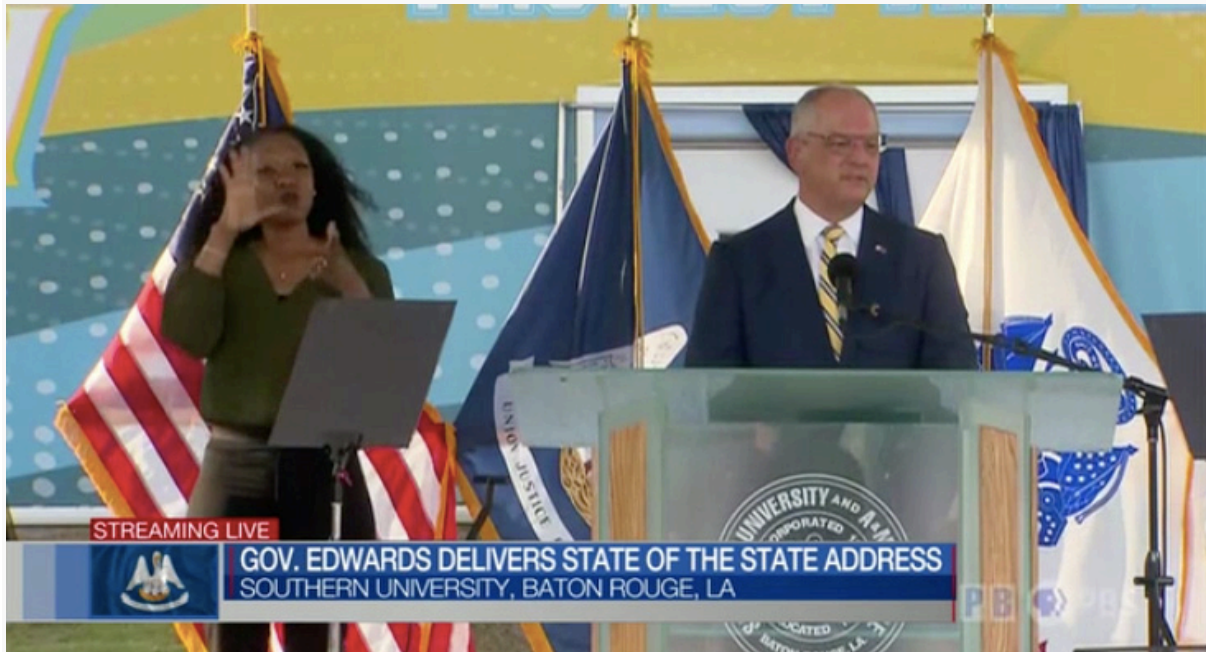


Education Bills Passed
In the
2021 “Regular” Session of
the
Louisiana Legislature



By Frank Pasqua
Retired Member Louisiana Association of Child Welfare and
Attendance Personnel



Governor John Bel Edwards chose not to deliver the traditional address to lawmakers inside the capitol building but instead delivered his state-of-the-state address in Southern University's stadium in Baton Rouge, due to the ongoing **COVID-19 pandemic**

The 2021 “Regular” Legislative Session

Convened at noon on Monday, April 12, 2021

Final adjournment 6 P.M. Monday, June 10, 2021

The following are summaries of:

“Education Bills Passed in the 2021 Regular Session”

To print a **COPY** of any of the Bills/Acts listed, please visit the website of the Louisiana State Legislature at www.legis.la.gov

The effective date of Acts passed this session is **August 1, 2021** unless the bill otherwise specifically provides, such as, upon the governor's signature.

EDUCATION BILLS PASSED IN THE 2021 “REGULAR” SESSION

Legislation That May Be of Interest to: *CWA Personnel & School Administrators*

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

ACT 473/HB 411 – Hughes - STUDENT/DISCIPLINE: Provides relative to **student Discipline**. Provides a **comprehensive revision of present law**, applicable to all public schools, including charter schools. Provides **additional disciplinary measures** a principal may implement before returning a student to the classroom. Provides that conferences with parents may be held by **telephone or virtual means**. Relative to students carrying **knives**, **increases** the minimum length of a knife blade for which suspension is required **from two to two and one-half inches**. Requires that expulsion hearings be held **within 15 school days**. Limits the length of certain expulsions for criminal behavior to the student's **period of adjudication** as determined by a court. Exempts students receiving **virtual instruction at home** from mandatory recommendation for expulsion. Effective 8/1/21. (Amends R.S.17:416 and 3996(B) (40))

ATTENDANCE

ACT 386/SB 10 –Fields - **KINDERGARTEN**: Requires, beginning with the **2022-2023 school year**, a child who turns **five years** of age on or before **Sept. 30th** to attend full-day kindergarten and to pass a **readiness assessment** prior to entering first grade. Provides: (1) That a parent or legal guardian shall have the **option to defer** enrolling his child in kindergarten **for one year** if either of the following applies: (a) **The child is four years of age on the first day of the school year**. (b) The child is **enrolled in a prekindergarten program**. (2) That a parent or legal guardian who opts to defer enrollment of his child in kindergarten as provided **shall not** be considered to be in noncompliance with the compulsory school attendance law. Provides, beginning with the **2022-2023 school year**, compulsory school attendance will be required for children **age five through 18**, unless the child's parent or legal guardian opts to defer enrollment of his child in kindergarten in accordance with provisions or the child graduates from high school prior to his 18th birthday. **Removes** the minimum age threshold for entry into the first grade. Provides that the provisions of present law that allow **Jefferson and Orleans Parishes** to establish different entry standards shall become **void on June 30, 2022**. Clarifies that families **may home school for kindergarten** but must report student attendance to the state Department of Education. Further provides that kindergarten students in an approved home study program shall be considered **in compliance** with the compulsory attendance law. Effective upon signature of the governor. (Amends R.S. 17:151.3, 221(A) (1), and 222; adds R.S. 17:221(E))

ATTENDANCE

ACT 208/SB 114 – Peacock - SCHOOLS: Provides for remote public school **registration and enrollment** of children of certain **military and civilian** personnel transferring to the state. Requires a public school governing authority to allow a dependent child of an **active duty member** of the U.S. Armed Forces, of the military reserve forces, the National Guard, or a Department of Defense civilian **to register and preliminarily enroll in a public school** under its jurisdiction prior to becoming a resident of the state under certain provisions. Requires public school governing authorities **to provide a student who registers remotely the same enrollment opportunities available to resident students** including requesting and applying for school assignment, registering for courses, participating in extracurricular activities, and applying for any school or program that requires an additional request or application, including a lottery for admission to a specific school or program. Provides that a student registered and enrolled pursuant to new law **shall not attend school until proof of residency** is provided in accordance with the policies of the school's governing authority. Effective upon gov. sig. (Adds R.S. 17:101 and 3996(B) (59))

MFP FORMULA 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

SCR 2 – Fields - BESE: Provides for legislative approval of the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) formula for FY 2021- 2022 as developed by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and adopted by the board on **May 12, 2021**. Has a projected cost of **\$3.918 billion**. Maintains the current base per pupil funding amount of **\$4,015**. In Level Four, proposed formula provides for a **pay raise of \$800 for certificated employees and \$400 for support workers**, plus related retirement costs, with a projected cost of approximately **\$80 million**. Effective July 1, 2021.

GUIDANCE COUNSELING

ACT 275/HB 156 – Freiberg - SCHOOLS/EMPLOYEES: Provides for changing the **job title** of **school guidance counselor** to **school counselor**. Effective 8/1/21.

SCHOOLS CHOICE

ACT 420/HB 211 – Wright - SCHOOLS/CHOICE: Legislation requires the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (**BESE**) to consider requests for review from parents or guardians who request an intra-district transfer for a student and **are denied**. If BESE determines that the school's policy was not followed, **schools must reconsider** the transfer request. Provides that **BESE shall not approve any transfer request that would exceed the enrollment capacity of a school or classroom**. School districts must notify parents or guardians of students enrolled in schools that received a "D" or "F" performance letter in the most recent school year of their ability to request a transfer. Requires that each school governing authority's **policy** to govern student transfers **be posted** to each of the governing authorities' **websites** by **Jan. 1, 2022**, and reported to the state Dept. of Education by **Jan. 30, 2022**. Requires such policy to include an annual **transfer request period**. Requires public school governing authorities **to notify parents** and legal guardians of the policy; the provisions of R.S. 17:4035.1; "A", "B", and "C" schools under its jurisdiction; and **where to find** school performance letter grades on the department's website. Effective on 8/1/21. (Amends R.S.17:4035.1(C) through (E); Adds R.S.17:4035.1(F),(G), and (H)).

ACT 196/HB 280- Edmonds- SCHOOLS/CHOICE: Amends statute relative to schools participating in the **Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program (SSEEP)**. Requires the LA Department of Education (LDE) **to conduct site visits** each year at schools that fail to meet minimum standards for academic performance as determined by the accountability system provided for in state board policy or that are otherwise not in good standing with respect to the program in order **to observe the learning environment**. **Removes the 20% cap on enrollment** for participating schools that have been approved, provisionally approved, or probationally approved for **less than two years**. Provides that provisionally accredited approved schools shall be removed from the program **if they do not receive accreditation within four years**. Provides that beginning in the **2021-2022** school year, participating schools which fail for **three consecutive years** to meet minimum standards for academic performance shall be ineligible to participate in the program. Effective 8/1/21. (Amends R.S. 17:4021(A); Adds R.S.17:4015(10), 4021(D), and 4021.1).

STUDENTS

ACT 366/HB 322 – Freeman - STUDENTS: Provides for the sharing of **limited student information** for the purpose of administering certain **federal food assistance programs**. Provides for the continued effectiveness of present law until **December 31, 2022**; adds a **student's middle name, school site code, and student unique identifier** to the list of information to be shared; and adds that information shall also be shared for purposes of administering the **summer electronic benefits transfer program**, subject to the same limitations and exceptions. Effective upon signature of governor; Repeal of R.S. 17:3914(M) is effective December 31, 2022. (Amends R.S. 17:3914(M); Repeals R.S. 17:3914(M)).

ACT 407/HB 711 – Garofalo – STUDENTS: Provides relative to the sharing of **students' personally identifiable information** by public school governing authorities. **Adds race and ethnicity** to the information that may be collected and shared. Revises **purposes** for which information may be shared and revises **information required** to be on **parental notification forms**. Authorizes disclosing information to the Bd. of Regents for such purposes. Effective 8/1/21. (Amends R.S. 17:3914(K) (2) and (3) (c) (i); Adds R.S.17:3914(K) (1) (e)).

TEACHERS

ACT 392/SB 128 - Jackson -TEACHERS: Provides relative to teacher **planning time** and the **exemption** of certain school employees from payment of **certain tolls**. **Deletes** the requirement for a **duty-free lunch period**. Requires each teacher to be provided a **minimum of 45 minutes of uninterrupted planning time** each day. **Prohibits** a reduction in daily student instructional time to accommodate the provision of the planning time. **Removes** the contingency making implementation **subject to the availability of state funds**. Requires that teachers, school bus drivers, and other **Lafourche Parish School Board employees** have **free and unhampered passage crossing** the Louisiana Highway1 Bridge, also known as the **Tomey J. Doucet Bridge**, when traveling to and from their work place on work days, as prescribed by the board, **not to exceed two toll-free crossings in one day**. Requires the state Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) to adopt rules and regulations to implement the provisions of the law. Provisions of relative to teacher **planning time** are effective on **July 1, 2022**. Provisions of relative to **exemptions from the payment of tolls** on the La. Highway 1 Bridge are effective on **August 1, 2023**, or **the date of the adoption of final rules by DOTD**, whichever is **sooner**. (Amends R.S. 17:434(A); adds R.S. 17:426)

TEACHERS

ACT 353/SB 211 – Jackson - TEACHERS: Requires that, beginning with the **2021-2022 school year**, all public and approved nonpublic school teachers, school counselors, **principals**, and other school administrators for whom the training is deemed beneficial by BESE shall **annually** participate in at least **one hour of in-service training** on recognizing **adverse childhood experiences and the utilization of trauma-informed education**. Further provides that the in-service training required shall be provided on a day that other types of in-service training will be provided in accordance with the school calendar adopted by each public school governing authority. Requires the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (**BESE**) to develop and **adopt guidelines** for in-service training in recognizing the signs and symptoms of adverse childhood experiences and the utilization of trauma-informed educational practices to address student needs resulting from these experiences. Requires BESE to consult with the Louisiana Department of Health, office of public health, prior to developing the in-service guidelines. Effective upon gov. sig. (Adds R.S. 17:437.2 and 3996(B) (59))

ACT 108/SB 216 – Mills - TEACHERS: Requires **each teacher** who teaches **kindergarten through third grade** and **each principal and assistant principal** of a school that includes **kindergarten through third grade** to successfully complete **a foundational literacy skills instruction course** that is approved by the state Department of Education (DOE). Requires, not later than **December 1, 2021**, the **DOE** to develop a list of approved professional development courses that are based on **the science of reading**, designed for the professional development of teachers, and include information on instructing students regarding phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Requires teachers and administrators to successfully complete **at least one** of the approved professional development courses and provide documentation of the successful completion to their employing school. Further requires teachers and administrators who provide documentation of completion of an approved program within **five years prior to 2023** shall be considered in compliance. Requires newly hired teachers and administrators to document successful completion of an approved program to their employing school **within two years** of their date of employment. Requires, beginning **May 1, 2022, and annually thereafter**, that each city, parish, or other local school board report to DOE the number and percentage of teachers and administrators who have, **within the past five years**, successfully completed an approved course. Further requires the data to be reported on DOE's **school progress profiles**. Provides that the provisions of this law are *subject to the appropriation of funds*. Provides that no **state funds** or **obligated federal funds** shall be used to implement the provisions of this law. Effective upon gov. sig. (Adds R.S. 17:24.10 and 3996(B) (59)).

“Other Education Legislation”

SPECIAL EDUCATION

***ACT 456/SB 86 – Foil - SPECIAL EDUCATION:** Requires public school governing authorities to adopt policies for the **installation and operation of cameras** in “*self-contained*” special education classrooms **upon the written request of a parent or guardian**. Such policies shall provide for **classroom placement; written notice** to teachers, staff, students, parents, and visitors; staff training; and **retention of recordings for at least one month**. Permits local school systems to utilize federal, state, and local funds, private donations, and other donated services or equipment for the installation and operation of cameras. Requires public school governing authorities to implement the provisions of proposed law **as funding becomes available for such purposes**. Effective upon governor's signature. (Amends R.S. 44:4.1(B) (9); adds R.S. 17:1948 and 3996(B)(59))

CURRICULA

ACT 458/SB 214 - Jackson - CURRICULA: Provides for **individual graduation plans and high school curriculum options**. Requires a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) team to obtain the **written approval of the student's parent** or legal guardian before determining an alternative path to graduation for the student. Requires the **written approval** of a parent or legal guardian for a student **to change** from one career major to another. Requires the **school counselor** to meet with a student's parent or legal guardian **in person or virtually** prior to revising a student's individual graduation plan. Requires each school with an approved career major program to conduct an **annual informational meeting for 8th grade students' parents** and guardians **regarding graduation requirements and curriculum choices**. Requires the Department of Education (LDE) **to develop materials** regarding high school curriculum frameworks, graduation requirements, and relevant postsecondary education and career opportunities, and **to provide these materials to each school** for use in the annual meetings. Effective upon gov. sig. (Amends R.S.17:183.2(B)(1), (C), and (D) 183.3(C), 2925(A) and (B); adds R.S.17:2926(C))

ACT 400/HB 421 – Emerson - SCHOOLS: Authorizes public school governing authorities to establish **learning pods** for the purpose of providing **small group instruction** for students enrolled in public schools. Defines "**learning pod**" as a group of at least 10 students enrolled in the school who receive instruction in a small group setting. Effective upon gov. sig. (Adds R.S. 17:4036.1 and 3996(B) (59))

CURRICULA

ACT 294/SB 234 – McMath - SCHOOLS: Requires public schools, for the 2021 2022 and **2022-2023** school years, **to provide expanded academic support** to each student in **grades four through eight** who failed to achieve **mastery** on any statewide assessment administered pursuant to the state's school and district accountability system during the **2020-2021 and 2021-2022** school years. Requires each city, parish, or other local public school board **to develop an education plan and supporting budget** to provide expanded academic support to students using **federal funds provided for educational relief** to COVID-19. Requires such plans to be submitted to the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) **by September 30, 2021**, for review and approval. Allows a student identified as needing expanded academic support to be provided **accelerated instruction** or **prioritized placement** in a class taught by a teacher labeled as "**highly effective**" pursuant to the state's teacher evaluation system, if a highly effective teacher is available in the school. Requires that **an accelerated learning committee** be established for each student identified as needing accelerated instruction composed of the student's parent or legal guardian, teacher of record, and the school principal or his designee. (See lengthy details in bill). Effective 8/1/21. (Adds R.S. 17:100.13)

ACT 230/HB 368 – Mincey - CURRICULA: Provides **required instruction** on the **health risks of vapor products** be included in required alcohol, tobacco, drug, and substance abuse prevention education in elementary and secondary schools. Effective 8/1/21. (Amends R.S. 17:154(A) (3))

ACT 147/HB 60 – Brass - CURRICULA: **Removes the termination of the Dual Enrollment Framework Task Force.** Further provides that the task force is responsible for implementing the dual enrollment framework. Adds one member to the task force who is **a secondary school teacher who teaches a dual enrollment course.** Effective 8/1/21. (Amends R.S. 17:2922.1(A), (B) (intro. para.), and (F); Adds R.S. 17:2922.1(B) (1) (m); Repeals R.S.17:2922.1(G))

TOPS

ACT 95/SB 99 – Fields - TOPS: Provides relative to **TOPS eligibility.** Extends, beginning with students who graduate in the **2020-2021** academic year, the date by which a student must take the **ACT or SAT** to receive qualifying scores with a one semester award reduction from **July first to August first.** Additionally, provides that if a student was prevented from taking the test on or prior to the **April national ACT test date** due to issues with test administration, the student may provide a qualifying test score **by September 30th** without a one semester award reduction. Effective date 6/4/21/. (Amends R.S. 17:5002(B) (2), 5027(B) and (C) (1), 5029(A) (1) (c), 5043(2), 5062(C) (4) and (5), and 5103(B) (1); adds R.S. 17:5062(C) (6))

TOPS

ACT 334/HB 635 – Glover - STUDENT/LOANS-SCHOLARSHIP: Provides relative to core curriculum requirements for **TOPS**. Provides that **African American History** may be counted for credit as a social studies course to satisfy the high school core curriculum requirements for TOPS Opportunity, Performance, and Honors Awards. Applicable to students graduating from high school during the **2021-2022 school year** or thereafter. Effective 8/1/21. (Amends R.S. 17:5025(intro. para.) and (4) (c); Adds R.S. 17:5025.4)

STUDENTS

ACT 415/HB 85 - McKnight - STUDENTS: Creates a **literacy program** for certain public school students in **kindergarten through 5th grade**. Defines "eligible student" as a public school student who is in **kindergarten or the first, second, or third grade** and **who reads below grade level or is at risk for reading difficulties** according to a literacy screener, a student who is in the **fourth or fifth grade** and who **scored below mastery in English language arts** on the state assessment in the prior school year, or a student in these grades recommended by an English teacher. Gives **priority to the lowest performing economically disadvantaged students**. Effective 8/1/21. (Adds R.S. 17:4032.1)

ACT 438/SB 222 – Hewitt - SCHOOLS: Provides relative to **early literacy**. See law **-very lengthy!** Revises existing law requiring the LA Department of Education (LDE) to develop a **literacy assessment** for students in **Kindergarten through 3rd grade**. Requires LDE to provide the assessment at no cost to each public school. Provides minimum requirements for the skills to be measured and the **intended uses of the assessment**. Requires the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to **revise certification requirements relative to literacy**. Requires public schools to develop a **triennial foundational literacy skills plan**. Repeals present law providing for a pilot project for dyslexia screening. Effective on 8/1/21. (Amends R.S. 17:24.9; adds R.S. 17:24.10 and 3996(B) (59) and (60); repeals R.S. 17:24.11 and 182)

ATHLETICS

ACT 224/SB 124 – Hewitt - GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION: Requires **the playing or singing of the national anthem** prior to certain competitive athletic **events**. Provides that no competitive athletic **event** shall be held in a venue, the construction, operation, or maintenance of which is funded wholly or partially by the state or a political subdivision of the state **without the playing of the national anthem prior to the event**. Effective August 1, 2021. (Adds R.S. 4:3)

TEACHERS

ACT 186/HB 222 – Stefanski - CRIME/SEX OFFENSES: Provides relative to certain **sex offenses against minors**. Specifies that lewd or lascivious acts committed in the **virtual or physical presence of a student** are also in violation of present law. Adds that it shall also be a violation of present law when an adult manipulates a person under the age of 17 years to take a photograph, film, or videotape of oneself to send to the adult. Effective 8/1/21. (Amends R.S. 14:81.4(A) (2); Adds R.S. 14:81.3(A) (5), 81.4(B) (5) and 283(A) (3))

SCHOOLS

ACT 363/HB 132 – PIERRE - SCHOOLS: Requires newly constructed public school buildings and those undergoing major renovations **to be equipped with water bottle filling stations**. Applies to construction and major plumbing renovations that commence on or after **Aug. 31, 2021**. Defines "water bottle filling station" as a water dispenser, accessible to all people in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, that dispenses clean drinking water directly into a bottle or other drinking container. Provides such station counts as a "**drinking fountain**". Effective 8/1/21. (Adds R.S. 17:100.13)

ACT 295/SB 238 – Milligan - SCHOOLS: Provides with respect to the **Caddo Educational Excellence Fund**. Allows for **investment income** to be **withdrawn** from the Caddo Educational Excellence fund after the end of each fiscal year instead of each January. Also limits the amount that may be withdrawn based on the fund's earnings during the previous fiscal year a Effective upon gov. sig. (Amends R.S. 17:408.1(A) and (B))

SCHOOL BUSES

ACT 166/SB 77 – Mizell - TAX/SALES: Exempts purchases of certain school buses from sales and use tax. Changes present law by **adding the exclusion** for purchases of new school buses or used school buses that are less than five years old **to the list of state sales and use tax exemptions and exclusions that are effective through June 30, 2025**. Effective on 7/1/21. (Amends R.S.47:301(10)(i); adds R.S. 47:302(BB)(114), 321(P) (115), 321.1(l) (115), and 331(V) (115)).

SCHOOLS/ DISTRICTS

ACT 419/HB 170 – Marino - SCHOOLS/DISTRICTS: Provides relative **to reporting of students identified as having dyslexia**. Requires public school governing authorities to report to the state Dept. of Education relative to certain groups of students identified as having dyslexia, disaggregated by grade and type of education plan, by **Oct. 31st** annually. Requires the department to submit a cumulative report to the legislative education committees by **Dec. 1st** annually. Effective on 8/1/21. (Adds R.S. 17:392.1(F))

LA. SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT / SPECIAL EDUCATION

ACT 468/HB 253 – McKnight - SCHOOLS: Provides relative to the governance and Funding of the **La. Special School District**, which provides **special Education services** through its schools and programs. Provides for the Special School District (SSD) to be an **independent agency** governed by a **Newly created board of directors**. Provides that SSD is to be included in The Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) formula and funded through both The state general fund and the MFP. **Effective July 1, 2021**. (Amends R.S. 17:43(A) and (B) (1), 1945(A) and (B) (2), and 1946(A) and R.S. 36:648.1; Adds R.S. 17:1945.1 and 1945.2 and R.S.36:651(D) (11))

SCHOOL FINANCE

ACT 170/HB 142 – Ward - GAMING: Provides for the disposition of funds generated by **sports wagering**. Establishes the disposition of **sports wagering** tax receipts, collected by the gaming division of State Police, after collections are forwarded to the state treasury and credited first into the Bond Security and Redemption Fund. The greater of two percent of the collections or \$500,000 are to be credited to the Behavioral Health and Wellness Fund, to support compulsive gambling addiction treatment. **Twenty-five percent of the collections, up to \$10 million, are to be credited to the existing Louisiana Early Childhood Education Fund**. Twelve percent of the collections are to be remitted to each parish governing authority in proportion to the taxable conduct in each parish. One percent of the collections are to be credited to the Sports Wagering Purse Supplemental Fund, newly created by this bill, to supplement racing purses (2/3 for thoroughbred races and 1/3 for quarter horse races). Any remaining collections shall be credited to the state general fund. Effective upon governor's signature.

LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS

ACT 199/HB 306 – Muscarello - ETHICS/NEPOTISM: Provides an additional exception to allow an immediate family member of a **local school board member or superintendent** to be employed as a **certified bus operator** by that board. Further provides that such **school board member or superintendent** shall not participate in employment related decisions of such family member. Effective upon signature of governor.
Adds R.S. 42:1119(B) (2) (a) (vi))

ACT 93/SB 95 – Bouie - SCHOOLS: Provides relative to the return of certain schools in the **Recovery School District** to the transferring **school board**. Removes the **2/3 vote** requirement and the requirement that board action to reject the local superintendent's recommendation must occur within **30 days** after the meeting during which the recommendation was submitted and instead provides that the local board shall vote on recommendations made by the local superintendent regarding charter extension, renewal, or revocation in accordance with board policy. Effective upon gov. sig.
(Amends R.S. 17:10.7.1(F) (1))

BESE

ACT 198/HB 304 – Lyons –EARLY CHILDHOOD - **Requires the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE)** to coordinate and report data relative to *early childhood care and education* and to consider this data when allocating certain funding; also requires the creation of a program for providing instruction materials for home use. Requires **BESE** to create a program administered by the state Dept. of Education (**DOE**) through which parents whose children are not able to enroll in an *early learning center* due to a lack of available seats or funding are able to access instructional materials in order to provide instruction to the children at home. Requires **DOE** to use the data ascertained in accordance with this law in order to conduct outreach to communities and families in need of such materials and to identify the most effective and efficient means of delivering them. Requires materials to be aligned to the **BESE's** birth to five *early learning and development standards* in order to maximize the children's opportunity to achieve kindergarten readiness. Effective 8/1/21. (Adds R.S 17:407.23(E) and (F) and 407.30(D) (3))

LOUISIANA SCHOOL BOARD ASSOCIATION

ACT 131/HB 199 – Schexnayder - TAX/SALES & USE: (Constitutional Amendment) Authorizes creation of a State and Local Streamlined **Sales and Use Tax Commission** that would implement and oversee collection and administration of all state and local sales and use taxes. Requires all political subdivisions which levy sales and use taxes within a parish to agree among themselves to provide for the collection of their taxes **by a single collector or a central collection commission**. Provides for the authorities, responsibilities, and membership structure of the commission (four local representatives and four state level). Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held **Oct. 9, 2021**. Further provides that if **Senate Bill No. 149 of this 2021** Regular Session does not become effective and no statewide election is held on **October 9, 2021**, the proposed constitutional amendment shall be submitted to the electors of the state of Louisiana at the statewide election to be held on **November 8, 2022**. (Adds Const. Art. VII, §3.1)

RETIREMENT

ACT 138/HB 22 – LaCombre - RETIREMENT/TEACHERS: Provides relative to **Louisiana School Boards Association employees' membership** in Retirement Systems. Provides that the following employees of the association are members of **Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana** instead: (1) New employees (hired **after June 30, 2021**). (2) Any employee with at least **five years** of service credit in Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana **as of June 30, 2021**. (3) The director of the association. Provides that employees who do not fit one of these criteria **remain members of Parochial Employees' Retirement System**. Effective 8/1/21. (Amends R.S. 11:701(33) (a) (xiv) and 1902(12) (b) and (13);

ACT 37/SB 24 - Price - RETIREMENT BENEFITS: Provides a **minimum benefit increase for "certain" retirees**, beneficiaries, and survivors of the **Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana**, Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System, Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System, and State Police Retirement System. Provides that such increase shall be in the form of **an increase to a retiree's or beneficiary's monthly benefit** in an amount equal to **the lesser of \$300 per month** or the amount necessary to increase his **monthly benefit to \$1,450**. Effective June 30, 2021. (Adds R.S. 11:542.1.2, 883.3.1, 1145.4, and 1331.3)

TAX/INCOME/PERSONAL

ACT 52/SB 5 – Foil - TAX/INCOME/PERSONAL: Excludes amounts deposited into certain education **savings accounts for tuition expenses** for **elementary and secondary schools** from state income tax. Excludes annual deposits to a **START K12 Program** from the account owner's state income tax. Limits the exclusion to **\$1,200** for single filers and **\$2,400** for joint filers per beneficiary. Prohibits the exclusion from applying to deposits withdrawn within the same taxable year as the deposit. Prohibits an account owner from claiming both the tax exclusion for the **START K12 Program** and the tax deduction for costs associated with enrollment in an elementary and secondary school within the same taxable year. Effective 1/1/22. (Amends R.S.17:3100.5(A) (1) and R.S. 47:297.11; adds R.S. 47:293(9) (a) (xx), 297.10(C), and 297.12(C))



Members of the Louisiana House sit in chambers on the last day of the regular legislative session, Thursday, June 10, 2021, at the Louisiana State Capitol