

# 2026 Regular Legislative Session Recap

## CAPITALIZING ON HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY

Since January 2024, Louisiana has secured **more than \$100 billion in announced capital investment** — a wave of projects with the potential to create thousands of jobs and generate long-term economic growth.

Louisiana now faces a different challenge: making sure we have the workforce, infrastructure, and competitive business climate needed to support those investments and the jobs that come with them.

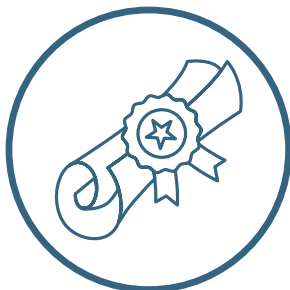
Those priorities were reflected in [One Acadiana's 2026 Legislative Priorities](#), which focused on three core pillars:

- Economic Competitiveness
- Talent Development
- Infrastructure Investment

Over the course of the 2026 Regular Session, 1A tracked more than 215 measures across these issue areas, working with our regional delegation, state leaders, and coalition partners to advance policies that strengthen Louisiana's competitiveness, develop talent, and support long-term growth.

Workforce readiness was a recurring theme throughout the session. As Louisiana prepares for the workforce demands associated with historic levels of announced investment, lawmakers devoted significant attention to strengthening talent pipelines, aligning education and training with employer needs, and expanding pathways to high-wage, high-demand careers.

The following pages highlight key outcomes from the 2026 Regular Session and their implications for Acadiana and Louisiana's economic future.



## ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS

One Acadiana's Economic Competitiveness priorities focused on funding LED's High Impact Jobs Program and complementary economic development initiatives, building on recent insurance and civil justice reforms, and supporting an all-of-the-above energy strategy that includes a stable, investment-ready environment for carbon capture and sequestration (CCS).

- **High Impact Jobs and FastSites Funding** – Funding for LED's High Impact Jobs Program (HIP) was 1A's top Economic Competitiveness priority entering the session. Together with continued investment in site readiness, HIP is central to Louisiana's strategy to compete for major economic development projects and the high-wage jobs they create.

The Legislature delivered significant investments in both programs through the state budget package:

- **High Impact Jobs Program** – The FY 2026-27 budget provides a combined \$125 million to support LED's signature job creation incentive, helping Louisiana remain competitive for major project opportunities and high-wage job growth.
- **Site Investment and Infrastructure Improvement Fund / FastSites** – The budget also directs \$50 million toward continued development of Louisiana's inventory of shovel-ready industrial sites, following the Legislature's \$150 million investment in site readiness during the 2025 Regular Session.



Together, these investments reflect Louisiana's continued focus on economic development and site readiness as the state competes for new projects and high-wage jobs.

- **Insurance Affordability and Availability** – Building on recent civil justice and insurance reforms remained a priority for 1A during the 2026 session as policymakers continued efforts to improve insurance affordability and availability for Louisiana families and businesses.

Reforms enacted in 2024 and 2025 are beginning to show results on the personal auto side. According to the Louisiana Department of Insurance, more than 40 auto insurers have filed for rate decreases since those reforms passed, reducing premiums for Louisiana drivers by hundreds of millions of dollars.

The 2026 session was quieter on broader civil justice and insurance reform, but lawmakers did advance an important targeted measure aimed at improving property insurance affordability and storm resilience:

- **Louisiana Fortify Homes Program** – [HB 1187](#) by Rep. Paul Sawyer expands funding for the Louisiana Fortify Homes Program, which provides grants to help homeowners strengthen roofs to FORTIFIED standards designed to better withstand hurricane-force winds. The additional funding will help more Louisiana families protect their homes, reduce future claims, and support long-term efforts to improve property insurance affordability. The program's expansion also makes Lafayette Parish eligible for the next grant lottery round.

Property insurance remains a significant challenge for Louisiana families and businesses, particularly in areas affected by hurricane and severe weather risk. Commercial auto affordability also remains one of the most pressing unresolved issues for Louisiana employers. 1A will continue to support reforms that improve insurance affordability and availability across Louisiana.

- **Future Energy Development** – 1A also supported an all-of-the-above energy strategy, including a stable, investment-ready environment for carbon capture and sequestration (CCS).

During the 2026 session, 1A again joined a broad coalition of business and industry partners to oppose legislation that would have undermined the predictability of Louisiana’s regulatory environment for CCS development. Several bills proposed parish-by-parish restrictions, additional regulatory hurdles, or other limitations that would have shifted authority from the state to local governments, replacing a statewide permitting framework with a patchwork of local regulations. That uncertainty would have weakened Louisiana’s competitiveness at a time when the state is competing for major energy and industrial projects with significant job creation potential.

After extensive testimony, the House Natural Resources Committee rejected or involuntarily deferred a package of bills targeting CCS development, preserving Louisiana’s statewide approach and avoiding new uncertainty for investors.

1A continues to support a balanced, forward-looking energy strategy that recognizes Louisiana's traditional energy strengths while providing the regulatory certainty needed to attract energy, manufacturing, and industrial investment.

## ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS ISSUES

- **Aerospace Competitiveness** – 1A monitored and supported a package of legislation designed to strengthen Louisiana's competitiveness for aerospace manufacturing, testing, and launch activities.

The package included measures addressing critical infrastructure protections, regulatory and operational certainty, tax competitiveness, public records protections for sensitive technical information, and other issues identified as barriers to growth in the sector. Together, the bills establish a more supportive policy framework for investment and position Louisiana to compete for future opportunities in the aerospace and commercial space sectors.

- **Centralized Sales Tax Collection** – 1A also supported legislation to simplify Louisiana's sales tax collection system and improve the state's overall tax competitiveness.

- **HB 620 by Rep. Josh Carlson** would have established a centralized state and local sales tax collection system, reducing compliance burdens for businesses that operate across multiple parishes and bringing Louisiana more in line with other states. Despite strong support from the business community, the bill did not advance this session.

*1A thanks Rep. Carlson for carrying this important reform and remains committed to supporting centralized sales tax collection in future sessions.*

- **Workers’ Compensation Reform** – 1A supported legislation to modernize Louisiana's workers' compensation system, improve transparency, and provide policymakers with better data to address long-term cost and efficiency challenges while preserving protections for injured workers.

- **SB 408 by Sen. Brach Myers** delivers the first significant modernization of Louisiana's workers' compensation system since 1991. The bill establishes the All Workers' Compensation Medical Bill Database, requires electronic medical billing submission beginning in 2027, and provides state policymakers with comprehensive claims and payment data to better evaluate the system's performance. The reforms are intended to speed access to care for injured workers, reduce billing disputes, improve return-to-work outcomes, strengthen system accountability, and create a more modern data infrastructure for Louisiana's workers' compensation system.

*1A thanks Sen. Myers for his leadership in bringing stakeholders together to advance this important reform.*

One Acadiana's 2026 Legislative Priorities identified four focus areas under the Talent Development pillar: expanding the M.J. Foster Promise Program, continuing redesign of Louisiana's workforce development system, supporting investment in Acadiana's higher education institutions, and maintaining investments in early care and education.

- **M.J. Foster Promise Program** – 1A supported the Governor's proposed funding increase for the M.J. Foster Promise Program to expand access to credentials in high-demand fields.

The final FY 2026-2027 budget includes a \$14.5 million increase, bringing total program funding to approximately \$25 million and more than doubling the program's previous annual funding level. The program provides up to \$3,200 per year in financial assistance to Louisiana residents pursuing certificates or associate degrees in high-demand fields such as healthcare, construction, information technology, manufacturing, and transportation.

The funding increase is expected to help address growing demand for the program. During the 2025-2026 award cycle, available funding was exhausted before the application period closed, leaving eligible applicants without access to assistance.

- **Workforce Development System Modernization** – 1A supported continued modernization of Louisiana's workforce development system, recognizing that Louisiana's ability to capitalize on historic levels of investment will depend on a workforce system that is responsive to employer needs and aligned with economic opportunity.

The Legislature advanced a package of measures that strengthen Louisiana Works as the state's unified workforce agency, expand employer-focused workforce services, and improve coordination across workforce development programs.

- **HB 334 by Rep. Raymond Crews** re-creates Louisiana Works and re-authorizes the Incumbent Worker Training Program (IWTP).
- **HB 680 by Rep. John Wyle** authorizes Louisiana Works to pursue federal waivers under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), allows consolidation or restructuring of local workforce boards, and advances a more unified statewide planning and accountability framework.
- **SB 383 by Sen. Adam Bass** expands the definition of customized training under IWTP, allowing employers to utilize training resources to address workforce challenges associated with new technology, equipment, and changes in business operations.
- **HB 951 by Rep. Dennis Bamberg** establishes the Office of Business Workforce Solutions within Louisiana Works as the state's primary business-facing workforce office, with regional staff dedicated to helping employers navigate workforce development resources and training opportunities.



Together, these measures continue Louisiana's transition toward a more employer-responsive workforce development system designed to connect workers with opportunity and help employers meet growing workforce demands.

- **Higher Education Funding and Accountability** – One Acadiana's Talent Development priorities recognized the importance of continued investment in Acadiana's higher education institutions, including UL Lafayette, South Louisiana Community College, and LSU Eunice.

While the 2026 session did not include a significant increase in recurring operating funding for higher education, lawmakers advanced several measures affecting institutional flexibility, workforce outcomes, and long-term funding policy.

- **HB 1084 by Rep. Chris Turner** grants public postsecondary institutions additional authority to establish and adjust tuition and mandatory fees, including increases of up to 10% annually without prior legislative approval. The measure provides institutions with greater flexibility to address rising costs and invest in academic and workforce programs.
- **SR 172 by Sen. Mike Reese** creates the Legislative Higher Education Funding and Formula Task Force to study Louisiana's public postsecondary funding structure, including the state's outcomes-based funding formula and the allocation of resources between two-year and four-year institutions. The task force's recommendations could shape future decisions about how Louisiana funds its public colleges and universities.
- **HR 17 by Rep. Chris Turner** directs the Board of Regents, Louisiana Works, and Louisiana Economic Development to study Louisiana's return on investment for TOPS in collaboration with the Blanco Public Policy Center at UL Lafayette.
- **HR 171 by Rep. Chris Turner** directs a similar review of TOPS-Tech and the M.J. Foster Promise Program, evaluating outcomes for participants and the state's return on investment.
- **HB 1058 by Rep. Dennis Bamburg** supports those efforts by requiring uniform reporting of student outcome data to the Board of Regents, strengthening the information available to policymakers and higher education leaders.

Together, these measures advance the ongoing conversation about how Louisiana invests in higher education and workforce training while strengthening the data needed to evaluate outcomes.

- **Early Care and Education** – 1A supported sufficient funding for early care and education, recognizing it as foundational both to children's brain development and to parents' ability to participate in the workforce.

The 2026 session maintained support for key early care and education programs while advancing targeted policy improvements:

- **HB 1 by Rep. Jack McFarland** maintains Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) funding at approximately \$78 million for FY 2026-2027, preserving Louisiana's primary child care subsidy program.
- **HB 313 by Rep. Jack McFarland** includes a provision directing unspent Louisiana Department of Education funds from FY 2025-2026 into the Louisiana Early Childhood Education Fund, providing additional resources to support early care and education initiatives.
- **HB 992 by Rep. Barbara Freiberg** creates student identification numbers for children enrolled in publicly funded early childhood programs, strengthening the data infrastructure needed to track outcomes and support future policy decisions.



While these measures do not dramatically expand the system, they help preserve access to child care assistance and strengthen Louisiana's long-term approach to early childhood education.

## ADDITIONAL TALENT DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

- **Career-Connected Learning** – Connecting students to high-wage, high-demand career opportunities is central to 1A's ConnectEd initiative and remained a significant theme throughout the 2026 session.
  - **SCR 33 by Sen. Brach Myers** creates the Work-Based Learning Coordination Task Force to inventory existing work-based learning opportunities, recommend statewide quality standards, and explore creation of a permanent statewide work-based learning office.
  - **SB 376 by Sen. Beth Mizell**, known as the “Learn and Earn Act,” authorizes local public school systems to establish career practicums on public high school campuses that provide compensated, credit-bearing work-based learning aligned with BESE-approved career pathways. The measure expands access to career-connected learning opportunities, particularly for students in rural and underserved communities.
  - **SB 305 by Sen. Rick Edmonds** requires the Board of Regents and Louisiana Works to develop a publicly available dashboard showing career and wage outcomes associated with postsecondary degree programs and to improve collection and analysis of work-based learning data. The measure will help students, families, employers, institutions, and policymakers better understand the alignment between education programs and workforce outcomes.
- **Building Workforce Training Capacity** – 1A supported legislation aimed at expanding access to technical training and increasing Louisiana's capacity to prepare workers for high-demand fields.
  - **HB 325 by Rep. Ken Brass** modernizes the TOPS-Tech scholarship by creating an additional pathway to eligibility and extending awards to qualifying part-time students for the first time.
  - **HB 807 by Rep. Ken Brass** establishes the Workforce Instructor Capacity Investment Program, focused on expanding the pool of qualified instructors needed to support community and technical college training programs.

Together, these measures expand access to workforce training while helping community and technical colleges meet growing demand for skilled workers.

## INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

One Acadiana's 2026 Infrastructure Investment priorities focused on advancing the I-49 Lafayette Connector, supporting continued reforms to improve transportation project delivery, and encouraging redevelopment opportunities that strengthen Acadiana's urban core. In addition to those priorities, lawmakers advanced measures affecting how Louisiana finances and delivers infrastructure projects, including creation of the Louisiana State Infrastructure Bank.

- **I-49 Lafayette Connector** – The I-49 Lafayette Connector remains 1A's top infrastructure priority.

During the 2026 session, 1A continued working with state leaders and regional partners to position the project for future construction funding once federal environmental review is complete. A supplemental Record of Decision is now anticipated in early 2027, and 1A remains committed to securing the state and federal resources necessary to advance construction of this transformational project.



➤ **State Infrastructure Bank** – 1A supported creation of a State Infrastructure Bank, a new financing tool designed to accelerate delivery of major infrastructure projects.

- **HB 1157 by Rep. Ryan Bourriaque** establishes the Louisiana State Infrastructure Bank and Fund to provide loans and financial assistance for transportation and other eligible infrastructure projects, including partnerships with public and private entities.

*1A thanks Chairman Bourriaque for his continued leadership on transportation and infrastructure policy.*

➤ **DOTD Reform and Project Delivery** – 1A supported continued implementation of the DOTD reform package adopted during the 2025 Regular Session and additional measures aimed at improving project delivery, accountability, and operational efficiency.

- **HB 1000 by Rep. Jacob Braud** updates performance metrics associated with the Highway Priority Program and strengthens accountability for project delivery.
- **HB 1037 by Rep. Ryan Bourriaque** creates a chief operating officer position within DOTD to improve coordination between project delivery and operations functions.
- **HB 1072 by Rep. Ryan Bourriaque** expands the responsibilities of the Office of Louisiana Highway Construction and provides additional authority to accelerate emergency transportation repairs following disasters.
- **SB 115 by Sen. Franklin Foil** authorizes DOTD to assume federal environmental review responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), creating opportunities to accelerate delivery of federally funded transportation projects.

Together, these measures continue Louisiana’s efforts to modernize transportation project delivery and improve the return on the state’s infrastructure investments.

➤ **Urban Core Redevelopment** – 1A supported state actions that enable redevelopment and reinvestment within Acadiana's urban core, including the productive reuse of state-owned property associated with the I-49 Lafayette Connector.

- **SB 71 by Sen. Gerald Boudreaux** authorizes the transfer of the former Coburn's Supply property near downtown Lafayette from the state to the Lafayette Public Trust Financing Authority once the property is released by the federal government. The transfer creates a pathway for future redevelopment of the site.

*1A thanks Sen. Boudreaux for his leadership on legislation supporting redevelopment and reinvestment within Acadiana's urban core.*

## ADDITIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT ISSUES

➤ **Rural Infrastructure Investment** – 1A supported efforts to expand infrastructure financing opportunities for Louisiana's rural communities.

- **HB 1200 by Rep. Rhonda Butler** expands Louisiana's Rural Infrastructure Revolving Loan Program by broadening eligible projects and borrowers and transferring administration to the Office of Rural Development. The changes will help rural communities access financing for infrastructure and economic development projects.

*1A thanks Rep. Butler for her leadership on legislation that will benefit rural communities across Acadiana and Louisiana.*

## THAT'S A WRAP

As Louisiana works to capitalize on more than \$100 billion in announced investment, continued focus on economic competitiveness, talent development, and infrastructure investment will remain essential to ensuring those investments generate lasting economic growth.

Throughout the session, 1A worked to ensure the voice of Acadiana's business community was represented at the State Capitol, communicating regularly with legislators, agency leaders, coalition partners, and other stakeholders on issues affecting the region's long-term prosperity.

1A would like to thank Tommy Hebert of Cleco and David Koke of The Picard Group for co-chairing our Governmental Affairs Committee, a group of leaders who bring valuable experience in business, government relations, and advocacy. We also thank [The Picard Group](#) for their partnership and support of 1A's advocacy efforts, as well as [Centanni Communications](#) for providing access to [My Capitol Watchdog](#), a valuable tool for tracking legislative activity.

Most importantly, we thank our 1A-region legislators for their tireless service and leadership on behalf of Acadiana!

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

1A's 2026 Legislative Priorities – [OneAcadiana.org/2026Priorities](https://OneAcadiana.org/2026Priorities)

1A's Final 2026 Bill Tracker – [OneAcadiana.org/Bill-Tracker](https://OneAcadiana.org/Bill-Tracker)

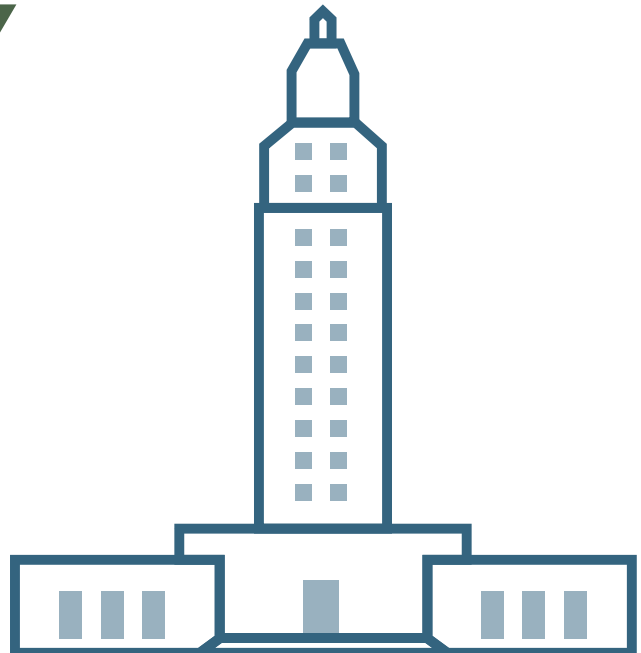
## QUESTIONS? CONTACT



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# ONE ACADIANA REGION STATE LEGISLATORS

We would like to give **special thanks to our 1A-region legislators** for their tireless service and leadership on behalf of Acadiana.

## STATE SENATORS



Senator  
Mark Abraham



Senator  
Robert Allain



Senator  
Gerald Boudreaux



Senator  
Heather Cloud



Senator  
Bob Hensgens



Senator  
Blake Miguez



Senator  
Brach Myers

## STATE REPRESENTATIVES



Representative  
Beryl Amedée



Representative  
Gerald "Beau"  
Beaulieu, IV



Representative  
Doyle Boudreaux



Representative  
Ryan Bourriague



Representative  
Chad Boyer



Representative  
Reese "Skip"  
Broussard



Representative  
Marcus Bryant



Representative  
Rhonda Butler



Representative  
Josh Carlson



Representative  
Tehmi Chassion



Representative  
Phillip DeVillier



Representative  
Troy Hebert

Speaker of the House



Representative  
Chance Henry



Representative  
Jacob Landry



Representative  
Dustin Miller



Representative  
Annie Spell



Representative  
Vincent "Vinney"  
St. Blanc, III

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