 2006-2007 into the fund and would have deposited \$30 million into the fund. HB 321 also would have provided that monies may be appropriated for construction of I-49 North of I-20 in Shreveport to the Louisiana/Arkansas line, or for I-49 South from I-10 to the Westbank Expressway.

HB 790 by Doerge, et al *(Last Action – Sent to Governor)*

Increases the state allocation to be made to parish councils on aging. The amount to be received by each parish for each person aged sixty or above who is a resident of that parish is increased from \$1.25 to \$2.50. The minimum amount which may be received by any parish is increased from \$12,000 to \$37,000, and the maximum amount which may be received is increased from \$62,500 to \$100,000. The allocation for the Louisiana Association of Councils on Aging is removed. Provisions relating to the minimum annual appropriation for the foregoing distributions are changed to increase such amount from \$1,076,867 to \$2,776,800.

The Act shall not become effective unless and until sufficient funds are appropriated by the

legislature for such purposes.

SUPPLEMENTAL PAY

HB 4 by Alario *(Last Action – Sent to Governor)*

SB 287 by Heitmeier *(Last Action – House Calendar)*

Authorizes an increases of supplemental pay from \$300 per month to up to \$425 per month for firemen, police officers, and law enforcement officers employed by police agencies of the state or its political subdivisions within certain municipalities and deputy sheriffs who have completed at least one year of service.

Subject to approval of the State Civil Service Commission and the governor, and out of monies appropriated for that purpose, provides a salary increase for commissioned law enforcement agents of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and commissioned law enforcement officers of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, excluding those in the state police service, by an amount equal to the supplemental pay increase. Provides a similar increase for commissioned law enforcement officers employed by public institutions of higher education. Provides for a similar increase for harbor police officers, fireboat operators, and bridge police officers employed by the state, but for the total amount of supplemental pay, not just the increase provided to local fire and law enforcement.

SB 2 by Fontenot *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Constitutional amendment to prohibit the reduction of state salary supplements for full-time local law enforcement and fire protection officers. Further provides that full funding shall be the amount needed to meet legal requirements by law. This is on the Oct. 20, 2007 ballot.

HURRICANES AND DISASTERS

HCR 14 by Hutter *(Last Action – Senate Committee)*

Requests the La. Recovery Authority (the LRA) to implement the individual mitigation measures grant program for eligible homeowners and to report to the legislature the LRA's start date, action plan, and timeline for complete distribution of said grants.

HCR 93 by Jefferson-Bullock *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Request the office of community development of the division of administration to establish greater performance standards and more stringent penalties for failure to comply with these performance standards as soon as possible. Specifically requests that the \$50,000 penalty for each underperforming month be increased by a like amount for each increment of 500 closings ICF falls short of completing each month.

Appropriations

TOBACCO SECURITIZATION

HCR 124, HR 116 by Alario *(Last Action –House Calendar)*

Would have approved the declaration of intent to sell or convey the remaining 40% of the state's allocation of tobacco settlement payments to the Tobacco Settlement Financing Corporation. It also would have approved the re-securitization of the 60% which has already been sold.

CIVIL LAW AND PROCEDURE

MALPRACTICE

HB 281 by Bowler *(Last Action – House Committee)*

Would have clarified the original legislative intent that "malpractice" includes errors and omissions by health care providers whether or not in the course of medical care or treatment by adding to certain definitions within the Medical Malpractice Act.

Would have added to the definition of "malpractice" all related services, and would have included transporting, monitoring, assisting, loading, and unloading of a patient, whether or not in the course of medical care or treatment, to the list of activities included under the definition of "malpractice".

Would have added to the definition of "health care" other services performed or furnished by a health care provider, and would have clarified that the definition includes services during the patient's confinement in a health care facility or institution, whether or not involving medical care or treatment.

CHILDREN/CHILD SUPPORT

HB 249 by McVea *(Last Action – House Committee)*

Would have provided an additional ground for continuation of the alimentary obligation and child support in cases wherein the child has not attained the age of 23, is dependent upon a parent, and is a full-time student in good standing enrolled in a professional or technical training program designed to fit the child for gainful employment or an undergraduate college or university.

SB 73 by Broome *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Creates the Uniform International Child Abduction Prevention Act. Provides for procedures for filing petitions, jurisdiction, and cooperation and communication among courts.

Provides factors to determine risk of abduction and authorizes courts to determine and impose abduction prevention measures and remedies.

Provides that an abduction prevention order remains in effect until the earliest of the time stated in the order, the emancipation of the child, the child attains 18 years of age, or the time the order is modified, revoked, vacated or superceded by a court.

SB 208 by Mount *(Last Action – Sent to Governor)*

Provides a parenting coordination process, which is a child-focused alternate dispute resolution process in which a duly qualified parenting coordinator, assigned by the court in

Civil Law and Procedure

certain high conflict cases, assists parents or persons exercising parental authority to implement a parenting plan by facilitating the resolution of their disputes in a timely manner and to reduce their child-related conflict so that the children may be protected from the impact of that conflict.

EQUAL RIGHTS

HCR 4 by Walker *(Last Action – House Committee)*

Would have provided for ratification of the equal rights amendment to the Constitution of the U.S. stating:

- (1) Equality of rights under law shall not be denied or abridged by the U.S. or any state on account of sex.
- (2) Congress shall have power to enforce by appropriate legislation the provisions hereof.
- (3) This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.

PROPERTY

HB 560 by R. Carter *(Last Action – House Calendar)*

Would have provided that spouses in a proceeding to partition the community property are bound by the valuation of the business entity upon dissolution as set forth in the applicable partnership agreement or articles of organization.

HB 739 by Gallot *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Provides for the execution and filing of an affidavit of cancellation of a mortgage and vendor's privilege by notaries public and title insurers when the paraphed promissory note securing the mortgage or privilege is lost or destroyed, and provides that no mandamus proceeding is required to use the cancellation provisions.

HB 967 by Lorusso *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Provides that the waiver of a property owner's rights to contest the necessity of expropriation and just compensation prior to the taking occurs only after 10 years of actual possession of the property and completion of the facilities; prohibits the acquisition of property rights over adjoining private property.

COMMERCE

BUILDING CODES

HB 215 by Geymann *(Last Action – House Calendar)*

Changes the mandatory provisions of the International Residential Code to require only the enforcement of the design criteria requirements for high wind regions. Allows parishes and municipalities to adopt additional parts of the residential code.

HB267 by Fannin *(Last Action – House Calendar)*

HB278 by Townsend *(Last Action – House Committee)*

Creates exemptions from enforcement of the International Residential Code for parishes and municipalities in central and north Louisiana that lie completely north of certain wind lines established in the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE-7) basic wind speeds map.

HB 629 by Ritchie *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Creates the Louisiana Industrialized Building Act which provides for the standards of construction for industrialized buildings. Provides for the inspection of industrialized buildings by third-party providers along with the enforcement of building code requirements by the state fire marshal and the building code council.

HB 704 by Pinac *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

HB 486 by Fannin *(Last Action – Senate Committee)*

Provides that members of the State Uniform Construction Code Council shall serve at the pleasure of the governor, allows homeowners to use certified third-party providers for plan review and inspections, and establishes a minimum standard for parishes and municipalities to follow in order to comply with the State Uniform Construction Code.

Further clarifies that manufactured housing is exempt from the standards of the State Uniform Construction Code and allows licensed architects and engineers to act as third party providers without certification by a recognized code organization.

Maintains the 2006 version of the International Residential Code with amended design criteria until 2009.

Commerce

COMMERCIAL REGULATION

HB 126 by LaFonta *(Last Action – Act No. 65)*

HB 557 by Honey *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Requires photo identification from persons selling scrap metal to scrap metal dealers. Allows for scrap metal dealers to implement photo identification when identifying scrap metal that has been purchased from a seller. Increases the penalties against scrap metal dealers for noncompliance to not less than \$1,000 or imprisoned not less than 30 days nor more than 1 year, or both.

HB 301 by Hutter *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Requires that residential contractors and home improvement contractors be licensed by the State Licensing Board for Contractors when the cost of the project exceeds \$75,000 and provides that any person registered or licensed by the board who is the subject of two or more complaints within a six-month-period shall have his name and the nature of the complaints posted on the board's website. Prohibits home improvement contractors from filing a lien or privilege with respect to money owed under a contract when the contractor fails to obtain a required certificate of registration with the board.

HB 601 by Winston *(Last Action – Failed to Pass/House)*

Abolishes the Louisiana State Plumbing Board and establishes the Plumbing Contractor's Subcommittee within the State Licensing Board for Contractors for purposes of licensing plumbers. Repeals the Louisiana State Plumbing Code and adopts the International Plumbing Code for use statewide.

ELECTRIC UTILITIES

HB 577 by Pinac *(Last Action – Act No. 55)*

Creates the Louisiana Utilities Restoration Corporation (LURC) as a tax exempt instrumentality of the state. Allows the LURC, if authorized by the Louisiana Public Service Commission, to impose a storm recovery charge on utility customers and to use that revenue stream to pay off bonds for utility storm recovery costs.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

HB 317 by Geymann *(Last Action – Act No. 39)*

Prohibits a licensee pursuant to the Residential Mortgage Lending Act from also acting as a real estate agent or broker in connection with the same residential loan transaction.

EDUCATION

(See the Appropriations section for more highlights relative to elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education, including funding to provide pay increases for public elementary and secondary school teachers and school support personnel and for faculty at public colleges and universities.)

MINIMUM FOUNDATION PROGRAM (MFP)

HCR 208 by Crane (Last Action – Enrolled)

Provides for legislative approval of the formula for FY 2007-2008 to determine the cost of a minimum foundation program (MFP) of education in all public elementary and secondary schools as well as to equitably allocate the funds to city, parish, and other local public school systems (including the Recovery School District and two university laboratory schools) as developed by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and adopted by the board on June 11, 2007. HB 1 appropriates \$3.12 billion to implement the formula and provide pay raises for public elementary and secondary education school teachers and support personnel.

Also, the formula:

- (1) For local school systems (50), state charter schools, and laboratory schools with an average teacher salary below the latest published Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) average, requires 50% of increased funds provided in Levels 1 and 2 over the prior year (after adjusting for increases in student membership) to be used only to supplement and enhance full-time certificated staff salaries and retirement benefits.
- (2) Provides \$91.50 per student to support increasing mandated costs for health insurance, retirement system contributions, and fuel.
- (3) Increases the base per pupil amount **from** \$3,652 **to** \$3,752. (Retains provisions for subsequent annual adjustments in per pupil amount.)
- (4) Increases the weight for add-on student units for at-risk students **from** 0.17 **to** 0.21.
- (5) Provides two mid-year adjustments for counting additional students.
- (6) For FY 2007-2008 only, uses specified minimum membership numbers for six school systems severely impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.
- (7) Uses a local contribution calculation in lieu of a local wealth factor.

Education

- (8) For purposes of calculating the local contribution, uses a cap on the growth in net assessed property value of 10%. Uses a cap on an increase in the computed sales tax base of 15%.
- (9) Requires that local school boards ensure that 70% of the local school system general fund expenditures are in areas of instruction and school administration **at the school building level** as derived by the state Dept. of Education. Defines instruction and school administration for this purpose.
- (10) Implements the first year of a 10-year phase-out of hold harmless funding beginning with a 10% reduction of the revised "over funded" amount in FY 2007-2008. The annual 10% reduction amount will be redistributed in a per pupil amount to all non-hold harmless districts.
- (11) Continues the accountability student transfer enhancement. (Additional funding for a student who transfers from a failing school to an academically acceptable school in another district.)

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

HB 157 by Walsworth *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Requires the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to adopt rules and regulations requiring that every school bus used in the transportation of students be equipped with a crossing control device by not later than Jan. 1, 2008. Provides that HB 157 is subject to the appropriation of funds.

SCHOOL CHOICE/VOUCHERS

HB 623 by Scalise *(Last Action – House Committee/Substitute Bill proposed)*

Would have established the Vouchers for Students Pilot Program as a four-year program beginning with the 2007-2008 school year for participating students in kindergarten through grade 12 in parishes with a population of at least 475,000 persons. Would have provided for eligibility requirements for participating students and nonpublic schools. Would have provided for receipt of vouchers by parents or guardians of eligible students in an amount equal to the average per pupil allocation of state funds (for either a regular education student or a child with exceptionalities, as applicable) to the local school system that the student otherwise would have attended. Would have provided for priority enrollment procedures for nonpublic schools in admitting voucher students. Would have required voucher students in grades four and eight attending a nonpublic school to take all tests required for public school students as part of the state's testing program. Would have provided for program administration and implementation by the state Dept. of Education.

HB 761 by Burns *(Last Action – House Committee)*

Would have established the Vouchers for Students Pilot Program as a four-year program beginning with the 2007-2008 school year for participating students in kindergarten through grade 12 in parishes with a population of at least 475,000 persons. Would have provided for eligibility requirements for participating students and nonpublic schools. Would have provided for receipt of vouchers by parents or guardians of eligible students to pay tuition and fees of eligible students who enroll in eligible nonpublic schools and would have limited such voucher amount to the average per pupil allocation of state funds to the local school system that the student otherwise would have attended. Would have required that all tests administered to public school students pursuant to the school and district accountability program also be administered to all students attending each nonpublic school participating in the program. Would have provided for program administration and implementation by the state Dept. of Education.

SCHOOL FUND ACCOUNTS

HB 775 by Jefferson *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Provides that monies deposited in a school fund account for a school that has been closed due to natural catastrophe or disaster shall be placed under the control of the local school board having jurisdiction over the school prior to its closure or the Recovery School District (RSD), as applicable. Requires each such board or the RSD to create a five-person committee (each committee to include the state superintendent of education or his designee) to invest, withdraw, and expend the monies in such account to meet the financial obligations incurred in connection with the account prior to the school's closure. Provides that the school fund accounts of closed schools in certain school systems shall be managed as a single account after a specified time period. Requires each local school board and the RSD to adopt policies to implement HB 775. Makes HB 775 retroactive to Aug. 29, 2005.

RECOVERY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SB 154 by Ullo *(Last Action – Act No. 207)*

Grants the Recovery School District (RSD) the same authority and autonomy afforded to local public school systems under state law relative to the procurement of services (including personal, professional, consulting, and social services), procurement of immovable property, and the leasing of movable property. Provides that the RSD is not required to obtain approval from any state agency when procuring data processing and telecommunications goods or services, materials, supplies, or major repairs or when disposing of property. Requires compliance with all other applicable laws regarding such procurement and disposition of property.

Education

CURRICULUM

SB 299 by Broome (*Last Action – Act No. 175*)

Requires the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to develop and implement a visual arts curriculum and a performing arts curriculum in public schools. Provides for a phased-in implementation of such requirement beginning with curriculum development in 2007-2008, professional development for teachers in 2008-2009, pilot implementation in 2009-2010, and full implementation for students in kindergarten through grade eight in 2010-2011. Requires that students in kindergarten through grade eight receive 60 minutes of instruction per week in both the visual arts and the performing arts. Requires that, beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, high schools provide such instruction in accordance with curriculum guidelines developed by BESE. Provides that SB 299 is subject to the appropriation of funds by the legislature.

STUDENTS/DISCIPLINE

SB 265 by Ullo (*Last Action – Enrolled*)

Requires a minimum expulsion period of four semesters for students 16 years of age or older and students under the age of 16 who are in grades six through 12 who are found guilty of possession of a firearm on school property, on a school bus, or at a school sponsored event. For students in kindergarten through grade five who are found guilty of such offense, requires a minimum expulsion period of two semesters. Authorizes local superintendents to modify the length of all such expulsion periods on a case-by-case basis.

Requires a minimum expulsion period of four semesters for students 16 years of age or older and two semesters for students under the age of 16 who are in grades six through 12 who are found guilty of possession of illegal drugs on school property, on a school bus, or at a school sponsored event. For students in kindergarten through grade five who are found guilty of such offense, retains current law authority for local superintendents to recommend discipline action to the local school board.

Relative to applications submitted by any local school system requesting a waiver from the requirement that the system provide an alternative education program for suspended and expelled students, prohibits the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education from approving any such waiver application effective with the 2008-2009 school year and thereafter.

STUDENTS/DYSLEXIA SCREENING AND INTERVENTION

SB 160 by Nevers (*Last Action – Sent to Governor*)

Requires the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to develop and implement a pilot program to provide for universal screening of students in kindergarten through grade three for characteristics of dyslexia and related disorders. Requires such screening for every child in such grades at least two times in each year. Provides that once identified, each child with dyslexia or a related disorder will be provided with educational interventions designed to meet his specific needs. Requires periodic monitoring of every identified student to assess progress toward established educational goals. Requires the state Dept. of Education to report to the House and Senate education committees relative to the implementation of the pilot program. Provides that implementation of SB 160 is subject to the appropriation of funds but provides that such appropriation shall not exceed \$450,000.

LA 4

HB 595 by Trahan (*Last Action – Act No. 56*)

Names a program providing for early childhood development and enrichment activity classes (known as LA 4 classes) the "Cecil J. Picard LA 4 Early Childhood Program".

TUITION OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS (TOPS)

HB 634 by Scalise (*Last Action-Enrolled*)

Relative to academic standards for initial TOPS award eligibility, provides, beginning with students who graduate during the 2007-2008 school year, that for a Performance or Honors award, a student from a La. public or BESE-approved nonpublic school must have a minimum cumulative high school GPA of at least 3.00 on a 4.00 scale (calculated on the core curriculum). Also provides that to be eligible for an award through the 2007-2008 award year, a completer of a BESE-approved home study program must have a minimum ACT/SAT score that is at least 2-points higher than the score applicable to students graduating from La. public and BESE-approved nonpublic schools and that, beginning with the 2008-2009 award year, a home study completer must have a 2-point higher minimum test score for a TOPS-Tech or Opportunity award and a 1-point higher minimum score for a Performance or Honors award, if applicable.

SB 94 by Chaisson (*Last Action-Enrolled*)

Relative to a student who was displaced as a result of Hurricanes Katrina or Rita (as defined for TOPS purposes) and who graduates from an out-of-state school during the 2006-2007 school year and is awarded a La. Distance Diploma, provides that such student shall meet TOPS residency requirements if the student is a citizen of the U.S. and if the student actually resided in La. during his entire 10th grade year of high school and was enrolled for such time in an eligible La. high school or, for dependent students, if the student has a parent or court-ordered custodian who actually resided in any of certain specified parishes for at least 12 months prior to specified storm dates.

Education

For such a student, additionally provides that he shall not be required to have for the respective awards a higher minimum composite ACT/SAT score than required for a student who graduates from an eligible La. high school provided the student has, for TOPS-Tech and Opportunity awards, a cumulative high school GPA on all courses on the high school transcript of at least 2.50 on a 4.00 scale or, for Performance and Honors awards, a cumulative high school GPA of at least 3.50 on a 4.00 scale.

Also provides alternative residency and minimum composite ACT/SAT score requirements for dependent students of certain military personnel when the member of the military meets certain other requirements and the dependent student graduates from an out-of-state high school during the 2006-2007 school year.

TEACHERS/TOTAL COMPENSATION

HR 121 by Montgomery *(Last Action – Adopted)*

Requests the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to calculate the total value of all benefits, in addition to salary, provided to La. teachers as part of teachers' total compensation, including but not limited to retirement benefits (including DROP benefits), survivor benefits, health insurance, dental and optical coverage, life insurance, Section 125 flexible benefits plans, worker's compensation, leaves of absence, incentive pay, supplemental pay, and continuing education programs and to submit a written report of its calculation, detailing benefits included and methodology used, to the House and Senate education committees by not later than Oct. 1, 2007.

ENVIRONMENT

HB 805 by Baudoin *(Last Action – House Committee)*

Would have prohibited the use of salt domes or solution-mined salt caverns as a storage or disposal site for exploration and production waste.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

ABORTION

HB 25 by Crowe *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Requires that, at least 24 hours before an abortion, the physician who will perform the abortion inform the woman, orally and in person, of the availability of anesthesia or analgesics to alleviate or eliminate organic pain to the unborn child that could be caused by the method of abortion to be employed. Also mandates that the Department of Health and Hospitals, in English, printed materials that contain a statement regarding the evidence that by 20 weeks an unborn child has the physical structures necessary to experience pain.

CHILDREN

HB 542 by Walker *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Creates the Louisiana Children and Youth Health Insurance Program, which would expand health insurance to children in the state who are ineligible for Medicaid or the Louisiana Children's Health Insurance (LaChip) program and whose family income is between two hundred and three hundred percent of the federal poverty level. Authorizes the Department of Health and Hospitals to provide premium assistance to families of eligible children based on family income on a sliding scale. Provides specifically for eligibility requirements, the enrollment process, promulgation of rules, and cost-sharing requirements.

HEALTH AND HOSPITALS

SB 1 by McPherson *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Authorizes the Department of Health and Hospitals to implement a health care delivery system for Medicaid recipients and low-income uninsured in the state. Known as "Louisiana Health First," the system utilizes the medical home system of care, which ensures that patients are guided by a personal primary care provider who coordinates and facilitates preventive and primary care to improve patient outcomes in the most cost-efficient manner possible. The medical home system of care provides a continuum of care for patients and also incorporates the use of health information technology.

SB 111 by Hines *(Last Action – Conference Committee)*

Creates the North Louisiana Rural Hospital Network Act. Provides for collaboration between rural hospitals in north Louisiana and the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in Shreveport. Further provides for the creation of an advisory committee.

Health and Welfare

SB 179 by McPherson *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Transfers the Huey P. Long Medical Center to the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in Shreveport. Merges the funds, property, records, obligations, functions, and employees of the medical center to the health sciences center. Further provides for the administration of the Huey P. Long Medical Center and the creation of an advisory council.

HCR 171 by Dartez *(Last Action – House Committee)*

Would have urged and requested the Louisiana State University Board of Supervisors to relocate the LSU School of Medicine in New Orleans from New Orleans to Baton Rouge.

HCR 75 by Durand *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

SCR 35 by McPherson *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Urges and requests the Department of Health and Hospitals to engage in a cooperative effort with public and private organizations and institutions in establishing the non-profit entity known as the Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum in order to improve health care quality in the state.

HOSPICES

HB 632 by Strain *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Effective July 1, 2007, the new law imposes a moratorium on the issuance of hospice licenses for a period of eighteen months in order to allow the Department of Health and Hospitals and the hospice industry sufficient time to review the current standards, examine the issues, and promulgate new regulations deemed necessary to resolve uncontrolled growth in the number of hospice facilities and other issues identified.

NURSES

HB 684 by Townsend *(Last Action – House Committee)*

SB 322 by Chaisson *(Last Action – House Committee)*

Would have authorized a nurse anesthetist to perform procedures including but not limited to those involving the injection of local anesthetics, steroids, and analgesics for pain management purposes under the direction and supervision of a physician. Further stated that the procedures for pain management purposes included but were not limited to peripheral nerve blocks, epidural injections, and spinal facet joint injections when the registered nurse anesthetist can document education, training, and experience in performing such procedures.

NURSING HOMES

HB 246 by McDonald *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Provides for the authorization of the Department of Health and Hospitals to certify medication attendants to work in licensed nursing homes until August 1, 2011. The certified medication attendants deliver and administer certain medications under the supervision of a licensed nurse through specific methods. They also record in the resident's chart the medications administered to the resident and chart the medication effects and side effects. Prohibits certified medication attendants from administering controlled dangerous substances; medications by intramuscular, intravenous, or subcutaneous routes; medications by the oral inhalant aerosol route; and medications ordered on an as-needed basis.

Requires DHH, in conjunction with an advisory committee, to promulgate rules and regulations by March 31, 2008 for the enforcement of the new law, including the establishment of an administration course which contains a minimum of one hundred hours.

HB 518 by Daniel *(Last Action – Senate Committee)*

Would have repealed the moratorium on the replacement of existing nursing facilities. Would have also required that a replacement facility utilize existing nursing beds.

SB 74 by Dupre *(Last Action – Sent to Governor)*

Provides an exception to present law which provides for a moratorium on additional nursing facilities and additional beds in nursing facilities until June 30, 2008. Allows any nursing facility in Lafourche Parish located in an area designated a flood zone that has commenced construction on a replacement facility during the period of the moratorium on replacement facilities the ability to be eligible to apply for licensure after June 20, 2008, provided the replacement facility is in an area outside a flood zone in such parish and south of the Company Canal.

SB 97 by Schedler *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Exempts certain nursing facilities from the moratorium on licensing additional nursing beds. Additionally allows the licensing, but not the certification for Medicaid use, of up to thirty additional beds for certain continuing care retirement communities. Authorizes the Department of Health and Hospitals to adopt rules which would allow a nursing home located in a service area which has less than a ninety-three percent occupancy rate to temporarily convert a number of licensed beds for alternate use.

Health and Welfare

OPTOMETRY

HB 682 by Johns *(Last Action – Act No. 66)*

Makes changes to the definition of diagnostic and therapeutic agent to mean any chemical in solution, suspension, emulsion, ointment base, or other form that when used topically or orally has the property of assisting in the diagnosis, prevention, treatment, or mitigation of abnormal conditions and pathology of the human eye and its adnexa, or those which may be used for such purposes, and certain approved narcotics, when used in the treatment of disorders or diseases of the eye and its adnexa.

PODIATRY

HB 770 by Salter *(Last Action – Sent to Governor)*

Allows qualified podiatrists, in accordance with rules promulgated by the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners, to treat the ankle, muscles, or tendons of the lower leg. Requires the board to issue a certificate to practice podiatry that accurately reflects the podiatrist's practice prerogatives based upon his education or level of training, or both. Changes the reasons that the board can refuse to issue, suspend, or revoke a license, certificate, or permit to practice podiatry.

PRESCRIPTIONS

HB 683 by Alario *(Last Action – Senate Committee)*

Would have prohibited a pharmacist from interchanging an anti-epileptic drug for the treatment of epilepsy without the proper notification of and consent from the prescribing physician or patient.

SMOKING

HB 824 by Heaton *(Last Action – House Committee)*

Would have changed the definition of a restaurant in the Louisiana Smoke Free Air Act to permit smoking in a clearly designated and enclosed area which is located within a restaurant and has a separate ventilation system.

HB 537 by Fauchaux *(Last Action – House Committee)*

Would have permitted smoking in bars located in private clubs which are owned by the members of the club, regardless of the type of alcohol permit it holds.

HOUSE AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

ETHICS

HB 138 by Crane *(Last Action – House Committee)*

Would have required legislators to disclose income from lobbyists and the principals and employers of lobbyists received by the legislator, his spouse, or any business enterprise in which he and/or his spouse owns at least ten percent.

HB 493 by Barrow *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Requires each statewide elected official, legislator, and public service commissioner to receive a minimum of two hours of ethics code education and training with a minimum of one hour of the required two hours to be received in the first year of his term and an additional one hour of education and training on the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act (CFDA) during his term, commencing with terms beginning on or after January 1, 2008, and thereafter. Requires every other elected official to receive a minimum of two hours of ethics code education and training in the first year of his term of office and to receive an additional one hour of education and training on the CFDA during his term, commencing with terms beginning Jan. 1, 2010, and thereafter. Requires all other public servants to receive a minimum of two hours of ethics code education and training during each four-year period commencing on Jan. 1, 2012 thru Dec. 31, 2015, and each four year period thereafter. Authorizes such education and training to be received either in person or via the Internet through the training and education materials designed by the board in accordance with present and proposed law. Requires the board to keep records of compliance with the requirements of present and proposed law by each public servant and by state agencies.

Requires the board to publish, both in hardcopy format and via the Internet, all public charges, opinions, letters of advice, and decisions of the board and its predecessors concerning all of the laws under the jurisdiction of the board. Also requires the board to compile and publish, both in hardcopy format and via the Internet, an index referencing each such charge, opinion, letter of advice, and decision of the board and its predecessors to the specific citations of law on which the charge, opinion, letter of advice, or decision is based.

HB 532 by Daniel *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Requires the Board of Ethics to select an ethics administrator to serve as general counsel to the board, to provide general office management, and to perform other functions that the board may delegate. Requires the ethics administrator to be a full-time public employee and prohibits him from engaging in any employment with any other agency of the state or with a political subdivision or agency thereof or enter into any contract or subcontract with any other agency of the state or with a political subdivision or agency thereof. Further prohibits him from engaging in outside business activities requiring active participation as determined

House and Governmental Affairs

by the board, including the practice of any profession for compensation other than in performing his public duties and responsibilities as ethics administrator. These requirements become effective August 15, 2008.

Requires the person holding the title of ethics administrator to, within 30 days after the signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action, file a written disclosure statement with the Board of Ethics. Requires such disclosure statement to contain a description of all outside business activities requiring active participation in which the ethics administrator is currently engaged, including a description of services performed and the identity of each person for whom such services are performed. Provides that the ethics administrator shall thereafter file an updated disclosure statement every three months until August 15, 2008. Provides that all disclosure statements filed by the ethics administrator shall be subject to the provisions of the public records law (R.S. 44:1 et seq.). These requirements become effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

HB 597 by Smiley *(Last Action – House Committee)*

Would have repealed the current annual financial disclosure report required of legislators and provided that legislators and statewide elected officials file the same financial disclosure reports currently required for the governor.

HB 730 by Jackson *(Last Action – Conference Committee)*

Would have extended the financial disclosure reports currently required for the governor and gubernatorial candidates to all statewide elected officials, candidates for statewide office, the Board of Ethics, and the ethics administrator. Would have expanded the current legislative financial disclosure requirements to require the disclosure of various types of income received by a legislator or his spouse by specified categories (less than \$10,000; \$10,000 to \$49,999.99; and \$50,000 or more). Would have further required the disclosure of the value, location, and classification of immovable property held by the member or his spouse; the disclosure of the value of certain stocks, investments, and interest held by the member or his spouse; and the disclosure of the value of certain liabilities of the member or his spouse all by the same specified categories listed previously. Would have extended such financial disclosure requirements to candidates for the legislature and would have extended similar requirements to all other elected officials.

ELECTIONS

HB 6 by Katz *(Last Action – House Committee)*

Would have changed the hours that the polls are open on election day from 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

House and Governmental Affairs

HB 248 by Ansardi *(Last Action – Sent to Governor)*

Extends the period for early voting by one day to be the period from fourteen days to seven days prior to any scheduled election.

HB 347 by Gallot *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Increases the compensation of commissioners-in-charge and certified commissioners. The compensation of a commissioner-in-charge is increased from \$150 to \$250; the compensation of a commissioner-in-charge who serves at more than one precinct is \$300; the compensation of a commissioner who has received a certificate of instruction, as provided in R.S. 18:431(A), is increased from \$50 to \$100; and the compensation of a commissioner who has received a certificate of instruction, as provided in R.S. 18:431(B), is increased from \$100 to \$200.

HB 619 by Jefferson-Bullock *(Last Action – Failed to Pass/House)*

Would have extended the time period for responding to challenges to a person's voter registration that require the person to appear and show cause to avoid cancellation. Would have allowed for the application to displaced voters of certain provisions applicable to members of the U.S. service or persons residing outside of the U.S., including using the federal postcard application, and provisions allowing a person who registered by mail on or after October 5, 2004, but prior to September 25, 2005, and who has not yet voted in the parish in which he is registered to vote absentee by mail rather than being required to vote in person. Would have allowed for satellite early voting in parishes with a population of at least 180,000 for displaced persons registered to vote in a parish containing an affected area for which the secretary of state, at any time during the five-year period preceding the election, submitted an emergency plan to the legislature. Would have been effective through December 31, 2007.

SB 103 by Jackson *(Last Action – Sent to Governor)*

Increases the salary ranges provided in the 12-step pay scale provided by law for registrars of voters, chief deputy registrars, and confidential assistants of registrars.

SB 105 by Jackson *(Last Action – Act No. 124)*

Allows a qualified voter who submits his mobility impaired identification card issued by the office of motor vehicles to the registrar of voters and a person who is sixty-five or older to vote absentee by mail. Provides that a valid application by such a person remains valid for a period of one year from the date such application was delivered to the registrar. Requires the registrar to inform each such applicant in writing of the date on which his application will no longer be valid.

House and Governmental Affairs

ELECTED OFFICIALS

HB 489 by Toomy *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Increases the salary of the governor from \$95,000 to \$130,000 and the salary of the other statewide elected officials from \$85,000 to \$115,000. Becomes effective at noon on Jan. 14, 2008, provided that public elementary and secondary school teachers and state employees receive an increase in salary prior to such time.

LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE

HCR 194 by Hebert *(Last Action – Failed to Pass/House)*

Would have enacted a joint rule providing that, in either house, a motion for final passage or to adopt a conference committee report on the Capital Outlay Bill shall not be in order unless the amount of funding required for the projects contained within the bill as proposed is equal to or less than the amount of financing available to fund such projects (the actual amount used to fund projects in the fiscal year prior to the current fiscal year as adjusted by the rate of change in the CPI from the prior year to the current year plus an amount equal to ten percent of such adjusted amount). Would have become effective July 1, 2012.

HR 69 by Morrish *(Last Action – Adopted)*

Amends the House Rules to require the submission of detailed information with any amendment to the General Appropriation Bill which proposes to provide funding for an entity which is neither a budget unit nor a political subdivision of the state. Specifies the information to be provided, including information about the recipient entity and about any state officials and their family members who have certain interests in or a contract with the entity. Requires the Clerk to prescribe the form for submitting the information and to make such information available to the public on the Internet. Provides that each form is a public record and must be made available to each member of the House at least one hour prior to the consideration of any such amendment by a standing committee, the Committee of the Whole, or the House. Provides further that a motion to adopt any such amendment by a committee, the Committee of the Whole, or the House shall be out of order unless the completed form is provided to the members of the House as required by the proposed rule. Provides that a majority of the elected members of the House may suspend the rule.

HR 75 by Daniel *(Last Action – Failed to Pass/House)*

Would have amended the House Rules to provide for two additional House conferees to be appointed to a conference committee: (1) a member of the committee that reported the bill or resolution who was present at the meeting at which the bill or resolution was reported and (2) if 25 or more members voted against final passage of the bill or resolution, one member

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appointed by the Speaker from among such members, or if fewer than 25 members voted against the final passage of the bill or resolution, one member appointed by the Speaker.

Would have prohibited a member of a conference committee from signing the report of the conference committee unless the conference committee had held a public meeting; however, no public meeting would have been required prior to conferees signing the report if the report solely recommended technical amendments.

CIVIL SERVICE

SB 128 by Heitmeier *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

The proposed constitutional amendment authorizes the legislature to supplement the uniform pay plans for sworn, commissioned law enforcement officers employed by a police agency of the state or its political subdivisions and for fire protection officers employed by a port authority. Provides that the supplemental pay may come from any available funds of the state, the department, the agency, or the political subdivision. Provides that such supplemental pay may be made available only for those sworn, commissioned law enforcement officers employed on a full-time basis who serve the welfare of the public in the capacity of a police officer by providing police services to the general public, by effecting arrests, issuing citations, and serving warrants while patrolling waterways and riverfront areas and for those fire protection officers employed on a full-time basis who provide fire protection services to a port authority. Specifies submission of the amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held on October 20, 2007.

INSURANCE

LIMITING RIGHT OF ACTION AGAINST INSURERS

HB 381 by Bowler *(Last Action – Act No. 43)*

Provides that no insurance policy shall contain a provision limiting the right of action against an insurer to less than 24 months after the inception of the loss when the first-party claim arises under certain policies of insurance. Changes the prescriptive period for suits based on the fire insurance policy from 12 months to 24 months. Specifies that the 24-month prescriptive period for any suit or action based on such policies shall be limited to first-party claims.

MODIFICATION OF LA CITIZENS' BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HB 431 by Farrar *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Modifies the composition of the board of directors for the Louisiana Citizens Property Insurance Corporation. The bill retains two of the three at-large appointments and the appointment from the American Insurance Association but otherwise changes the remaining six gubernatorial appointees as follows: (1) One from a list of two nominees from the Louisiana Bankers Association; (2) One from a list of two nominees from the Louisiana Home Builders Association; (3) One from a list of two nominees from the Society of Louisiana Certified Public Accountants; (4) One from a list of two nominees from the Louisiana District Attorneys Association; (5) One from a list of three nominees from the Property Casualty Insurers Association; and (6) One from a list of three nominees from the largest domestic property insurer in the state. Requires that any member who misses 3 consecutive meetings be removed from the board. Provides for staggered terms for members appointed to the board by the governor and the commissioner of insurance, effective January 1, 2008.

MITIGATION DISCOUNTS

HB 558 by Salter *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Requires property insurers to provide a discount, credit, rate differential, adjustment in deductible, or other adjustments to reduce the insurance premiums to insureds who: (1) build or retrofit a structure to comply with the State Uniform Construction Code; or (2) install mitigation improvements or retrofit their property utilizing construction techniques demonstrated to reduce the amount of loss from a windstorm or hurricane.

Insurance

INSURE LOUISIANA INCENTIVE PROGRAM

HB 678 by K. Carter (*Last Action – Enrolled*)

Creates the Insure Louisiana Incentive Program in the state treasury and provides that the program's purpose is to promote economic development and stability in Louisiana by encouraging additional insurers to participate in the voluntary property insurance market. Provides that the total amount of funds available for this program is the amount appropriated or otherwise made available to the fund by the legislature. Provides that the commissioner of insurance may grant matching capital funds to qualified property insurers, including approved unauthorized insurers, from the fund. Requires that the commissioner issue a public invitation to insurers to submit grant applications upon implementation of the program and that the commissioner shall not allocate individual grants of less than \$2 million nor in excess of \$10 million in the initial applications. In the initial allocation of grants the commissioner must allocate 50% of the total amount of funds available to insurers seeking grants between \$5 and \$10 million and 50% to insurers seeking grants between \$2 and \$5 million. Also, the commissioner shall give preference to domestic insurers during the initial allocation process. Further provides that a second invitation for grant applications shall be issued by the commissioner in the event that all monies in the fund are not allocated in response to the first invitation for grant applications. In the second invitation, the commissioner shall not allocate individual grants less than \$2 million nor in excess of \$10 million, but insurers who have been allocated a grant in response to the first invitation may apply for an additional grant up to the \$10 million limit. Provides that insurers must write 25% of the net written premium for policyholders whose property was formerly insured by the Louisiana Citizens Property Insurance Corporation (Citizens). Specifies that at least 50% of the net written premium shall be received from policyholders whose property is located in the parishes included in the federal Gulf Opportunity Zone Act of 2005 in Louisiana (Go Zone Act). Further provides that at least half of the 25% of net written premium to be received from policyholders who were formerly insured by Citizens must be policyholders whose property is located in the parishes included in the Go Zone Act. Also, provides criteria for insurers who receive the matching capital fund grant and criteria for failing to comply with the statutory or regulatory requirements for the grant.

House Bill 678 also establishes the criteria for insurers applying for grants. Provides that upon enactment of federal law providing for the creation of a National Catastrophe Reinsurance Fund the legislature may authorize the creation of the Louisiana State Catastrophe Fund established in the state treasury to qualify for participation in the National Fund and provide premium savings to consumers. Establishes a non-refundable credit against individual income tax each tax year for 7% of the premiums on a homeowner's insurance policy, condominium owners' insurance policy, or a tenant's homeowners' insurance policy paid by the individual during the tax year for the primary residence of the individual, minus any tax credit provided for the LA Citizens assessment. Provides that any excess of allowable credit over the tax liabilities against which such credit can be applied constitutes an overpayment for which the secretary of the Department of Revenue is to make a refund

of the overpayment from the current collections of the taxes together with interest by law. Provides that certain required take out provisions applicable to insurers participating in the program become effective on December 1, 2007. Also, makes the property insurance tax credit provision of this Act effective on July 1, 2008. Otherwise, this Act shall become effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

PERSONAL PROPERTY COVERAGE

HB 717 by Baylor *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Provides that in the gubernatorially declared disaster for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, any insurance company that issues a homeowner's policy that includes personal property coverage in the coastal parishes of the state must offer, during the term of the policy, a residential property policy that provides dwelling coverage without personal property coverage or an exclusion of personal property coverage. Requires that a reduction in coverage must be accompanied by an appropriate reduction in premium which will be returned to the policyholder. Also, provides that the issuance of a substitute dwelling coverage policy or an exclusion of personal property coverage during the existence of the policy shall not be considered a new policy. The provisions of this Act that are applicable to the option to select a residential property policy that provides dwelling coverage without personal property shall become effective on July 20, 2007. The provisions of this Act that are applicable to the option to select an exclusion of personal property coverage shall become effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of the time for gubernatorial action but shall only apply to policies in existence on or after January 1, 2008.

ABOLITION OF THE INSURANCE RATING COMMISSION

HB 960 by K. Carter *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Abolishes the Louisiana Insurance Rating Commission (LIRC) and provides for a "file and use" system of rating for property and casualty insurance rates. Transfers other powers, functions, and duties of the LIRC to the commissioner of insurance and the Louisiana Department of Insurance (LDOI) but limits the authority of the commissioner and the LDOI relative to rate regulation. Provides that for all lines of insurance, each application for a rate change is to be on file with the commissioner of insurance, and unless disapproved in writing within 45 days, the application is deemed approved. Also allows the commissioner to reduce or eliminate this waiting period by rule, regulation, or order. Further provides that insurers, except with regard to workers' compensation and medical malpractice insurance, with not less than \$10,000 in annual premiums are required to file insurance rates with the commissioner for informational purposes only. Also allows the commissioner to reduce or eliminate the annual premium threshold by rule, regulation, or order. Provides for definitions, including defining a "noncompetitive market" as a market which is subject to a ruling pursuant by the commissioner that a reasonable degree of competition does not exist; specifies that residual markets and pools are noncompetitive markets for purposes of this

Insurance

Act. Provides that a competitive market for a line of insurance is presumed to exist unless the commissioner, after notice and hearing, rules that a reasonable degree of competition does not exist. Specifies the factors to be considered by the commissioner in making this determination; requires that the ruling identify those factors that have caused the market to be noncompetitive and the actions to be undertaken to return competition to the market. Provides that any such ruling expire in one year unless rescinded or renewed; requires a hearing for renewal of a ruling. Requires the commissioner to regularly monitor the degree and existence of competition in this state.

MODIFICATION OF LA CITIZENS RATING STRUCTURE

HB 962 by Morrell *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Provides that the Louisiana Citizens Property Insurance Corporation (Citizens) charge the higher of the actuarial rate or the rates equal to the highest of the top ten insurers with the greatest total direct written premium for residential property insurance in any noncompetitive market. Further, provides that if the commissioner is informed that Citizens is writing more than 50% of the residential property insurance business in a market, he must determine if a reasonable degree of competition exists in that market. Establishes the factors that the commissioner should consider in determining if a reasonable degree of competition exists in a particular line of insurance. If the commissioner finds that a competitive market does not exist, he shall inform Citizens' board of directors. Citizens shall use that commissioner's findings in determining the application of its noncompetitive rating structure to residential property insurance policies in the noncompetitive market. Provides that Citizens' 10% rate in excess of the rates charged among the 10 insurers with the greatest total direct written premium in each parish for that line of business in the preceding year shall not apply to Calcasieu, Cameron, Vermilion, Iberia, St. Tammany, Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Terrebonne, and Lafourche. Authorizes the legislative auditor to conduct financial examinations of the Property Insurance Association of Louisiana, the Louisiana Automobile Insurance Plan, and the Louisiana Citizens Property Insurance Corporation.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of the time for gubernatorial action.

JUDICIARY

JUDGES

HB 72 by R. Carter *(Last Action – Act No. 3)*

Provides for an additional judgeship in the 21st Judicial District Court (Livingston, St. Helena, and Tangipahoa Parishes) with subject matter jurisdiction limited to juvenile matters as provided by law.

HB 121 by Walsworth *(Last Action – Act No. 64)*

Creates two additional judgeships in the 4th Judicial District Court (Morehouse and Ouachita Parishes).

HB 162 by Burns *(Last Action – Senate Committee)*

Would have provided for two additional judgeships in the 22nd Judicial District Court (St. Tammany and Washington Parishes) with specified jurisdiction.

HB 846 by Bruce *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Provides that the 11th Judicial District Court shall be composed of Sabine Parish and the newly created 42nd Judicial District Court shall be composed of DeSoto Parish with the 11th JDC having one judge and the 42nd JDC having two judges.

HB 974 by Farrar *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Provides that the actual salary of the supreme court, courts of appeal, and district court judges shall be increased by 4.5%, 4.6%, and 4.9%, respectively, each year on July 1, 2008, July 1, 2009, and on July 1, 2010, subject to an annual appropriation for such purposes.

Provides that the state-paid actual salary of city court and parish court judges shall be increased by 4.9% each year on July 1, 2008, July 1, 2009, and on July 1, 2010, subject to an annual appropriation for such purposes.

Effective July 1, 2010, proposed law deletes increases in compensation of sheriffs tied to the salary of the judges of the Orleans District Court for the parish of Orleans and provides that sheriffs' compensation may only be increased by legislative act.

Judiciary

SB 162 by Shepherd *(Last Action – Sent to Governor)*

Provides for a judgeship in the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal upon a vacancy in the court.

The first vacancy created by the death, resignation, retirement, or removal of a judge of the first district occurring after August 15, 2007, shall be filled by election from election section two of the first district. If no election has occurred or is scheduled to occur from election section two prior to the opening of qualifying for the regular statewide elections in 2012, the regular election to fill the judgeship designated as Division G of the first district shall be held in election section two of the first district.

At the time a judgeship is assigned to election section two, the remaining five judgeships from the first district shall be assigned to election section one.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

HB 120 by McVea *(Last Action – Senate Committee)*

Would have prohibited a separate shelter for housing sexual offenders from being established by the Office of Homeland Security in any parish unless the governing authority of the affected parish has approved by ordinance an authorization for the establishment of such a shelter.

HB 148 by Farrar *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Present law provided that on July 1, 2006 the annual salary of each of the assistant district attorneys in the state shall be \$35,000 and effective July 1, 2007, \$40,000. This changes the increase as of July 1, 2007 to \$45,000.

HB 210 by Faucheux *(Last Action – Act No. 77)*

Provides for the salaries of the various district clerks of court in the state as follows:

(a) Less than 50,000	\$ 88,000
(b) 50,000-200,000	\$ 98,000
(c) Over 200,000	\$108,000

LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

CONTRACTOR

HB 156 by Triche *(Last Action – Senate Committee)*

Would have exempted contractors who are sole proprietors from the contractor licensing requirement that one must maintain a workers' compensation insurance policy. This exemption would have applied only to contractors who are casual employees.

EMPLOYMENT/WAGES

HB 119 by Hunter *(Last Action – Failed to Pass/House)*

Sought to codify federal law by gradually increasing minimum wage for all workers in Louisiana from \$5.15 to \$7.25 per hour. Would have provided for the Federal Tip Wage provision which allows employee's tips to be computed in calculating minimum wage.

HB 158 by Hunter *(Last Action – Failed to Pass/House)*

Would have created the Equal Pay for Women Act. Would have prohibited employers from paying female employees less than male employees for performing the same job with the same level of education, experience, and training. Also would have provided employers ninety days to correct a pay discrepancy without penalties.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

HB 221 by Morrell *(Last Action – Sent to Governor)*

Extends the date of reimbursement of unemployment benefits charged to the state, local governments, or eligible nonprofit organizations as a result of Hurricane Katrina or Rita from January 1, 2007 to July 1, 2008.

HB 963 by Marchand *(Last Action – Sent to Governor)*

Creates the Lost Wage Benefits for Domestic Violence Victims Acts. Allows domestic violence victims to collect lost wage benefits when they must leave their employment to escape the abuse. The benefits are not charged to the employer's account nor are they charged to the unemployment trust fund. Benefits are paid from monies appropriated by the state, plus any federal funds; donations, gifts, or grants; and any other monies which may be provided by law for this purposes.

Labor and Industrial Relations

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

HB 832 by Hunter (*Last Action – Act No.59*)

Re-authorizes the Incumbent Worker Training Program. This program funds training for businesses operating in Louisiana that incur a state unemployment insurance tax liability to upgrade job skills through training.

MUNICIPAL, PAROCHIAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

HB 320 by Walker and Baudoin *(Last Action – Failed to Pass/House)*

Would have enacted the Louisiana Residential Swimming Pool Safety Act which would have required that every parish and municipality in the state adopt a local ordinance requiring that residential swimming pools within the jurisdiction of the respective parish or municipality be equipped with at least one of the following pool safety features:

- (1) The pool be enclosed by a barrier that meets the requirements of **HB 320**.
- (2) The pool be equipped with an approved pool safety cover as provided for in **HB 320**.

HB 336 by Montgomery, et al. *(Last Action – Act No. 187)*

Authorizes a municipal governing authority to adopt ordinances establishing speed limits and speed zones on private roads when requested by the owner of such private road. Provides that no speed shall be permitted which is in excess of the specific maximum speed limits established by **present law** (R.S. 32:1 et seq.). Additionally, relative to private roads, authorizes a municipal governing authority to adopt ordinances enforcing the provisions of **present law** (R.S. 32:1 et seq.), regulations of the Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) and of the department secretary and local regulations, by means of police officers or by the use of traffic-control devices approved by DOTD. Provides that any law enforcement agency with jurisdiction in the municipality may enforce compliance with an ordinance adopted pursuant to **HB 336**.

HB 559 by Erdey *(Last Action – Act No. 193)*

Authorizes any municipality or parish to adopt ordinances establishing an administrative adjudication hearing procedure for hearings for persons charged with violating a public health, housing, fire code, environmental, and historic district ordinance. Removes the population restriction that authorized only municipalities and parishes with a population of 90,000 persons or more to adopt such ordinances.

HB 758 by Montgomery *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Authorizes the governing authority of any municipality having a population of greater than 125,000 persons but not exceeding 225,000 persons as of the most recent federal decennial census to enact ordinances to control and abate odor nuisances. Requires that such ordinances provide that no person shall cause or allow the emission of odorous air contaminants from any single source that result in detectable odors. **HB 758** is applicable only to control and abatement of emission of odorous air contaminants by a rendering plant located within the corporate limits of the municipality. Provides that for purposes of **HB 758**

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"rendering plant" shall mean an establishment primarily engaged in converting waste animal tissue into stable, value-added materials. Provides that rendering can refer generally to any processing of animal by products into more useful material, or more narrowly to the rendering of whole animal fatty tissue into purified fats like lard or suet.

HB 759 by Downs *(Last Action – Act No. 202)*

Authorizes a political subdivision to establish, by ordinance or resolution, post-employment benefits funds. Defines "post-employment benefits" as health care, life insurance, or any other benefit, not including pension benefits, provided by the political subdivision to a person who is no longer employed by such political subdivision. Provides that any such fund shall be established for the purpose of paying the employer's share of post-employment benefits of employees, all as prescribed by the ordinance or resolution creating the fund. Additionally provides that any such fund may be for the purpose of paying the employer's share of post-employment benefits of employees of political subdivisions created by, or for which taxes are levied by, the political subdivision creating the fund.

HB 794 by Salter *(Last Action – Act No. 159)*

Provides that any parish, municipality, school board, special district, or political subdivision, may legally invest any monies or funds belonging to them or within their control in a Louisiana Business and Industrial Development Company established pursuant to the Louisiana Business and Industrial Development Company Act. Further provides that nothing in **HB 794** shall be construed as relieving any person or persons of any duty of exercising reasonable care in selecting securities.

HB 802 by Beard *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, prohibits a political subdivision from purchasing immovable property with a value greater than \$3000 unless prior to such purchase the property has been appraised by a qualified appraiser. Provides that no such appraisal shall include the value of improvements proposed to be made to the property after purchase by the political subdivision.

SCR 20 by Adley *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Requests each parish governing authority to post its official journals and announcements, and meeting dates, times and places on its website, if the governing authority has a website.

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FIRE SERVICE

HB 914 by Montgomery and J. Smith *(Last Action – House Committee)*

SB 329 by Adley *(Last Action – House Committee)*

Would have required the Bossier City Fire Department to evaluate employees upon confirmation as regular and permanent employees in their respective positions for a period of up to two years and rank them according to their evaluation ratings. Would have provided that such ranking should be their order of promotion in the ranks. Would have provided that promotions in all divisions in the Bossier City Fire Department, except for the communications and suppression divisions, should be based on time served in each division. Would have provided that promotion in the suppression division should be based on total departmental seniority and promotion in the communications division should be based on competition.

FIRST RESPONDERS

HB 810 by Marchand *(Last Action – House Committee)*

Would have provided that government employees of the city of New Orleans who respond to emergencies, including employees maintaining sewer, water and drainage operations, should be designated "first responders" and should be eligible for any benefits and programs created for "first responders".

HOUSING

HB223 by Toomy, et al. *(Last Action – House Committee)*

Would have prohibited the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency (LHFA) from approving or otherwise taking action to allocate any housing tax credit or approving or otherwise taking action to implement any housing program in any parish unless LHFA has first received the approval of the parish governing authority for allocating housing tax credits or implementing such housing program within the parish.

SB 232 by Bajoie *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Creates the Louisiana Housing Counseling Assistance Act. Provides that housing counseling assistance may be provided through private non-profit organizations which are certified through the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency. Authorizes the office of community development, within the division of administration, or the Road Home Corporation, which is responsible for the delivery of the Road Home Housing Program, to set aside sufficient funds to accomplish and implement the requirements of **SB 232**. Authorizes housing counseling assistance providers to counsel owners relative to refinancing options, availability of loans and grants, determining entitlements from FEMA programs, housing programs of

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the Louisiana Recovery Authority, or any other housing programs designed to assist Louisiana residents with housing needs. Additionally authorizes such providers to assist displaced persons, who were homeowners or renters, and property owners by creating suitable housing strategies for person with special needs.

SB 298 by Shepherd *(Last Action – House Committee)*

Would have required that a tenant of a local housing authority development or recipient of other assistance from such authority be a commissioner of the authority. Would have required that the tenant commissioner be chosen from a list of names submitted to the governing authority by tenants of a local housing authority development. Would have required the tenant commissioner to recuse himself from participating in a matter which would be in violation of R.S. 42:1112. Would have prohibited a person from serving as a commissioner while being employed by any other local housing authority. Would have provided that no tenant of a local housing authority should become or remain a tenant commissioner if delinquent in rental or lease payments to the housing authority. Would have authorized per diem for a tenant commissioner.

HCR 123 by Gray *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Recommends a model ordinance to be enacted by parishes and municipalities to provide for inclusionary zoning to promote the development of affordable housing for low-income and moderate-income families.

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

HB628 by K. Carter and Duplessis *(Last Action – Conference Committee Report Rejected/House)*

SB 305 by Duplessis *(Last Action – House Calendar)*

Would have created two neighborhood advisory commissions, the "East New Orleans Advisory Neighborhood Commission" and the "Lower Ninth Ward Advisory Neighborhood Commission" each as a corporate body with all the powers and rights of a political subdivision of the state. Would have provided that the area of the commission should include each respective neighborhood in New Orleans East and the Lower Ninth Ward. Would have provided that the primary purpose of each commission would be to advise the governing authority of the city of New Orleans, the mayor, or any other agency, department, board, commission, or other entity of local, state, or federal government with respect to all proposed matters of government policy which affect each area, including but not limited to, decisions regarding planning, zoning, streets, recreation, social services programs, education, health, safety, budget, and sanitation.

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MUSEUMS

HB 477 by Triche and Chaisson *(Last Action – Act No. 53)*

Provides for the appointment of an additional member to the Board of Directors of the Louisiana State Museum by the governor from a panel of names submitted by the Friends of the Edward Douglass White Historic Site.

HB 566 by Burrell *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Changes the name of the McNeill Street Pumping Station Museum to the Shreveport Water Works Museum.

HB 677 by Thompson, et al. *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Establishes the Louisiana Political Museum and Hall of Fame in Winnfield within the Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism as a historical, cultural, scientific, and technological, educational institution with the purpose of researching, collecting, preserving, and presenting objects, documents, and the like that reflect the political, social, and cultural history of the politics of the state, including but not limited to such materials related to political campaigns and candidates, officeholders, and supporting personnel. Creates an advisory board for the museum and provides for its powers and duties.

NATURAL RESOURCES

HB 617 by Durand *(Last Action – House Committee)*

Would have prohibited drilling for purposes of exploration, production, storage, disposal, or leaching with a terminus underneath the lake bed of Lake Peigneur, the private property given in servitude to the state adjacent to Lake Peigneur, or the Jefferson Island salt dome. Provided an exception for certain directional drilling.

HCR 239 by Jack Smith *(Last Action – Adopted)*

Requests the Dept. of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to distribute federal disaster relief funds for fisheries recovery according to the instructions for allocation that the U.S. Congress included in the appropriating Act. The instructions provide that the distribution among Gulf Coast states should be made based on the proportional contribution to the total fisheries landings prior to August 30, 2005, and the amount of losses experienced by each state. Under this formula, Louisiana should receive approximately 71% of the \$85 million appropriated for fisheries recovery in the Gulf Coast states.

SCR 11 by Dupre *(Last Action – Adopted)*

Approves the Comprehensive Master Plan for Coastal Protection, as adopted by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority. The Master Plan is a strategic framework for what is necessary for a sustainable future for the coast. It provides an over-arching vision which integrates all existing programs such as the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (CWPPRA), the Louisiana Coastal Area Ecosystem Restoration project (LCA), and the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) and incorporates new projects and initiatives into the existing efforts for coastal restoration and protection. The Master Plan focuses on efforts to reduce risks to economic assets and communities, restore sustainability to the coastal ecosystem, maintain the diverse array of habitats for fish and wildlife, and sustain Louisiana's unique heritage and culture. Coordination between a comprehensive ecosystem restoration program and hurricane protection measures is paramount. The Master Plan is considered a starting point for long-term implementation of the coastal protection and restoration program.

SCR 12 by Dupre *(Last Action – Adopted)*

Approves annual Coastal Protection Plan for Fiscal Year 2007-2008, as adopted by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority. The Annual Plan for 2008 contains \$224 million in projects and activities with 32.8% of the funding coming from the Coastal Restoration and Protection Fund, 57.1% from the federal grant program named the Coastal Impact Assistance Program with a state match, 2.2% for ongoing projects of the US Army Corps of Engineers, and 7.9% from the state Capital Outlay Program. Of the funds included, 63% are for construction, 15% for Engineering and Design, 7% for Planning, and the remaining 14% for Supporting Initiatives, Operation and Maintenance, and Science and

Natural Resources

Technology. Key projects include the closing of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet and ecosystem restoration, Morganza to the Gulf Hurricane Protection Project, Barrier Shoreline Restoration, Bayou Lafourche Salt Water Barrier, and Southwest Coastal Louisiana Hurricane Protection Project.

HB 524 by Jack Smith *(Last Action – Sent to Governor)*

Authorizes any person who purchases or possesses a vessel, valued in excess of \$2500 and principally operated on the waters of this state, to apply to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for a certificate of title. The vessel must be required to be numbered, not be held as inventory for sale or lease, and must have been transferred for the first time on or after July 1, 2008. Though the Act is permissive, the department will still assess fees for the issuance of certificates of title and other fees for various other processes and procedures relative to titling vessels.

SB 53 by Dupre *(Last Action – Sent to Governor)*

Creates the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Financing Corporation consisting of the governor, the state treasurer, the attorney general, the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives, the chairman of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, the secretary of the Department of Natural Resources, the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development, or their designees, and one member appointed by the governor from each of the seven congressional districts.

Provides that the corporation's purpose is to carry out the financing, purchasing, owning and managing of offshore royalty revenues. Further provides that, in order to provide current assets and funds for the Coastal Protection and Restoration Fund, the corporation board may provide for the issuance of bonds, subject to the approval of the State Bond Commission and the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget. Provides that such bonds are payable solely from funds of the corporation, including all or any combination of the following sources: (i) offshore royalty revenue assets, (ii) the proceeds of the sales of any such bonds, (iii) earnings on funds of the corporation or the indenture trustee, and (iv) such other funds as may become available.

HB 919 by Alario *(Last Action – Sent to Governor)*

Dedicates all mineral revenue derived from leases on the Attakapas Wildlife Management Area to the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation Fund. It is anticipated this will result in an additional \$18 million each year for the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries budget.

RETIREMENT

COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS (COLAS)

HCR 7 by Schneider *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Grants approval of a cost-of-living adjustment requested by the board of trustees of the **Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System** in an amount not to exceed 2.5% of a retiree's normal annual benefit. Effective July 1, 2007, for retirees and beneficiaries who are at least 55 years of age and who have received a benefit for at least one year, or for disability retirees and beneficiaries who are at least 55 years of age. Also approves the .5% cost-of-living adjustment provided by Act No. 67 (see below).

SCR 3 by B. Gautreaux *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Grants approval of a cost-of-living adjustment requested by the board of trustees of the **Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana** in an amount not to exceed 2.5% of a retiree's normal annual benefit. Effective July 1, 2007, for retirees and beneficiaries who are at least 55 years of age and who have received a benefit for at least one year, or for disability retirees and beneficiaries who are at least 55 years of age. Also approves the .5% cost-of-living adjustment provided by Act No. 67 (see below).

SB 116 by Theunissen *(Last Action – Act No.67)*

Grants approval for an extra .5% supplemental cost-of-living adjustment for retirees of the **Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System** and the **Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana**, subject to provisions of present law relative to those systems.

HB 415 by Morris *(Last Action – Sent to Governor)*

Authorizes the boards of trustees of the **Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System**, the **Municipal Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana**, and the **Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System** to grant a one-time lump-sum benefit (a "13th check") in the event that a cost-of-living adjustment cannot be granted based on the valuation for FY ending 6/30/07. Such supplemental benefit shall not exceed 3% nor shall it be less than \$300.

HB 440 by Schneider *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Provides authority for the board of trustees of the **Sheriffs' Pension and Relief Fund** to authorize a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), regardless of the system's valuation for the fiscal year ending 6/30/07. Such COLA shall be payable monthly in an amount not to exceed 3% of a retiree's, disability recipient's, or survivor's normal monthly benefit. Provides that in order to be eligible for such COLA, a retiree, disability recipient, or survivor shall have been or would have been retired for at least one year on 6/30/07. Provides authority for an

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additional 2% cost-of-living adjustment for all retirees, disability recipients, and survivors over 65. The board's authority is effective 7/1/07, but the board is authorized to grant only one of each such adjustments.

HB658 by Kennard *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Provides for an Employee Experience Account for the **State Police Pension and Retirement System** and the **Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System**, and for cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) to be granted based upon the balance in the account. Present law provides that the granting of COLAs by these systems shall be determined by the "target ratio" test. Proposed law switches those systems **from** a "target ratio" test for determining COLAs **to** an Employee Experience Account method.

Provides that the Employee Experience Account shall be credited with an amount not to exceed 50% of the prior year's net investment experience gain and an amount not to exceed that portion of the system's net investment income attributable to the Employee Experience Account. Limits the account and the reserve necessary to grant two COLAs. Requires that the Employee Experience Account be debited by an amount equal to that portion of the system's net investment loss attributable to the balance in the Employee Experience Account and an amount sufficient to grant a COLA.

Authorizes the board of trustees of the **State Police Pension and Retirement System** or the **Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System** to recommend to the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives that the system be able to grant a COLA when the account balance is sufficient as determined by the system's actuary. Requires agreement of the legislative actuary. Provides that the board shall not grant a COLA unless approved by the legislature by concurrent resolution.

Provides that any COLA granted from the Employee Experience Account shall be limited to the lesser of 3% or the CPI-U. Such COLA shall be payable to retirees who are at least 60 years of age and who have received a benefit for at least one year. Such COLA shall be payable to beneficiaries if such beneficiary has received a benefit for at least one year and the retiree would have been 60 years of age. Such COLA shall be payable to disability retirees who have received a benefit for at least one year.

Provides that the COLA shall not exceed 2% if the system fails to earn its required actuarial rate of return for a given year.

Provides that the **State Police Pension and Retirement System** may grant a maximum 2% supplemental benefit to retirees and beneficiaries who are 65 and over.

HB 818 by Heaton *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Provides for a 4% retirement benefit increase each year on July 1, 2007, and July 1, 2008, and for cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) not exceeding 2% each year subsequent to those initial increases, for the judges and surviving spouses who receive retirement benefits from the judges' noncontributory plan of the **Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System**.

SB83 by B. Gautreaux *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Provides a cost-of-living adjustment for certain beneficiaries of the **State Police Pension and Retirement System** who have twenty years of service credit. Such COLA shall be the lesser of \$300 or the difference between \$1200 and the person's current monthly benefits if such benefit is less than \$1200. Provides that the COLA shall be paid to:

- (1) Any regular retiree of the system who, on June 30, 2006:
 - (a) Has 20 or more years of service credit; and
 - (b) Has been retired for 15 years or more; and
 - (c) Receives a monthly retirement benefit of less than \$1200.
- (2) Any regular retiree of the system who, on June 30, 2006:
 - (a) Has been retired for 30 years or more; and
 - (b) Has attained the age of 80 or more; and
 - (c) Has a sum of his years retired and years of service that equals or exceeds 50; and
 - (d) Receives a monthly retirement benefit of less than \$1200.
- (3) Any disability retiree who as of June 30, 2006, receives a monthly retirement benefit of less than \$1200.
- (4) The surviving spouse of any regular or disability retiree who would have been eligible to receive the additional benefit had he lived, provided such spouse was married to the retiree at the time of his death.

HAZARDOUS DUTY BENEFITS

HB 671 by Salter *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Provides for application of the existing 3-1/3% accrual rate for certain Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections peace officers by making such rate applicable to all **Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System** service for those employed as peace officers on or before 6/30/06 and to peace officer service for those employed as a peace officer after 6/30/06. Provides that the 3-1/3% rate also applies to those employed as peace officers on or before 6/30/06 who were participating in DROP on 6/30/07 or were continuing employment after

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DROP on that date. The 3-1/3% rate applies to supplemental benefits for employment after DROP for all such peace officers regardless of date of employment. Also provides relative to a special treasury fund for purposes of funding such benefits and provides for deposit into the fund of monies equal to 1/2 of certain temporary permit fees.

HB 845 by Durand (*Last Action – Enrolled*)

Increases the accrual rate for retirement benefits for certain probation and parole officers. Provides for a fee on probation and parole cases to fund retirement benefits. Provides that adult probation and parole officers who were employed on or before 12/31/01, who opted to remain in the primary component of the **Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System** and who retire effective on or after 7/1/07 shall receive a maximum retirement allowance equal to 3% of average compensation for service prior to 7/1/07, and 3-1/3% of average compensation for service on or after 7/1/07, for every year of creditable service in the system.

Also provides that, any adult probation and parole officer employed before 1/1/02 who elected to transfer from the primary component to the secondary component but who opted not to transfer his primary component service credit on an actuarial basis, who has not upgraded his service credit as permitted pursuant to present law, and who retires effective on or after 7/1/07 shall receive a benefit calculated at an accrual rate pursuant to proposed law. Furthermore, any such officer who already upgraded his primary component service credit may request a refund.

Creates a \$65 processing fee for new case files opened after 6/30/2007 for the purposes of funding such benefits. Creates a new fund in the state treasury called the "Adult Probation and Parole Officer Fund" into which the processing fees are deposited.

HB 878 by Kleckley (*Last Action – Enrolled*)

Increases the accrual rate for certain enforcement personnel employed by the Dept. of Revenue, office of alcohol and tobacco control (ATC), who are members of the **Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System** from 2.5% to 3.33%. Provides for application of that accrual rate to prior service. Increases the employee contribution rate for such enforcement personnel from 7.5% to 9%. Provides that average compensation for such enforcement personnel shall be based on 36 months. Provides for disability retirement under the normal retirement laws applicable to ATC enforcement personnel. Provisions apply to such enforcement personnel regardless of whether hired on or before 6/30/06 or on or after 7/1/06. Creates the Department of Revenue Alcohol and Tobacco Control Officers Fund for the purposes of funding such benefits, into which are deposited fees from tobacco taxes.

INVESTMENTS

HB 864 by Schneider *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Requires a public retirement system having investment ownership in companies having facilities or employees, or both, in a prohibited nation to adopt a corporate governance policy in which the system engages such companies, or the investment managers holding equities in such companies in the case of a collective fund, to remove their facilities or employees from prohibited nations. Requires that any public retirement system having investments in international markets join a "terror-free index fund" which identifies and excludes from such fund holdings in companies with facilities or employees, or both, in prohibited nations. Permits a public retirement system, notwithstanding the prudent-man rule, to divest itself of any holding in a company having facilities or employees, or both, in a prohibited nation. Removes Libya from list of prohibited nations.

EMPLOYMENT AFTER RETIREMENT

SB 60 by Cain *(Last Action – Sent to Governor)*

Relative to the **Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System**, allows school boards to reemploy retired school bus drivers without being subject to present law's limitation of earnings to 50% of average compensation for reemployed retirees. Provides that a retired bus driver reemployed as a full-time bus driver in a position covered by the system shall have his benefit suspended if reemployment occurs within 12 months of his retirement date. Provides that after 12 months have elapsed since the person's retirement date, the benefit shall no longer be suspended during any period of reemployment. Provides that any employer who elects to reemploy such a retired bus driver shall pay to the system all actuarial costs of the reemployment of such bus driver.

UNFUNDED ACCRUED LIABILITY (UAL)

SB 127 by Boasso *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Proposed constitutional amendment provides that no benefit provision for members of a state retirement system having an actuarial cost shall be approved by the legislature unless a funding source providing new or additional funds sufficient to pay all such actuarial cost within ten years of the effective date of the benefit provision is identified in such enactment.

TRANSPORTATION, HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC WORKS

HB 99 by Crowe *(Last Action – Failed to Pass/House)*

As introduced, HB 99 would have prohibited the use of a cellular telephone while driving in a school zone during posted hours. Provided for certain exceptions and penalties. A floor amendment was adopted that would have prohibited cell phone use while driving anywhere, but the amended bill failed to pass.

HB 407 by K. Carter *(Last Action – Act No. 190)*

Extends the sunset date of an extra fee of \$1.00 to driver's licenses to fund litter reduction to August 15, 2011.

HCR 20 by Bowler *(Last Action – Senate Calendar)*

Would have memorialized Congress to repeal the federal Real ID Act of 2005, which enacts new federal standards to verify and reissue millions of driver's licenses and identification cards throughout the United States.

HB 747 by Baudoin *(Last Action – House Committee)*

Would have required riders of all-terrain vehicles under the age of 16 years to wear protective gear, receive training, and ride such vehicles under adult supervision. Would have prohibited children under six from operating ATV's.

HB 853 by Honey *(Last Action – Act No. 60)*

Changes the procedure for notification of a violation of provisions relative to overtaking and passing school buses. Provides that such notification shall be on a form provided to the school bus driver by the school board rather than by affidavit.

HB 511 by St. Germain *(Last Action – House Committee)*

Would have prohibited the closing of any railroad grade crossing which would have denied passage by any person who had had peaceful and uninterrupted use or possession across the railroad grade crossing for a period of twenty years with or without just title.

HB 339 by Quezaire *(Last Action – Act No. 40)*

Authorizes the Dept. of Transportation and Development to establish a "Small Engineering Consultant Program" to annually prequalify small engineering consultant firms to perform preconstruction engineering services on projects selected by the department. Provides for certain qualifications of firms applying for participation in the program.

Transportation

SB 121 by Murray *(Last Action – Sent to Governor)*

Authorizes the division of administration, the Recovery School District, the city of New Orleans, and parishes of Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Tammany, and Vermilion, and the Port of New Orleans to utilize the design-build method for projects to construct or repair buildings or structures destroyed or damaged by Hurricanes Katrina or Rita. Additionally, the bill provides for the qualification of bidders and procedures by which the governing authorities select a qualified bidder for the design-build project.

WAYS AND MEANS

CAPITAL OUTLAY

HB 2 by Townsend (Last Action – Enrolled)

HB 3 by Townsend (*Last Action – Finally Passed/Senate*)

Provides for the comprehensive capital outlay budget and for implementation of a five-year improvement program.

SB 14 by Hines (*Last Action – House Calendar*)

Would have required that the Bond Commission have an executive committee composed of the president of the Senate, the speaker of the House, and the state treasurer. The executive committee would have set the agenda for commission meetings. Would have required that the president, speaker, and treasurer serve as chairman of the executive committee on a rotating basis.

Would have authorized a majority of the Bond Commission members to place an item on the agenda by sending written request to the chairman of the executive committee no less than seven days prior to a scheduled meeting provided that the item is in compliance with the rules and regulations of the commission.

TAX CREDITS

HB 120 by Townsend (*Last Action – Act No. 4 of the 2nd E. S. of 2006*)

Provides for a refundable tax credit from individual and corporation income taxes for the amount of surcharges, market equalization charges, or assessments paid by a taxpayer during the taxable year as a result of the 2005 regular or emergency assessments levied due to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita by La. Citizens Property Insurance Corporation for the FAIR Plan and Coastal Plan.

Provides that the credit shall be applicable to all taxable periods beginning on or after Jan. 1, 2006 and requires the secretary of the Dept. of Revenue to provide a refund within one year.

HB 696 by Pinac (*Last Action – Enrolled*)

Provides that a premium tax reduction made available by investors, instead of insurers, investing in certified capital companies or in industrial or economic development corporations shall be computed as 100% of the amount of the investment at the time the investment is made.

Provides that due to the uncertainty in insurance premiums created by the effects of Hurricane Katrina, any holder of an insurance premium tax credit earned for an investment

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of certified capital made after January 1, 2001 but prior to January 1, 2007 shall also be allowed to utilize such tax credits

HB 847 by Jefferson *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Provides for a \$1,000 deduction against taxable income in 2007 and 2008 only for an individual previously employed as a public school classroom teacher by a school board in one of the following parishes impacted by Hurricane Katrina: Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, and St. Tammany.

In order to qualify for the deduction, the public school classroom teacher must agree in writing to be employed as a public school classroom teacher for at least three years.

HB 928 by Alario *(Last Action – Senate Committee)*

Would have provided for a refundable individual income tax credit for 25% of the amount of ad valorem taxes paid by a homeowner who claims the homestead exemption provided for in Article VII, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana, not to exceed \$250 per tax year.

HB 936 by Townsend *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Provides for changes and modifications to the motion picture investor tax credits, especially with regard to state-certified infrastructure credits.

Consolidates the tax credit for state-certified infrastructure projects into one 40% tax credit for such base investment in excess of \$300,000 lasting until January 1, 2009, for infrastructure projects which meet certain criteria and which are approved by the office, the secretary of DED, and the division of administration, provided that the total tax credit allowed for any one project cannot exceed \$25 million.

HB 939 by Townsend *(Last Action – House Calendar)*

SB 341 by Jackson *(Last Action – Sent to Governor)*

Provides a refundable earned income tax credit for individuals in an amount equal to 3.5% percent of the federal earned income tax credit for which the individual is eligible for the taxable year under Section 32 of the Internal Revenue Code.

SB 361 by Duplessis *(Last Action – Sent to Governor)*

Grants a credit against individual income tax for child care expenses based upon the quality rating of the child care facility which the child attends.

Grants a refundable credit against any individual or corporation income tax or corporation franchise tax for child care providers based upon the average monthly number of children who either participate in the Child Care Assistance Program or who are foster children in the custody of the department, and who are attending a child care facility operated by the child care provider.

Grants a refundable credit against individual income tax for eligible child care directors and eligible child care staff.

Grants a refundable credit against any income tax or corporation franchise tax for the eligible business child care expenses of a business for a percentage depending upon the quality rating of the child care facility to which the expenses are related.

AD VALOREM TAX

HB 26 by Arnold *(Last Action – Senate Committee)*

HB 27 by Arnold *(Last Action – Senate Committee)*

Constitutional amendment and companion bill that would have provided that the millage rate may be rolled forward by 2/3 vote of the total membership of a taxing authority after a public hearing without further voter approval, provided the resulting increase in the total amount of ad valorem taxes collected is no larger than the aggregate increase in the cost of living as reflected in the official Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers as published by the government of the United States since the last time the provisions of La. Const. Art. VII, §18(F) were last implemented for all property.

EXEMPTIONS

HB 117 by Montgomery *(Last Action – Act No. 181)*

Provides for a gasoline tax exemption, until June 30, 2012, for gasoline sold to a manufacturer which will use the gasoline in the manufacture of a premixed two-cycle engine fuel containing gasoline and oil sold in containers of one gallon or less.

HB 365 by Townsend *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

SB 66 by Adley *(Last Action – House Committee)*

Provides for a phase-in of individual income tax deductions for excess federal itemized deductions as follows:

- (1) For tax years beginning during calendar year 2007, 57.5% of such excess federal itemized personal deductions.
- (2) For tax years beginning during calendar year 2008, 65%.

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(3) For all tax years beginning on and after January 1, 2009, 100%.

Removes the increase in the Louisiana deduction for federal tax liability because of decreases in federal taxes resulting from a deduction for casualty losses.

SB 32 by Murray *(Last Action – Finally Passed/House)*

Grants an individual and corporate income tax deduction for any gratuitous grant, loan, or other benefit directly or indirectly provided to a taxpayer by the Road Home Corporation, the Louisiana Recovery Authority, or the Louisiana Family Recovery Corps if such benefit was included in federal adjusted gross income.

INCOME TAX

HB 17 by Walsworth *(Last Action – House Committee)*

HB 23 by Schneider *(Last Action – House Committee)*

HB 30 by Greene *(Last Action – House Committee)*

HB 36 by Montgomery *(Last Action – House Committee)*

HB 39 by J. H. Smith *(Last Action – House Committee)*

HB 78 by Montgomery *(Last Action – House Committee)*

HB 291 by Dove *(Last Action – House Committee)*

HB 363 by Townsend *(Last Action – House Committee)*

HB 364 by Townsend *(Last Action – House Committee)*

HB 418 by Tucker *(Last Action – House Committee)*

HB 445 by Burns *(Last Action – House Committee)*

HB 550 by Lorusso *(Last Action – House Committee)*

HB 903 by Strain *(Last Action – House Committee)*

These bills would have revised the individual income tax brackets to those which existed prior to the "Stelly Plan" or would have provided for the revision of the tax brackets in combination with reinstating the excess federal itemized deduction.

SB 339 by Fontenot *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Increases the income tax credit for brownfields sites from 15% of the total investment made to 50% of the total investment made by that taxpayer in voluntary remediation at a state-certified site.

Provides a credit against individual income tax liability due for state gift taxes paid by an individual during the taxable year.

Provides for a credit against Louisiana individual and corporate income tax due for "monetary contributions" to Louisiana-domiciled public higher education institution or regionally accredited independent institution of higher education domiciled in Louisiana for

monetary contributions made solely for academic purposes in support of baccalaureate, graduate-level and professional degree academic programs or centers. Provides that the term "academic purposes" shall include funding for faculty support and graduate student support, but shall exclude athletic programs.

Authorizes tax credits for operation and construction of certain stem cell research and technology institutions in the State; provides for the application and administration of such tax credits; provides for requirements for obtaining the credit; provides for certain definitions; authorizes the transferability of the tax credit; and authorizes the promulgation of rules and regulations relative to the credit.

INHERITANCE TAX

HB 43 by Townsend *(Last Action – Senate Calendar)*

HB 41 by Strain *(Last Action – House Committee)*

Would have provided that no inheritance tax shall be due when the date of death occurs after June 30, 2004. Further provided that all persons who paid inheritance taxes based on deaths occurring after June 30, 2004, shall be entitled to a refund.

GIFT TAX

HB 665 by Townsend *(Last Action – House Committee)*

HB 53 by Strain *(Last Action – House Committee)*

HB 115 by LaFleur *(Last Action – House Committee)*

HB 529 by Lorusso *(Last Action – House Committee)*

HB 608 by Thompson *(Last Action – House Committee)*

Would have repealed the gift tax.

SALES AND USE TAX

HB 231 by Montgomery *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Provides that the purchaser of an off-road vehicle who, at the time of purchase, presents proof to the seller that he is domiciled in another state and signs an affidavit indicating he has paid or will pay the sales and use tax on the off-road vehicle in the state in which he is domiciled within 60 days of purchase or delivery of the vehicle, whichever is later, shall be exempt from state sales and use taxes in Louisiana if the state in which the buyer is domiciled provides a similar exemption.

Ways and Means

HB 357 by Townsend *(Last Action – House Calendar)*

Would have reduced the sales tax rates on sales of propane, electricity, natural gas, water, and steam, effective July 1, 2007. The state sales tax on electricity, natural gas, and propane will become 2.55%, and the state sales tax rate on steam and water will become 3.05%.

Would have provided for a new state sales tax exemption, effective July 1, 2009, for sales of propane for nonresidential purposes. The exemption would have been subject to the suspension provided in present law, effectively imposing a 1% tax rate for an indefinite period on sales of propane for nonresidential purposes. Simultaneously with the July 1, 2009, effective date of the new propane exemption, the reduced tax rate under present law on sales of propane for nonresidential purposes would have been repealed.

HB 464 by Townsend *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Provides that the sales and use tax exemption provided for purchases of utilities by certain steelworks and blast furnaces with more than 125 full-time employees, including certain coke ovens and rolling mills, shall be applicable, operable, and effective for all taxable periods beginning on or after July 1, 2007.

HB 633 by Townsend *(Last Action – Act No. 1)*

Provides for a state sales and use tax exclusion for machinery and equipment by a motor vehicle manufacturer with a North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Code beginning with 3361 and provides that political subdivisions may provide for an exemption of such equipment.

Further provides that tooling in a compression mold process shall be considered manufacturing machinery and equipment.

HB 975 by Odinet *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Authorizes a state sales and use tax exemption for Louisiana residents whose primary residence was located in the disaster area on August 29, 2005, for purchases of tangible personal property used for restoring a primary residence damaged by Hurricane Katrina or Rita, or for repairing or replacing tangible personal property located in a primary residence damaged by Hurricane Katrina or Rita. Prohibits the sales and use tax exemption from applying to titled assets.

Limits the sales and use tax exemption to purchases of items of tangible personal property between August 29, 2005, and June 30, 2009. The sales and use tax exemption shall apply only to purchases made by a resident taxpayer in the household claiming the exemption.

Authorizes the department to grant restricted refunds of the state sales and use taxes paid by eligible taxpayers. All refunds shall be limited to one refund per household and shall not exceed \$3,000.

Provides that no exemption shall be allowed for any purchase which a taxpayer receives an exemption, credit, rebate, or other tax incentive granted by the state under any other provision of law.

SALES TAX HOLIDAYS

HB 225 by St. Germain *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Provides for an annual "sales tax holiday" during the last weekend of May each year beginning at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday and ending at 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, affecting state sales and use taxes on the first \$1,500 of the purchase price on the purchase of certain hurricane-preparedness items or supplies.

Prohibits hurricane-preparedness items or supplies purchased at airports, public lodging establishments, convenience stores, and entertainment complexes from qualifying for this sales and use tax exemption.

SB 3 by Marionneaux *(Last Action – Enrolled)*

Establishes an annual Louisiana Sales Tax Holiday to exempt from state sales tax the first \$2,500 of any consumer purchase of tangible personal property that occurs on the first Friday and Saturday in August of each year.

HB 374 by Townsend *(Last Action – House Calendar)*

Would have provided for a "sales tax holiday" beginning at 12:01 a.m. on the first Thursday of August each year, and continuing only until 12:00 midnight on the immediately following Monday, affecting only the sales and use tax levied by the state. The state sales and use tax exemption would have applied to certain items of clothing, footwear, school supplies, and the first \$2,500 of the sales or cost price of a personal computer.

HB 37 by Montgomery *(Last Action – Senate Committee)*

Would have provided for a sales tax holiday (exemption) from state sales and use taxes for purchases of \$2,500 or less of tangible personal property on the first Thursday, Friday, and Saturday in December of 2007 and 2008. Would have authorized political subdivisions to waive local sales and use taxes during that same time period.

Ways and Means

ASSESSORS

HB 211 by St. Germain *(Last Action – Act No. 26)*

Provides that in Acadia, Allen, Ascension, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Bienville, Calcasieu, Claiborne, Concordia, DeSoto, East Baton Rouge, Franklin, Iberia, Iberville, Jackson, Jefferson, Lafayette, Lafourche, LaSalle, Madison, Morehouse, Natchitoches, Orleans, Ouachita, Plaquemines, Pointe Coupee, Rapides, Red River, Sabine, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. John the Baptist, St. Landry, St. Martin, Tangipahoa, Tensas, Terrebonne, Union, Vermilion, Vernon, Washington, Webster, West Baton Rouge, West Carroll, and West Feliciana Parishes, the assessor shall pay the premium cost of group life, dental, group health, hospital, surgical, or other medical insurance for any assessor or assessor's employee who retires with at least 20 years of service who is at least 55 years of age or who retires with at least 30 years of service at any age.

HB 467 by Townsend *(Last Action – Act No. 97)*

Increases the total permissible compensation of tax assessors.