

1A Priority Bills

Economic Competitiveness

Bill #	Author	Legislative Summary	Position	Notes
HB 5	M. Johnson	Authorizes parish governing authorities to ban Class VI injection wells, CO ₂ sequestration, and CO ₂ pipelines by resolution, or by parish-wide election triggered by petition of 15% of registered voters. Local prohibitions supersede all state permits and approvals.	OPPOSE	House companion to SB 61
HB 7	M. Johnson	Prohibits private entities from expropriating property for CO ₂ pipeline transport or geologic sequestration, removes DOCE authority to issue certificates of public convenience and necessity for CCS pipelines and storage facilities, and eliminates unitization authority for CO ₂ storage.	OPPOSE	House companion to SB 60
HB 526	Dickerson	Caps general damages in tort cases at \$500,000, with a \$1M cap for permanent mental injuries impairing employment or quality of life — exceptions for severe permanent physical injuries and intentional/malicious conduct.	SUPPORT	House companion to SB 361
HB 620	Carlson	Constitutional amendment; authorizes the legislature to provide by law for centralized state collection of all local sales and use taxes, ensuring collected funds remain the property of the levying taxing authority and are not commingled with state funds.	SUPPORT	Constitutional companion to HB 658
HB 658	Carlson	Requires all local sales and use taxes statewide to be collected by the Louisiana Department of Revenue beginning July 1, 2027, replacing the current system of parish-level collectors and collection commissions. Local taxing authorities retain authority over administration, enforcement, and audits.	SUPPORT	Statutory companion to HB 620
SB 60	Wheat	Prohibits private entities from expropriating property for CO ₂ pipeline transport or geologic sequestration, removes DOCE authority to issue certificates of public convenience and necessity for CCS pipelines and storage facilities, and eliminates unitization authority for CO ₂ storage.	OPPOSE	Senate companion to HB 7
SB 61	Wheat	Authorizes parish governing authorities to ban Class VI injection wells, CO ₂ sequestration, and CO ₂ pipelines by ordinance, or by parish-wide election triggered by petition of 15% of registered voters. Local prohibitions supersede all state permits and approvals.	OPPOSE	Senate companion to HB 5
SB 361	Mizell	Caps general damages in tort cases at \$500,000, with a \$1M cap for permanent mental injuries impairing employment or quality of life — exceptions for severe permanent physical injuries and intentional/malicious conduct.	SUPPORT	Senate companion to HB 526

Talent Development

Bill #	Author	Legislative Summary	Position	Notes
HB 951	Bamburg	Creates an Office of Talent Accelerator within Louisiana Works as the state's primary business-facing workforce solutions office, coordinating training programs, managing workforce funds, and building customized talent pipelines. Establishes a Business Workforce Committee — majority business representatives — to advise the office and set performance metrics.	SUPPORT	LA Works bill; monitor for duplic'n with local board functions

SB 305	Edmonds	Requires the Board of Regents and Louisiana Works to create a publicly available statewide dashboard showing career and wage outcomes for college degree programs, and to develop data collection procedures for work-based learning experiences like internships and apprenticeships.	SUPPORT	Task Force on Career Alignment bill
SB 383	Bass	Expands the Incumbent Worker Training Program by reducing employer eligibility from three to two years of Louisiana operations, creating a 'Flexible Workforce Fund' dedicating up to 40% of appropriated funds to sector-based and regional training initiatives, and broadening the definition of customized training.	SUPPORT	LA Works bill

Infrastructure Investment

Bill #	Author	Legislative Summary	Position	Notes
HB 810	Bourriaque	Constitutional amendment; expands the authorized uses of the Louisiana State Infrastructure Bank beyond transportation to include water, energy, resilience, and hazard mitigation projects.	SUPPORT	Constitutional companion to HB 901
HB 901	Bourriaque	Creates the Louisiana State Infrastructure Bank within the Division of Administration, capitalized with an initial \$100 million general fund appropriation, to provide revolving loans and credit assistance to governmental units and private entities participating in public-private partnerships for transportation, water, energy, resilience, and hazard mitigation infrastructure projects. The bank's board includes the secretaries of DOTD, DEQ, Conservation and Energy, and LED. Loans may be at or below market rate with terms up to 30 years, and repayments revolve back into the fund for future projects.	SUPPORT	Statutory companion to HB 810
SB 71	Boudreaux	Authorizes the state to transfer approximately 1.3 acres of surplus DOTD property — the former Coburn Supply site near downtown Lafayette, bounded by 2nd, 3rd, Cypress, and Grant streets — to the Lafayette Public Trust Financing Authority at appraised value, with mineral rights retained by the state. Establishes the legal authority for transfer once federal release of the property is granted, which is expected upon approval of the I-49 Lafayette Connector supplemental Record of Decision.	SUPPORT	

Economic Competitiveness

- Prioritize funding for LED’s High Impact Jobs Program to drive high-wage job creation and strengthen Louisiana’s competitiveness for major economic development projects, while supporting complementary investments that build innovation and entrepreneurship capacity.
- Build on recent civil justice and insurance reforms to strengthen Louisiana’s insurance market and improve affordability and availability for families and businesses.
- Support an all-of-the-above energy strategy, including a stable, investment-ready environment for carbon capture and sequestration (CCS).

State / Regional Economic Development

Bill #	Author	Legislative Summary	Notes
HB 381	Jordan	Bars companies from participating in Louisiana’s High Impact Jobs Program if 20% or more of their Louisiana employees qualify for SNAP benefits, directing LED to coordinate with the Department of Health to verify eligibility.	OPPOSE
HB 618	McMakin	Increases LED fees for incentive program applications, certifications, and verification reports, and authorizes biennial CPI-based inflation adjustments. Grants the LED secretary discretion to reduce or waive fees for small businesses.	SUPPORT
HB 670	C. Owen	Directs LED to designate wood pellet manufacturing as a priority industry and promulgate related rules and incentives.	
HB 672	C. Owen	Directs LED to designate brick manufacturing as a priority industry and promulgate related rules and incentives.	
HB 674	Phelps	Requires local governments to share confidential economic development negotiation records with LED and give district legislators the opportunity to participate in active negotiations for qualifying projects.	OPPOSE
HB 829	Jordan	Creates the Louisiana Minority Business Development Fund, a \$25 million revolving loan fund providing low-interest loans up to \$750,000 to minority-owned small businesses with 50 or fewer employees, with flexible collateral requirements and mandatory technical assistance.	
SB 79	Mizell	Re-creates Louisiana Economic Development through July 1, 2031.	SUPPORT

Insurance / Civil Law / Tort Reform

Bill #	Author	Legislative Summary	Notes
HB 95	Bacala	Caps recovery of past medical expenses in auto accident claims to the amount health insurance would have paid, if the claimant had coverage but failed to use it.	
HB 118	Boyer	Caps general damages — including pain and suffering, emotional distress, and loss of enjoyment of life — at \$5 million per claimant in tort cases, with courts required to reduce any jury awards exceeding the cap.	Related to HB 526, SB 361
HB 150	Bourriaque	Provides for a local flood and homeowners’ insurance program for Cameron Parish.	
HB 173	Bamburg	Bars recovery of bodily injury or property damage claims for drivers whose auto insurance coverage has lapsed for more than 30 days, strengthening existing penalties for uninsured motorists.	
HB 174	Firment	Permits the impoundment of out-of-state vehicles not covered by compulsory liability insurance.	

HB 240	Chenevert	Strengthens Louisiana's third-party litigation financing law by capping litigation financiers' recovery to their proportional share of proceeds after attorney fees and costs, and requiring attorneys to disclose the existence of any litigation financing agreement to their client within 30 days.	SUPPORT
HB 281	Green	Requires auto insurers to disclose liability policy limits to third-party claimants or their attorneys within 30 days of a written request, with retroactive application to pending claims.	
HB 408	Jordan	Prohibits insurers from non-renewing residential insurance policies if homeowners address the reason for non-renewal within 90 days of notice, and requires insurers to provide written reasons for any non-renewal.	
HB 413	Carver	Prohibits insurers from using catastrophe or natural disaster loss experience from other lines of insurance (e.g., homeowners, commercial property) as a rating factor in automobile insurance rate filings, while preserving the exception for multi-line policies.	
HB 526	Dickerson	Caps general damages in tort cases at \$500,000, with a \$1M cap for permanent mental injuries impairing employment or quality of life — exceptions for severe permanent physical injuries and intentional/malicious conduct.	SUPPORT ; House companion to SB 361
HB 577	Glorioso	Modifies the bad faith insurance penalty calculation from a fixed 50% of the amount due to up to 50% — giving courts discretion to award a proportional penalty rather than the automatic maximum.	
HB 736	Green	Increases transparency in insurance rate filings by establishing a formal process for insurers to claim trade secret protection, explicitly barring financial data, affiliate transactions, and rate-related information from being shielded as trade secrets	House companion to SB 297
HB 831	Firment	Prohibits dual pricing in property damage claims — making it a fraudulent insurance act for contractors to charge higher prices solely because an insurer is paying — and prohibits insurers from selectively deviating from their own primary estimating database without documented justification.	
HB 880	Jordan	Creates the Louisiana Artificial Intelligence Insurance Fairness Act, establishing comprehensive regulation of AI and algorithmic systems used in insurance underwriting, rating, and claims adjustment — including mandatory annual disparate impact audits, prohibited variables for homeowners insurance, mandatory human review of AI claims decisions, and a private right of action with class action provisions and attorney's fees.	
HB 881	Firment	Clarifies that insurers must include general contractor overhead and profit in homeowners insurance claim payments when use of a general contractor is reasonably foreseeable, and allows the commissioner to approve rate filings before notification periods expire.	
HB 932	Jordan	Creates the Louisiana Commercial Trucking Insurance Market Reform Act, establishing a 3% assessment on large carriers using captive insurance to fund a group purchasing pool for small trucking companies, and imposing reserve requirements and coverage disclosure mandates on captive insurers.	Related to HB 936
HB 936	Jordan	Creates the Louisiana Captive Insurance Act, establishing a regulatory framework allowing businesses and trade associations to self-insure as an alternative to the commercial market.	Related to HB 932
SB 67	Morris	Limits recovery for negligent infliction of emotional distress without physical injury, requiring plaintiffs to demonstrate severe and debilitating harm supported by medical evidence, resulting from outrageous conduct by a defendant who breached a special, direct duty to the plaintiff.	

SB 147	Talbot	Requires all new roof construction and roof replacements on residential property to meet or exceed the fortified roof standards set by the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety, effectively making fortified roof construction the statewide baseline under the State Uniform Construction Code.	SUPPORT ; Fortify Homes bill
SB 226	Luneau	Prohibits insurers from using gender as a factor in classifying risks for rate-setting purposes, adding it to the existing list of prohibited classifications that includes race, color, creed, and national origin.	
SB 239	G. Miller	Raises the burden of proof for mental anguish and emotional distress claims in tort cases where no physical injury occurred, requiring plaintiffs to prove an 'especial likelihood' of genuine and serious mental distress arising from the defendant's conduct.	
SB 267	Duplessis	Prohibits auto insurers from using a consumer's credit score or zip code in underwriting or rating automobile insurance policies, removing two factors critics argue unfairly penalize lower-income and certain geographic areas.	
SB 297	Duplessis	Increases transparency in insurance rate filings by establishing a formal process for insurers to claim trade secret protection, explicitly barring financial data, affiliate transactions, and rate-related information from being shielded as trade secrets	Senate companion to HB 736
SB 298	Duplessis	Prohibits insurers from factoring their advertising expenses into rate calculations, removing a cost that consumers currently subsidize through their premiums.	
SB 299	Duplessis	Allows nonprofits to supplement Louisiana Fortify Homes Program grants with additional financial assistance to homeowners installing fortified roofs.	SUPPORT ; Fortify Homes bill
SB 355	Duplessis	Requires insurers to provide a minimum 20% premium discount to homeowners who participate in the Louisiana Fortify Homes Program.	SUPPORT ; Fortify Homes bill
SB 361	Mizell	Caps general damages in tort cases at \$500,000, with a \$1M cap for permanent mental injuries impairing employment or quality of life — exceptions for severe permanent physical injuries and intentional/malicious conduct.	SUPPORT ; Senate companion to HB 526

Carbon Capture & Storage (CCS)

Bill #	Author	Legislative Summary	Notes
HB 5	M. Johnson	Authorizes parish governing authorities to ban Class VI injection wells, CO ₂ sequestration, and CO ₂ pipelines by resolution, or by parish-wide election triggered by petition of 15% of registered voters. Local prohibitions supersede all state permits and approvals.	OPPOSE ; House companion to SB 61
HB 6	M. Johnson	Authorizes the governing authority of Rapides Parish to determine whether carbon dioxide sequestration and pipelines transporting carbon dioxide may be permitted within the parish.	OPPOSE
HB 7	M. Johnson	Prohibits private entities from expropriating property for CO ₂ pipeline transport or geologic sequestration, removes DOCE authority to issue certificates of public convenience and necessity for CCS pipelines and storage facilities, and eliminates unitization authority for CO ₂ storage.	OPPOSE ; House companion to SB 60
HB 79	R. Carter	Removes existing caps on noneconomic damage recovery in civil actions against CCS facility operators and pipeline owners — current law caps at \$250K/\$500K per person.	OPPOSE ; effectively identical to HB 507
HB 80	R. Carter	Establishes strict liability — no fault required — for owners or operators of CO ₂ storage facilities and transportation pipelines for any damages from a release or loss of containment.	OPPOSE
HB 327	McCormick	Declares CO ₂ sequestration beneath private property illegal without the property owner's consent.	OPPOSE

HB 449	Geymann	Requires the expropriating authority to pay all court costs in expropriation proceedings regardless of outcome — applicable to all expropriating entities including CO ₂ pipeline operators.	
HB 494	R. Carter	Prohibits carbon dioxide sequestration in St. Helena Parish.	OPPOSE
HB 495	Firment	Authorizes the governing authority of Grant Parish to determine whether carbon dioxide sequestration and pipelines transporting carbon dioxide may be permitted within the parish.	OPPOSE
HB 497	Schamer.	Authorizes the governing authority of Vernon Parish to determine whether carbon dioxide sequestration and pipelines transporting carbon dioxide may be permitted within the parish.	OPPOSE
HB 498	Schamer.	Authorizes the governing authority of Beauregard Parish to determine whether carbon dioxide sequestration and pipelines transporting carbon dioxide may be permitted within the parish.	OPPOSE
HB 499	McCormick	Establishes a minimum per-acre compensation floor for nonconsenting pore space owners in CCS storage units — they cannot receive less than the average per-acre compensation paid to all other owners in the unit. Also expands court authority to gather information in compensation disputes.	OPPOSE
HB 500	McCormick	Requires CCS unit operators to compensate nonconsenting mineral interest owners for the value of stranded minerals beneath a storage unit, and reimburse additional drilling costs for owners permitted to drill through the unit.	OPPOSE
HB 501	Carrier	Authorizes the governing authority of Allen Parish to determine whether Class VI carbon dioxide injection wells may be permitted within the parish	OPPOSE
HB 504	Schamer.	Authorizes the governing authority of Sabine Parish to determine whether carbon dioxide sequestration and pipelines transporting carbon dioxide may be permitted within the parish.	OPPOSE
HB 507	McCormick	Removes existing caps on noneconomic damage recovery in civil actions against CCS facility operators and pipeline owners — current law caps at \$250K/\$500K per person.	OPPOSE ; effectively identical to HB 79
HB 509	Owen	Mandates a public hearing in every parish where a Class V or VI injection well permit is proposed.	OPPOSE
HB 510	Schamer.	Prohibits out-of-state CO ₂ from being sequestered in Louisiana, and tightens permit conditions from requiring 'at least one' to requiring 'all' enumerated conditions be met.	OPPOSE
HB 589	Farnum	Adds a 500-foot setback requirement for CO ₂ pipeline construction from inhabited dwellings, schools, and healthcare facilities — mirroring the existing setback already required for Class VI injection wellheads.	OPPOSE
HB 731	J. Landry	Prohibits courts from imposing implied obligations on pipeline operators beyond what is expressly stated in a conventional servitude contract — applicable to all pipeline types including CO ₂ , and retroactive to all unresolved claims.	SUPPORT
HB 840	Farnum	Requires public hearings in every affected parish before the Department of Conservation and Energy can issue any order, permit, or certificate for carbon dioxide sequestration operations, including a separate hearing in each parish where a CO ₂ pipeline will be constructed.	OPPOSE
HB 841	Geymann	Establishes a code of conduct for pipeline operators with eminent domain authority, requiring multiple good-faith negotiation attempts, independent appraisers, and written notice of legal requirements before initiating expropriation — with court costs shifted to private expropriating authorities.	OPPOSE
HB 877	R. Carter	Prohibits separate CO ₂ storage facility operators from sharing pipelines.	OPPOSE
SB 60	Wheat	Prohibits private entities from expropriating property for CO ₂ pipeline transport or geologic sequestration, removes DOCE authority to issue certificates of public convenience and necessity for CCS pipelines and storage facilities, and eliminates unitization authority for CO ₂ storage.	OPPOSE ; Senate companion to HB 7

SB 61	Wheat	Authorizes parish governing authorities to ban Class VI injection wells, CO ₂ sequestration, and CO ₂ pipelines by ordinance, or by parish-wide election triggered by petition of 15% of registered voters. Local prohibitions supersede all state permits and approvals.	OPPOSE ; Senate companion to HB 5
SB 62	Wheat	Restricts construction of CO ₂ pipelines in or near Lake Maurepas/Pontchartrain.	OPPOSE
SB 63	Wheat	Restricts construction of CO ₂ pipelines through Maurepas Swamp/Joyce/Manchac WMA.	OPPOSE

Other Energy Issues

Bill #	Author	Legislative Summary	Notes
HB 419	Firment	Shields oil and gas producers, refiners, and pipeline operators from civil liability for climate change claims, provided emissions were in compliance with applicable permits. Excludes CCS activities from the liability shield.	
HB 804	Geymann	Creates the Louisiana Energy Protection Act, prohibiting state law climate change damage claims based on out-of-state emissions and imposing strict pleading, evidentiary, and causation requirements on claims based on Louisiana emissions.	

Revenue & Taxation

Bill #	Author	Legislative Summary	Notes
HB 156	Bagley	Constitutional amendment removing the current cap on severance tax revenues remitted to producing parishes, allowing parishes to receive the full one-fifth share of severance taxes on natural resources regardless of dollar amount.	
HB 253	McCormick	Repeals Louisiana's individual income tax entirely, effective January 1, 2027 — eliminating the current flat 3% rate on individuals and estates.	
HB 411	Wyble	Phases out Louisiana's individual income tax entirely over 10 years, stepping down from the current 3% rate incrementally beginning in 2028 and reaching zero by January 1, 2039.	
HB 602	Bamburg	Constitutional amendment; increases the maximum severance tax revenue remitted to producing parishes from the current ~\$1.3M cap to \$15M by FY 2031.	
HB 620	Carlson	Constitutional amendment; authorizes the legislature to provide by law for centralized state collection of all local sales and use taxes, ensuring collected funds remain the property of the levying taxing authority and are not commingled with state funds.	SUPPORT ; Constitutional companion to HB 658
HB 650	Brass	Creates a state rebate for local ad valorem inventory taxes paid by taxpayers who are ineligible for the existing inventory tax credit, calculated at the same rate as the credit. Taxpayers cannot double-dip with other state tax benefits for the same inventory taxes.	
HB 658	Carlson	Requires all local sales and use taxes statewide to be collected by the Louisiana Department of Revenue beginning July 1, 2027, replacing the current system of parish-level collectors and collection commissions. Local taxing authorities retain authority over administration, enforcement, and audits.	SUPPORT ; Statutory companion to HB 620
HB 898	McMakin	Creates an automatic individual income tax rate reduction mechanism triggered when the Revenue Estimating Conference certifies nonrecurring general fund surplus revenues, directing 50% of any such surplus toward proportional rate reductions.	

Talent Development

- Support the Governor’s proposed funding increase for the M.J. Foster Promise Program to expand access to credentials in high-demand fields and strengthen Louisiana’s workforce pipeline for employers.
- Support continued redesign of Louisiana’s workforce development system to improve alignment with industry needs, streamline service delivery, and increase efficiency across state and regional partners.
- Support investment in Acadiana’s higher education institutions, recognizing UL Lafayette’s role as an R1 research university and regional economic driver, alongside SoLAcc and LSU Eunice as critical workforce development engines.
- Sufficiently fund early care and education, which is critical for our children’s brain development and their parents’ ability to participate in the workforce.

Louisiana Works

Bill #	Author	Legislative Summary	Notes
HB 334	Crews	Re-creates Louisiana Works under the state's sunset law, extending its statutory authority through July 1, 2031, and re-authorizes the Incumbent Worker Training Program through July 1, 2030.	SUPPORT ; LA Works bill
HB 445	Freiberg	Transfers the Louisiana STEM Advisory Council (LaSTEM) from the Department of Education to Louisiana Works, shifts the chairmanship to the Secretary of Louisiana Works, reduces required meetings from quarterly to twice annually, and removes four education-focused members including teacher union and principals' association representatives.	
HB 549	Berault	Creates a competitive employer grant program administered by Louisiana Works and local workforce development boards, funding up to \$2,000 per employee for skills-gap training resulting in industry-recognized credentials. Applications flow through local workforce boards, keeping regional input in the process.	SUPPORT ; might be combined with SB 383
HB 680	Wyble	Restructures Louisiana's workforce development governance by authorizing the governor to consolidate or eliminate local workforce development boards, potentially operating the state as a single statewide workforce area under federal WIOA waiver authority. Shifts power from local boards to the Workforce Investment Council and Louisiana Works.	SUPPORT ; LA Works bill; monitor impact on regional input and ops
HB 951	Bamburg	Creates an Office of Talent Accelerator within Louisiana Works as the state's primary business-facing workforce solutions office, coordinating training programs, managing workforce funds, and building customized talent pipelines. Establishes a Business Workforce Committee — majority business representatives — to advise the office and set performance metrics.	SUPPORT ; LA Works bill; monitor for duplication with local board functions
SB 383	Bass	Expands the Incumbent Worker Training Program by reducing employer eligibility from three to two years of Louisiana operations, creating a 'Flexible Workforce Fund' dedicating up to 40% of appropriated funds to sector-based and regional training initiatives, and broadening the definition of customized training.	SUPPORT ; LA Works bill

Apprenticeships / Internships

Bill #	Author	Legislative Summary	Notes
HB 315	Melerine	Prohibits noncompete agreements for interns and apprentices — both paid and unpaid — making any such contract or provision null and void.	SUPPORT

SB 322	Duplessis	Creates a 'Louisiana Youth Apprentice' designation for apprentices age 24 and under who complete at least 375 hours of employment and earn a high school diploma or equivalent alongside an industry-based credential or certificate of technical studies.	SUPPORT ; YouthForce NOLA bill
SB 376	Mizell	Creates the 'Learn and Earn Act,' establishing a formal legal framework for career practicums on Louisiana public high school campuses — limited-scope, on-campus business operations run by private business partners under cooperative endeavor agreements that provide students with paid, credit-bearing work experience aligned with BESE-approved career pathways, with students earning at least minimum wage as employees of the business partner.	SUPPORT ; GBR Partnership bill

Postsecondary Education

Bill #	Author	Legislative Summary	Notes
HB 99	McCormick	Extends Louisiana's permitless carry laws to college and university campuses, prohibiting institutions from imposing firearm restrictions beyond what state law allows.	OPPOSE
HB 229	Wyble	Prohibits state funds — including student financial aid, operational funding, and capital funding — from being allocated to 'low-earning outcome programs of study' at public postsecondary institutions, as defined by federal designation, with the Board of Regents required to annually update the list and report to the legislature.	MONITOR in consultation with higher ed partners
HB 325	Brass	Expands TOPS-Tech eligibility by adding a third qualifying criterion — completion of at least nine dual enrollment credit hours in high school — and allowing students to qualify by meeting any two of the three criteria (GPA, ACT score, or dual enrollment credits) rather than requiring both GPA and ACT.	SUPPORT ; TOPS reform bills may be deferred in favor of a study resolution
HB 328	Marcelle	Prohibits possession of firearms in college and university dormitory rooms, removing dorm rooms from the list of locations where students are permitted to have firearms as an exception to the school property weapons law.	
HB 380	T. Johnson	Authorizes Sowela Technical Community College to establish a pilot program in partnership with local school systems to increase awareness of and access to CDL training, entry-level driver training, and transportation, distribution, and logistics programs — subject to approval by the LCTCS Board of Supervisors and the local school board.	
HB 385	Bamburg	Requires TOPS recipients who lose their award due to failure to maintain eligibility — not meeting GPA, credit hour, or other requirements — to repay the award amounts previously paid on their behalf, with the Board of Regents directed to promulgate rules for collection and a defined list of exceptions. Applies to students graduating high school in 2025-2026 and beyond.	TOPS reform bills may be deferred in favor of a study resolution
HB 391	McMakin	Constitutional amendment that would abolish the Louisiana Board of Regents effective January 1, 2028, transferring its oversight, planning, and budgetary coordination functions for public postsecondary education directly to the four individual management boards (LSU System, Southern University System, University of Louisiana System, and LCTCS). Subject to voter approval November 2026.	
HB 407	Larvadain	Resets the M.J. Foster Promise Program's minimum eligibility age to 21, reversing a previously enacted phase-down that would have eventually opened the program to 17-year-olds.	

HB 470	Jordan	Creates the Louisiana Workforce Development Equity and Opportunity Act, establishing a \$10M annual grant program to train low-income and minority workers for high-growth sectors — clean energy, IT, healthcare, advanced manufacturing, and logistics — through community colleges, technical colleges, and HBCUs, with direct stipends for participants and performance benchmarks tied to continued funding.	
HB 482	Turner	Expands access to TOPS-Tech awards for students attending LCTCS institutions through several meaningful changes: raises the flat award amount to \$4,500 (replacing the frozen 2016-17 tuition baseline); adds dual enrollment credit hours as a third qualifying criterion alongside GPA and ACT score, with students needing to meet only two of the three (making the award accessible to strong CTE students who don't test well); allows part-time enrollment to count toward continuing eligibility (removing a barrier for working students); lowers the continuing GPA threshold from 2.50 to 2.00; and extends the enrollment window from one year post-graduation to age 25 for LCTCS students.	SUPPORT ; LCTCS bill; TOPS reform bills may be deferred in favor of a study resolution
HB 649	Brass	Requires the Board of Regents to establish a uniform statewide application process for dual enrollment programs. Effective 2027-2028 school year.	SUPPORT
HB 651	Brass	Creates the Instructor Share Rebate Program, providing a 50% tax rebate to employers who allow employees to teach at LCTCS institutions, capped at \$1M annually starting in 2027 and scalable up to \$5.5M based on demand.	SUPPORT
HB 678	Turner	Allows TOPS-eligible students who completed undergraduate degrees out of state to apply unused TOPS award amounts to Louisiana medical or dental school, with repayment required unless the student practices medicine or dentistry full-time in Louisiana for three consecutive years after residency.	SUPPORT ; TOPS reform bills may be deferred in favor of a study resolution
HB 807	Brass	Creates the Workforce Instructor Capacity Investment Program within LCTCS, establishing a dedicated fund to expand instructional capacity in high-demand sectors including construction, manufacturing, healthcare, transportation, and IT. Allows rapid-response instructor deployment tied to major economic development projects, salary supplements, and temporary instructor contracts.	SUPPORT
HB 827	Jordan	Creates an institution-based pathway to journeyman plumber licensure through LCTCS, eliminating the employer-sponsorship requirement while maintaining existing examination standards. Requires 2,000 hours of industry rotation across at least three employers. Includes reentry and out-of-state reciprocity pathways.	SUPPORT
SB 105	Cathey	Permanently extends TOPS-Tech Award eligibility to honorably discharged veterans from Louisiana military installations, removing the previous three-year limitation and replacing the ACT/SAT score requirement with proof of military service via DD Form 214.	SUPPORT
SB 304	Edmonds	Allows public colleges and universities to seek accreditors beyond SACSCOC, authorizing the Board of Regents to set accreditation policy and permitting institutions to switch to any U.S. Department of Education-recognized accreditor, provided the new accreditor cannot condition accreditation on violations of state law.	
SB 305	Edmonds	Requires the Board of Regents and Louisiana Works to create a publicly available statewide dashboard showing career and wage outcomes for college degree programs, and to develop data collection procedures for work-based learning experiences like internships and apprenticeships.	SUPPORT ; Task Force on Career Alignment bill

SB 374	Cathey	Creates a uniform statewide framework for establishing College Economic Development Districts around University of Louisiana System campuses, authorizing these districts to levy taxes, issue bonds, utilize tax increment financing, and develop public improvement projects in partnership with local governments and private businesses — with industrial activities within the district exempted from district taxes.	UL Lafayette's existing district unaffected; no concerns from UL
SB 399	Bass	Creates the Louisiana Higher Education Research Security Council to screen and approve gifts, contracts, and research and academic partnerships between Louisiana universities and foreign adversary nations.	

K-12 Education

Bill #	Author	Legislative Summary	Notes
HB 50	Schlegel	Re-creates the Department of Education.	
HB 83	Echols	Streamlines the faculty, staff, and parent voting process for converting public schools into charter schools, shifting to a simple majority threshold and adding transparency protections.	House companion to SB 65
HB 262	Chassion	Prohibits requiring students to pass LEAP end-of-course tests as a condition of high school graduation — allowing any student who completes the required Carnegie units to receive a diploma regardless of test scores.	
HB 268	Carver	Strengthens career exploration requirements for middle school students by mandating that at least three of the six required annual career activities align to Louisiana Works-identified high-demand sectors, involve direct employer interaction, or provide work-based learning exposure — and extends at least one career awareness activity to K-5 students.	SUPPORT ; Better LA bill
HB 271	Wyble	Replaces the Louisiana Literacy Advisory Commission with a broader Louisiana Commission on Foundational Education, expanding the scope from literacy alone to literacy, numeracy, and family engagement in grades K-8, and adding business community representation through LABI and the Pelican Institute to the 19-member commission.	
HB 316	Wyble	Establishes a comprehensive adolescent literacy framework for grades 4-8, requiring the Department of Education to develop literacy assessments and intervention programs, requiring schools to screen struggling readers and provide individual improvement plans, and requiring teacher preparation programs to include adolescent literacy instruction beginning in 2027-2028.	
HB 558	Echols	Requires each public school district to phase in teacher salary increases over four years, reaching the Southern Regional Education Board average by FY 2030-31. Contingent on legislative appropriation in 2027.	
HB 632	Spell	Strengthens the LA FIRST data system administered by the Blanco Center by requiring all public school governing authorities — including charter schools — to share student personal information with LDOE, which then shares it with the Blanco Center. Requires at least five years of historical data in the initial transfer and annual updates, enabling more robust longitudinal research on education, workforce, and economic outcomes.	SUPPORT ; LA FIRST (UL Blanco Center) bill
HB 787	McMakin	Removes the requirement, set to take effect for the graduating class of 2031, that students complete a computer science course to qualify for any TOPS award.	OPPOSE

SB 27	McMath	Expands Louisiana's high-dosage tutoring requirement from grades K-5 to K-8, adding English language arts and numeracy as qualifying subjects alongside reading and math.	
SB 65	Cathey	Streamlines the faculty, staff, and parent voting process for converting public schools into charter schools, shifting to a simple majority threshold and adding transparency protections.	Senate companion to HB 83
SB 82	Mizell	Requires public schools to operate on a five-day school week, with exceptions.	
SB 95	Edmonds	Establishes a new type of industry-aligned CTE charter school that can bypass local school board approval if the Board of Commerce and Industry certifies a workforce need, with enrollment preference for students from the relevant economic sector.	
SB 157	Jenkins	Requires all public school boards and charter schools to provide six weeks of paid parental leave at full pay to eligible educators for birth, adoption, or foster placement events, effective January 1, 2027, with a dedicated state fund to reimburse LEAs for substitute teacher costs.	

Early Care and Education

Bill #	Author	Legislative Summary	Notes
HB 628	T. Landry	Authorizes school boards to partner with licensed early learning centers to operate microcenter programs for three-year-olds within school facilities, prioritizing economically disadvantaged children.	
SB 240	Barrow	Creates a new Type IV early learning center license with streamlined requirements for school-attached pre-K programs, serving as a legislative response to controversy over Act 409 (Charlie's Law), which imposed burdensome licensing mandates on private and faith-based schools.	

Occupational Licensing

Bill #	Author	Legislative Summary	Notes
HB 953	Fontenot	Grants concurrent authority to the State Licensing Board for Contractors to license residential, journeyman, master, and apprentice plumbers, ending the State Plumbing Board's status as the sole licensing agency and allowing plumbers to obtain equivalent licenses through either board.	
HCR 2	Bayham	Eliminates the 500-hour curriculum requirement and special permit process for alternative hair design practitioners, removing occupational licensing barriers for braiding, locking, twisting, and related hair styling services.	SUPPORT
SB 266	Pressly	Allows individuals to petition courts to challenge occupational licensing requirements that unnecessarily burden entry into a profession, trade, or occupation, requiring the state to demonstrate the requirement is narrowly tailored to serve legitimate public health, safety, or welfare goals.	SUPPORT

Workforce Reentry

Bill #	Author	Legislative Summary	Notes
HB 111	M. Landry	Adds an associate's degree to the credentials that entitle eligible incarcerated individuals to 90 days of good time credit, incentivizing workforce-relevant credential attainment while incarcerated.	SUPPORT

HB 167	Freiberg	Requires DPSC to provide released inmates with state ID, resume, and vocational records to assist with post-release employment. Creates a 'certificate of employability' for inmates completing education and training programs, giving employers who hire certificate-holders a partial defense against negligent hiring claims.	SUPPORT ; LABI package
HB 168	Freiberg	Creates a structured transitional reentry program administered by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections for eligible female parolees within six months of release, designed to facilitate successful community reintegration.	SUPPORT ; LABI package
HB 274	Freiberg	Expands M.J. Foster Promise Program eligibility by allowing individuals with convictions for certain lesser violent offenses — such as simple robbery, aggravated battery, and second degree battery — to qualify, while maintaining disqualification for the most serious violent crimes.	SUPPORT ; LABI package
HB 282	Marcelle	Adds rehabilitation evidence, juvenile status, and direct job-relatedness as required factors when employers assess criminal history in hiring decisions. Establishes an enforcement mechanism through the Louisiana Commission on Human Rights, with civil penalties up to \$1,000 per violation; no private right of action.	
HB 296	Knox	Repeals the Reentry Advisory Council and the Offender Rehabilitation Workforce Development Act in their entirety, eliminating the state's formal structured workforce development program for incarcerated individuals operated through the Department of Public Safety and Corrections.	
HB 351	Fontenot	Repeals the entrepreneurial education curriculum component of Louisiana's prison reentry preparation program, which currently teaches eligible offenders business concepts, marketing, development, and negotiation skills.	
HB 480	LaFleur	Expands eligibility for reentry court workforce development sentencing programs by removing certain crimes of violence as automatic disqualifiers, while maintaining exclusions for sex offenses and crimes resulting in death.	SUPPORT ; LABI package

Infrastructure Investment

- Position the I-49 Lafayette Connector to advance construction once federal environmental clearance is granted by bolstering available funding capacity, including through the Megaprojects Leverage Fund.
- Support next steps on recent DOTD reforms to improve project delivery, transparency, and return on infrastructure investments across the state.
- Support state actions that enable redevelopment and revitalization in Acadiana’s urban core, including legislation that facilitates the transfer and productive reuse of state-owned property tied to the I-49 Connector.

Infrastructure Funding & Finance

Bill #	Author	Legislative Summary	Notes
HB 2	Bacala	Provides for the comprehensive Capital Outlay budget	Not filed yet
HB 776	Bourriaque	Modifies the Port Construction and Development Priority Program by replacing the flat 10% local match requirement with a tiered system — 10% for standard projects, 20% for large projects, and 30% for very large projects — and opens program consulting contracts to any state college or university rather than exclusively LSU's Ports and Waterways Institute.	
HB 810	Bourriaque	Constitutional amendment; expands the authorized uses of the Louisiana State Infrastructure Bank beyond transportation to include water, energy, resilience, and hazard mitigation projects.	SUPPORT ; Constitutional companion to HB 901
HB 901	Bourriaque	Creates the Louisiana State Infrastructure Bank within the Division of Administration, capitalized with an initial \$100 million general fund appropriation, to provide revolving loans and credit assistance to governmental units and private entities in public-private partnerships for transportation, water, energy, resilience, and hazard mitigation projects. The bank's board includes the secretaries of DOTD, DEQ, Conservation and Energy, and LED. Loans may be at or below market rate with terms up to 30 years; repayments revolve back into the fund.	SUPPORT ; Statutory companion to HB 810
SB 187	Pressly	Creates an Oil and Gas Severance Subfund within the Parish Transportation Fund, dedicating at least 5% of annual state oil and gas severance tax revenues to road and bridge maintenance in producing parishes, distributed pro-rata.	

DOTD Reform & Innovation

Bill #	Author	Legislative Summary	Notes
SB 115	Foil	Authorizes DOTD to assume federal environmental review and project approval responsibilities under NEPA from the U.S. Department of Transportation, potentially accelerating delivery of federal-aid highway projects by bringing review authority under state control.	SUPPORT
SB 122	Fesi	Formally assigns DOTD responsibility for inspection, maintenance, and preservation of all state highway system bridges, and requires comprehensive reporting to the legislature on bridge conditions, funding, and maintenance plans beginning September 2026, with quarterly updates thereafter.	

Urban Revitalization / Blight Remediation

Bill #	Author	Legislative Summary	Notes
HB 214	Henry	Constitutional amendment authorizing an optional ad valorem tax exemption for blighted or derelict property that has been rehabilitated.	SUPPORT ; Constitutional companion to HB 217
HB 217	Henry	Authorizes parish governing authorities to implement, by resolution, an optional ad valorem tax exemption for rehabilitated blighted or derelict property — up to 75% of assessed value for up to 20 years for residential property, and up to 25% for up to 10 years for adjacent unimproved land. Parishes set their own rehabilitation standards, application process, and revocation criteria.	SUPPORT ; Statutory companion to HB 214
HB 284	Wyble	Authorizes parishes and municipalities under 50,000 population to expropriate abandoned or blighted property through a streamlined declaration of taking process, allowing title to vest in the governing authority before final compensation is determined.	
SB 71	Boudreaux	Authorizes the state to transfer approximately 1.3 acres of surplus DOTD property — the former Coburn Supply site near downtown Lafayette, bounded by 2nd, 3rd, Cypress, and Grant streets — to the Lafayette Public Trust Financing Authority at appraised value, with mineral rights retained by the state. Establishes the legal authority for transfer once federal release of the property is granted, which is expected upon approval of the I-49 Lafayette Connector supplemental Record of Decision.	SUPPORT

Broadband & Connectivity

Bill #	Author	Legislative Summary	Notes
SB 80	Mizell	Strengthens the Office of Broadband Development and Connectivity's oversight and enforcement authority over the GUMBO broadband grant program, increases administrative fee caps, and gives the office more flexibility in managing grant disbursements.	
SB 209	Myers	Expands exemptions under Louisiana's Local Government Fair Competition Act to give municipal broadband utilities greater flexibility to pursue grant funding, public-private partnerships, and economic development projects.	SUPPORT ; LFT Fiber bill

Other Utilities

Bill #	Author	Legislative Summary	Notes
HB 922	Schamer.	Prohibits electric utilities from passing any costs associated with new data center electricity demand (50 MW or more) onto residential ratepayers, requiring the LPSC to establish separate rate classes or special contracts ensuring data centers bear full responsibility for all infrastructure costs they generate, including long-term contracts of at least 15 years covering cost overruns and decommissioning.	
SB 228	Duplessis	Constitutional amendment to explicitly authorize political subdivisions to use public funds to identify, inventory, remove, or replace drinking water utility service lines made of hazardous materials — including lead, copper, and galvanized steel or iron — located on private property; of local significance as Lafayette navigates a similar legal barrier in its Bloomberg Philanthropies Mayors Challenge-winning program to repair failing private sewer lines.	

SB 364	Barrow	Requires the Louisiana Public Service Commission to audit electric utility fuel adjustment clause filings at least every other year and exercise its authority to modify fuel adjustment charges to ensure rates charged to consumers are fair and equitable.
SB 390	Allain	Requires the Louisiana Public Service Commission to compile a statewide parish-by-parish digital map of all public and private utility systems — including electricity, water, natural gas, and wastewater — to be completed by December 31, 2032, with costs assessed to utility owners.

Other Infrastructure Bills

Bill #	Author	Legislative Summary	Notes
HB 345	McMakin	Adds rail infrastructure at ports as an eligible project category under Louisiana's Class II and III Rail Infrastructure Improvement Program.	
SB 24	Connick	Designates Interstate 49 in its entirety as the 'Senator J. Bennett Johnston Jr. Memorial Highway,' with signage costs to be covered by local or private funds.	

Other Bills of Interest

State Budget / Fiscal Controls

Bill #	Author	Legislative Summary	Notes
HB 1	McFarland	General Appropriations Bill — FY 2026-2027.	
HB 646	Beaulieu	Constitutional amendment enshrining the Government Growth Limit; subject to voter approval November 2026.	Constitutional companion to HB 824
HB 824	Beaulieu	Statutory framework establishing the Government Growth Limit, capping annual growth in recurring State General Fund appropriations to population growth plus CPI. Contingent on HB 646.	Statutory companion to HB 646

Governmental Affairs

Bill #	Author	Legislative Summary	Notes
HB 4	McMakin	Calls for a Louisiana constitutional convention to convene in December 2026 to draft a new state constitution, with 83 delegates elected from State Senate and PSC districts and 10 appointed by the governor; the proposed constitution would be submitted to voters at the November 2027 gubernatorial election.	Monitoring; 1A supports constitutional reform in principle but not taking a position on the convention process

Local / Regional Significance (Acadiana)

Bill #	Author	Legislative Summary	Notes
HB 36	Butler	Removes Evangeline Parish as a member of the Acadiana Regional Juvenile Justice District.	
HB 166	Landry	Removes Vermilion Parish as a member of the Acadiana Regional Juvenile Justice District.	
HB 909	Spell	Requires insurers to cover mobile crisis response and behavioral health crisis care services without prior authorization. Relevant to Lafayette's proposed Crisis Response Center, which would operate as the type of 24/7 walk-in community-based crisis facility this bill is designed to ensure insurers reimburse.	SUPPORT

Workers' Compensation

Bill #	Author	Legislative Summary	Notes
HB 185	Melerine	Expands the definition of 'independent contractor' for workers' compensation purposes to include employees of independent contractors and subcontractors, potentially reducing employer liability for businesses in industries that rely heavily on contract labor.	SUPPORT ; related to SB 358
HB 357	Echols	Reforms Louisiana's workers' compensation medical reimbursement schedule by requiring rates to be benchmarked against surrounding states, mandating annual updates, and requiring quarterly legislative oversight reports, with the new schedule effective January 1, 2027.	SUPPORT

HB 456	Chenevert	Expands the circumstances under which employers and insurers can file disputed workers' compensation claims against employees.
HB 537	Crews	Outright repeals the Workers' Compensation Advisory Council — the 17-member body that monitors workers' comp administration and makes recommendations to the governor and legislature.
HB 605	Beaullieu	Prevents workers' compensation insurers from penalizing an employer's experience modifier for third-party-caused accidents until subrogation is resolved.
HB 780	Firment	Reforms workers' compensation penalty and attorney fee provisions by requiring penalties to apply only when nonpayment is found arbitrary, capricious, or without probable cause.
HB 819	Crews	Replaces Louisiana's current state-developed workers' compensation medical treatment schedule with the Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) by MCG, a widely-used national evidence-based standard for treatment and return-to-work decisions.
SB 162	Seabaugh	Limits the evidence admissible in workers' compensation appeals of medical director decisions to only the evidence that was originally reviewed by the medical director, preventing parties from introducing new evidence on appeal.
SB 358	Abraham	Creates a 'safe harbor' from statutory employer liability for principals who contract with independent contractors that maintain a valid business registration, written contractor agreement, control over their own work methods, and private occupational accident insurance covering at least \$1 million in medical benefits per occurrence.

SUPPORT; related to HB 185

Other Labor Relations Issues

Bill #	Author	Legislative Summary	Notes
HB 209	Boyd	Creates a state minimum wage; phased increases to \$10/hr (2027), \$12/hr (2029), \$14/hr (2031).	
HB 232	Carlson	Streamlines the minor employment certificate process by removing schools and school boards as the issuing authority — allowing minors to complete the certificate form directly with parental consent and submit it to the employer, bypassing the current school-based approval process.	
HB 293	Boyd	Adds sexual orientation and gender identity as protected classes under Louisiana's employment discrimination law, prohibiting employers from intentionally discriminating in hiring, firing, compensation, or terms of employment on those bases. Includes religious freedom and bona fide occupational qualification exceptions.	
HB 353	Phelps	Establishes Louisiana's first state minimum wage — \$12/hour beginning January 1, 2027, rising to \$15/hour by January 1, 2029, then indexed annually to CPI for the South region thereafter.	
SB 230	Barrow	Constitutional amendment; establishes a statewide 'livable wage' of \$10.25 per hour, with automatic annual increases tied to CPI inflation; exemptions apply for tipped employees, small businesses under \$300,000 in gross receipts, minors, family businesses, and workers with disabilities.	
SB 312	Talbot	Strengthens employee rights to opt out of union dues withholding by requiring immediate cessation of deductions upon written request, mandating annual renewal of payroll deduction authorizations, requiring employers to notify employees annually of their right to withdraw, prohibiting use of union dues for political activities, and placing all administrative costs of dues collection on the labor organization; exempts law enforcement and firefighters.	

AI / Technology / Innovation

Bill #	Author	Legislative Summary	Notes
HB 190	Schlegel	Adds a new article to Louisiana's Civil Code requiring reasonable care in the design, development, and sale of software that personalizes content or experiences using user data, opening the door to negligence claims against tech companies whose products cause harm.	
HB 197	Domangue	Establishes rules governing AI use by healthcare providers, permitting AI for administrative tasks while requiring licensed professional review before AI can be used for clinical decisions, patient communications, or treatment recommendations.	
HB 230	Bayham	Requires AI-generated images, videos, audio, and multimedia content to include a clear and conspicuous disclosure identifying it as AI-generated, with civil fines up to \$10,000 per violation enforceable by the attorney general.	
HB 295	Green	Prohibits AI chatbots from generating harmful or sexually explicit content for minors, requires age verification, bans minors from AI companion apps, and mandates disclosures that chatbots are not human — with criminal and civil penalties up to \$100,000 per violation.	
HB 421	Cox	Establishes comprehensive regulations on employer use of AI in employment decisions, requiring advance notice to workers, prohibiting sole reliance on AI for discipline or termination, banning facial and emotion recognition, and giving workers the right to appeal AI-assisted decisions.	
HB 425	M. Landry	Requires businesses to disclose when consumers are interacting with an AI chatbot rather than a human, making failure to disclose an unfair or deceptive trade practice — with statutory damages up to \$1,000 per consumer and \$10 million for class actions.	
HB 734	Carlson	Creates the Louisiana A.I. Bill of Rights, covering state procurement restrictions on AI from foreign adversaries, parental consent for minors using companion chatbots, mandatory bot disclosures, data privacy requirements, and name/image/likeness protections — with civil penalties up to \$50,000 per violation.	
HB 791	Boyd	Creates the People's A.I. Act, imposing data privacy, transparency, and strict product liability requirements on AI chatbot providers, with a private right of action and \$5,000 per-violation statutory damages.	
SB 246	Luneau	Establishes guardrails on insurer use of AI in healthcare claims and utilization review, requiring human review before adverse determinations, prohibiting AI from solely driving claim denials, and giving patients the right to appeal AI-assisted adverse determinations.	

Healthcare

Bill #	Author	Legislative Summary	Notes
SB 221	Boudreaux	Requires Medicaid to cover 'treatment-in-place' services provided by ambulance providers — situations where EMS responds to a 911 call, assesses or treats the patient on-site, but does not transport them — including encounters facilitated via telehealth with a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant.	

SB 275	Myers	Requires health insurers to reimburse certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) at the same rate as physicians for identical services, and prohibits insurers from excluding CRNAs from networks solely based on their provider type or licensure, effective January 1, 2027.
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Other

Bill #	Author	Legislative Summary	Notes
HB 764	Jordan	Establishes enforceable MBE/DBE participation goals requiring 30% of total state contract value to be awarded to minority-owned and disadvantaged businesses by FY 2031-32, with penalties for noncompliance including payment withholding and debarment.	
SB 254	Mizell	Prohibits retail businesses from charging surcharges to customers who pay with debit cards.	